

**From:** [Sonoma County Coalition of Hosts](#)  
**To:** [Planning Agency](#); [Gary Helfrich](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Nov. 18 Planning Commission VR Update Workshop  
**Date:** November 17, 2021 1:29:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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## EXTERNAL



Hey Gary and Commissioners,

Attached to this email is a [Google Doc](#) that we've made available to our folks at [Sonoma County Coalition of Hosts](#), that outlines PRMD's proposed VR policies and our positions on those policies, so hosts can form their Public Comments. Could you make this document available to the Commissioners for tomorrow's Nov. 18th Planning Commission meeting?

Here is our Google Doc:

 [Vacation Rental Ordinance Workshop Nov. 18, 2021](#)

Just want to highlight 3 positions within the [Google Doc](#):

- Most hosts seem pleased using the term “Vacation Rental Licenses”, instead of “Business Licenses” as it's both clear and accurate as the short-term rental of a home is a “residential use”.
- Instead of proximity, density, or days of operation limits, etc., we believe limits on the number of vacation rental licenses a person can be issued is fair and enough, since every resident would maintain the same rights, and limits.
- Regarding the policy statement: “The property manager is responsible for verifying that guests have been evacuated”, our feeling is the property manager should, at most, be responsible to verify that guests have been informed to evacuate from the contact information provided by the guest.

*When I evacuated during the 2017 fires, folks evacuating were using both lanes on Chanate Rd., to flee the fires, so it would have been impossible for a Property Manager to drive to a vacation rental and “verify” the guests have evacuated, had such a policy been implemented. According to the County, there are 1,864 vacation rentals in the unincorporated areas. I don't think anyone wants a*

*scenario where just as many Property Managers are trying to enter an evacuation zone to verify guests has left, so they aren't held liable or lose their right to be a Property Manager.*

Warmly,

Charles Metz

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