

**From:** [Carla Grady](#)  
**To:** [PlanningAgency](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Airbnb hosting re. coastal access  
**Date:** January 19, 2022 6:57:56 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Ah HA!

I am so glad I opened with the proviso that I don't get it!

I'm sorry I missed the first meeting last week -- 13th? 14th? which was apparently a Q&A? Airbnb reached out to local hosts asking us to get involved. Their initial contact said, "Attend this meeting and comment on your hosting experience." They mentioned something about coastal access, but I really didn't understand what was at issue or at stake. I wrote back to that email, apologizing for having missed the meeting, and was it too late to comment by email? They replied saying there would be another meeting soon, so there was still time to send a comment.

I'm so sorry if I wasted your time.

My guess is that the Airbnb system initiated some sub-unit called "Get Involved" that handles issues with local gov. council decision-making as it relates to, and affects, Airbnb hosting, but that this branch of the system might be in another part of the state (or country, or world even!), and whoever sent that message to me might not understand the local geography enough to understand that coastal access is not really relevant to Forestville Airbnb hosting. Maybe they were basing their outreach on zip codes and "Sonoma County". While Airbnb's original HQ base is SF, they have grown so much that who knows where the "Get Involved" team is situated! I'm guessing they have no idea that Forestville hosting is not at all relevant to Sea Ranch and Bodega Airbnb hosting.

Again, sorry to bother you!!!

I am glad you say there is no plan to limit local vacation rentals. Whenever I travel, I always choose alternatives to hotels, and I have enjoyed being a host here. It's a whole different community of travelers, usually really good & interesting people; it's fun to meet folks from other parts of the country and sometimes even from other countries, if I'm lucky.

Good luck with making your decisions.

Please accept my apologies for engaging at all, given my insufficient grasp re. the background of this.

xoxo  
carla

On Wed, Jan 19, 2022 at 1:22 PM PlanningAgency <[PlanningAgency@sonoma-county.org](mailto:PlanningAgency@sonoma-county.org)> wrote:

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**From:** Gary Helfrich  
**Sent:** January 19, 2022 1:20 PM  
**To:** PlanningAgency <[PlanningAgency@sonoma-county.org](mailto:PlanningAgency@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Airbnb hosting re. coastal access

Hi Carla,

Can you help me understand the context of your comments? The issue appears to be almost the opposite of your concern: We are proposing to **not** limit vacation rentals **in the coastal zone** because rentals in coastal areas (Sea Ranch, Bodega Bay) are related to coastal access.

I'm curious about the source of this information, since it is unrelated to any policy options that have been suggested for vacation rentals.

Gary

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**From:** Carla Grady <[carladgrad@gmail.com](mailto:carladgrad@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** January 19, 2022 12:20 PM  
**To:** PlanningAgency <[PlanningAgency@sonoma-county.org](mailto:PlanningAgency@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** Airbnb hosting re. coastal access

**EXTERNAL**

Dear Commission members,

I do not fully understand what is at issue for you all re. your evaluation of vacation rentals in Sonoma County due to some problem with coastal access. It seems like a bizarre connection to make, to somehow blame visitors who stay in non-hotel vacation rentals for a problem occurring at our coastal parks. I don't get it. In any case, as an Airbnb host whose home (where my Airbnb guests stay) is in Forestville, I can attest that the majority of my guests are not here to go to the coast. I get a lot of folks coming for wine tasting vacations, so I am confident their visits help the local economy and do nothing to harm Sonoma County's outdoor beauty. Even though my place is a convenient half hour drive to Jenner, most guests are more interested in hiking inland among redwoods, not going to the coast. Many of my guests are weekenders from the Bay Area, so the coast is not their preferred destination

when they come to Sonoma County. They get plenty of beach access from their own homes.

Many guests come for weddings. In the warm months, I would say more than half of my guests from far away places are here for weddings. The other half are here for the opportunity to play in the river (my home is a few blocks uphill from the river). Lots of my summer guests do day-long kayak trips from Healdsburg to Wholer bridge if they do not bring their own gear; others bring floaties in order to do day-long floats down the river, putting in at Steelhead Beach and taking out at Sunset Beach, now that there is a convenient shuttle bus for them. The river is the destination of choice in the summer, not the coast.

During winter holidays, guests from outside the region almost never are interested in the coast. They travel all over, sometimes doing day trips to San Francisco or Mendocino. Several recent guests who come from out-of-state have come to Sonoma County to visit family who live here.

In short, visiting the coast is about 14th on the list of activities that my guests engage in. SO. If your concern is about vacation rentals impacting the Sonoma Coast, I am confident my Airbnb guests are not causing any detrimental impact in that regard.

Also, please realize that, even though my house offers a full, well-stocked kitchen, 90% of my guests eat out at local restaurants while staying here. Thus, I hope you will not consider doing any further damage to the restaurant industry in Sonoma County by restricting vacation rentals here. In my limited observation, it is visitors to the county, much more than locals, who have kept the local restaurant industry afloat during these long, tough Covid months.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please decide wisely, and with full knowledge of all the circumstances at play.

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. Carla Grady,

Forestville Airbnb host

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*Become an anti-racist.*

*Until justice is real,*

*Carla*

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***Become an anti-racist.***

***Until justice is real,***

*Carla*

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