

PreserveCarriger.org

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To: Sonoma County Planning Commission

Re: March 17 Hearing on Vacational Rental Ordinance

PreserveCarriger is an alliance of concerned neighbors who are dedicated to protecting the bucolic nature of Carriger Road and its surroundings. Carriger Road is a uniquely peaceful country lane on the west side of Sonoma loved by those who live on it, plus the many more residents of all ages from nearby areas who use it daily for walking, running, cycling, riding horses and dog-walking. We are dedicated to preserving the beautiful rural nature of Sonoma Mountain and this quiet corner of Sonoma Valley.

We write to support the proposed changes to the updated Vacation Rental Ordinance which will help to better protect neighborhoods like ours from an influx of investors purchasing properties to create income-producing vacation rentals which can negatively impact the character of a neighborhood by increasing the intensity of use and noise levels. This is particularly true in areas like ours which are considered scenic resources and are home to a diversity of wildlife on Sonoma Mountain.

We believe that the license requirements, the stricter performance standards for vacation rental property managers and the improvements to enforcing those standards are a step in the right direction. We also believe that the Vacation Rental Exclusionary Combining District is an important tool to protect the special rural characters of neighborhoods like ours and, having seen how other neighborhoods have been negatively impacted by an overabundance of vacation rentals, we believe that expanding exclusionary zoning to prevent more vacation rental development will be necessary to protect our fragile scenic resources.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you adopt the new vacation rental ordinance update at the March 17, 2022 hearing.

PreserveCarriger.org