

Testimony Re ZTA 23-09

I am writing to have you withdraw or, if necessary, oppose ZTA 23-09. This proposal is contrary to the major purposes of the County Agricultural Reserve which is designed to preserve working farms and retain open space and water resources. This proposal for commercial lodgings has nothing to do with farming. In fact, it will be a blow to small farmers since non-farming landowners buying land in the Ag Reserve for commercial lodging operations could easily boost costs for farmers buying/leasing land for growing food and preserving resources which are primary purposes of the Reserve. Moreover, the County Agricultural Reserve has been a model for other states to preserve farmland and protect farmers. This ZTA not only tarnishes our county's image, but also tramples on land that is a lifeblood for farmers and ultimate food for residents alike. I can't even imagine how such a proposal was ever dreamed up.