

From: [Mark Ray](#)
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Proposed Temporary RV Village at 845 Gravenstein
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 5:06:19 PM

Dear Council Members,

As a business and property owner in the City of Sebastopol, I would like to express my serious concerns and objection to the Temporary RV Village Pilot Program's proposed location at 845 Gravenstein Highway, North, in Sebastopol.

My first concern is the speed at which this proposed location is being introduced and acted upon. The lack of notice to both businesses and residents adjoining and around 845 Gravenstein is alarming. We only became aware of this proposal yesterday afternoon; in our case there has been no outreach by anyone from the City of Sebastopol, Sonoma Applied Village Services or St. Vincent de Paul regarding the proposal or the immediate impact on the neighbors and the surrounding area. This project will certainly affect all of the residents, businesses and property owners near this site. The rights and concerns of those citizens should certainly be heard and considered; this is difficult, if not impossible, if they are not informed in a timely manner and have adequate time to respond. The proposed change in site for the project seems very rushed and completely lacking of input from the constituents most impacted by such a decision.

The second, and primary, concern is that there is already an growing problem of long-term parking of R.V.s and other vehicles along this section of Gravenstein Highway, from the 500 block at Soll Court to the 1000 block at Danmar Drive; adding an authorized area for live-in vehicles will likely lead to more R.V.s and vehicles being parked along the road in this area as well. On any given day there are three to six R.V.s or campers parked in the area, along with associated project vehicles, work trucks and personal automobiles for those living there. This proposal, especially without a direct provision to address overnight and live-in parking, will only serve to exacerbate an already existing issue along this area of Highway 116.

Safety and crime is another area of concern. In the last year we have experienced issues with R.V.s, homeless folk camped at our front door, people trying to start a fire to stay warm, petty theft, trespassing and a couple of calls to the Sebastopol Police Department. This seems to be an increasing trend in the area. We are certainly concerned that bringing the Temporary RV Village to the area, especially if there is no restriction of overnight parking and live-in vehicles along this Gravenstein Highway, will lead to increased problems. We really don't want to see a difficult situation moved from one area of the city into another area, one that is already starting to have the same issues.

Another concern is that by moving the RV Village further from downtown (a mile away), these displaced persons will be farther from City of Sebastopol Services, the Community Center, grocery and drug stores, health care and critically needed support services. Many are on foot and their R.V.s never move. Being a mile from downtown will make it more difficult for many of the displaced to function.

In closing, we believe that this move of proposed location of the Temporary RV Village to 845 Gravenstein Highway, North, is being rushed and a decision is being expected without appropriate input and comment from those residents in the immediate area. While this may be a sound financial decision for the parties involved, it has not been well researched in terms of its impact on the neighboring properties and residents. More time should be taken to find a correct, effective solution to this problem.

Sincerely,
Mark Ray
William Henry Wineworks

PS - You deserve a more concise, logical, well-written email, however we only found out yesterday afternoon.