

COUNTY OF PLACER
Community Development/Resource Agency

PLANNING SERVICES
DIVISION

Michael J. Johnson, AICP
Agency Director

Paul Thompson
Deputy Director – Planning Services

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael J. Johnson, AICP *MB*
CDRA Director

DATE: February 8, 2011

SUBJECT: Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA 20090403)
Fowl and Poultry
Negative Declaration

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Planning Services Division of the Community Development/Resource Agency requests your Board adopt findings and take the following actions:

1. Amend Chapter 17 of the Placer County Code to revise the Animal Raising Activity chart located in Section 17.56.050 (D) and amend Section 17.56.050 (F)(6) (Fowl and Poultry) of Chapter 17 for the purpose of allowing the keeping of chicken hens in the RS (Residential Single-Family), RM (Residential Multi-Family), and RES (Resort) Zone Districts.
2. Adopt the Negative Declaration prepared for the amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The existing fowl and poultry provisions contained in the Placer County Zoning Ordinance limit the number of permitted fowl and poultry to 100 in the RA (Residential Agriculture), F (Farm), and AE (Agriculture Exclusive) Zone Districts. The Zoning Ordinance also limits the number of fowl and poultry in the -AG (Combining Agricultural) Zone District and in the RF (Residential-Forest) Zone District to no more than 24 such animals per acre. The keeping of more than 100 fowl or poultry is considered a "chicken/turkey ranch," and is permitted in the Agricultural Exclusive and Farm Zone Districts subject to the approval of a Conditional Use Permit.

The RS (Residential Single-Family) and RM (Residential Multi-Family) Zone Districts currently allow the raising and keeping of: up to four dogs and/or cats; up to four pot-belly pigs, pygmy goats, or domestic household pets of similar size; an unlimited number of birds in an indoor aviary; and, up to 150 canaries/finches, 40 doves/quails/pigeons, and up to 24 parrots on lots greater than 5,000 square feet in an outdoor aviary. The raising and keeping of fowl and poultry is not currently permitted within the RS (Residential Single-Family) and RM (Residential Multi-Family) Zone Districts.

The raising of chickens in an urban environment is part of a growing movement of people who want to raise their own food for health and financial reasons, and there are many jurisdictions in California that allow the keeping of chickens in urban areas. Some of these jurisdictions include the cities of Auburn, Folsom, Roseville, Benicia, Long Beach, Anaheim, and San Diego. Placer County has received several requests to allow the raising of chickens within the RS Zone District. The Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) was initially intended to be Countywide. However, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Code (Chapter 18) currently requires a minimum lot area of two acres for the keeping of chickens. TRPA is currently working on an update to its Regional Plan, and Placer County has requested that TRPA consider including the raising of chicken hens on single-family residential lots as a part of that update. Accordingly, this proposed Zoning Text Amendment would not be applicable within the area governed by TRPA.

The proposed Zoning Text Amendment addresses the raising and keeping of chicken hens (female chickens) and does not include potentially nuisance/noise producing fowl including roosters, guinea hens and peahens (peacock family).

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

At its July 22, 2010 meeting, the Planning Commission considered the proposed Zoning Text Amendment and unanimously recommended approval to the Board of Supervisors (6:0; Commissioner Denio absent).

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES:

Revised Ordinance Language

On April 8, 2010, the Planning Commission held a workshop to discuss whether the proposed ordinance should include: an Administrative Review Permit requirement; a minimum lot size requirement; the RES (Resort) Zone District; a "chicken hen per lot area" standard; addressing animal welfare issues; and/or, increase the number of permitted chicken hens from 3 to 6. The Planning Commission directed staff to make the following modifications to the proposed ZTA:

- 1) Eliminate the Administrative Review Permit requirement and allow the use by right;
- 2) Establish a minimum lot size requirement of 5,000 square feet;
- 3) Increase the number of permitted chicken hens from 3 to 6; and
- 4) Include the RES (Resort) Zone District.

To address the recommendations raised by the Planning Commission, the following is the revised language amending the Animal Raising and Keeping section of the Zoning Ordinance and modifying section 17.56.050 (f) (6) for Fowl and Poultry:

- a) Allow the keeping of no more than six (6) chicken hens within the RS (Residential Single-Family), RM (Residential Multi-Family), and RES (Resort) Zone Districts on lots with a minimum gross area of 5,000 square feet. The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, or peahens (peacock family) is prohibited. Single-Family uses in adopted specific plans are subject to this provision.
- b) In the –AG (Agriculture Combining) Zone District, the keeping of no more than 9 chicken hens is permitted on parcels less than one-half acre and in the RF (Residential Forest) Zone District, the keeping of no more than 15 chickens hens is

permitted on parcels less than one acre. The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, or peahens (peacock family) is prohibited.

The complete Zoning Text Amendment is located in Attachment 2.

Animal Welfare Issues

The Planning Commission concluded that issues associated with animal welfare are already adequately and properly addressed within existing Federal and State regulations, as well as within Chapter 6 (Animals) of the Placer County Code. On this basis, the Planning Commission concluded there was no reason to repeat these Code provisions within this proposed Zoning Text Amendment. The staff report prepared for the Planning Commission workshop had several discussions on the animal welfare issues. (Attachment 3)

REQUEST FOR PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

On August 31, 2010, subsequent to the July 22, 2010 Planning Commission Hearing. Placer County staff received a letter from the Public Interest Coalition (Coalition) stating that the Negative Declaration prepared for the Fowl and Poultry ZTA is inadequate and that an Environmental Impact Report should be prepared to fully evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The Coalition presented several theories and opinions on what it believes are reasons for the Board to reject the Negative Declaration, however, staff concluded that the Coalition provided no substantial evidence to support a fair argument that significant impacts may occur as a result of the proposed ZTA that have not otherwise been identified and analyzed (and where applicable, mitigated) in the Negative Declaration. As a result, staff concluded that the Negative Declaration prepared for the proposed ZTA remains adequate and complete and no revisions or additional analysis is warranted as a result of the Coalition's comments. Additionally, staff has concluded no new environmental issues have been raised that would require reconsideration by the Planning Commission.

The following is a summary of the specific issues raised by the Coalition and staff's response to each issue:

(1) Aesthetics - Most chicken coops will become an eyesore after several years of use and relying on setback requirements does not adequately address the potential impacts.

Staff Response – It should be noted that this ZTA does not require an owner to construct chicken coops; however, current County regulations already require that domestic animals be contained within the boundaries of a property. This containment can be accomplished by fencing, by an enclosure, or both.

The Coalition assumes, but presents no evidence, that “most” chicken coops “will become an eyesore”. Aesthetic impacts under CEQA are analyzed within the environmental context of the proposed project. In this case, hens will be allowed on otherwise developed residential lots. Therefore, residential structures and other improvements will already exist and, if a chicken coop is constructed, it will be in addition to these other structures. There is no evidence to support a conclusion that these enclosures will be visually incompatible with the surrounding residentially developed setting and, as a result, there is no basis upon which to conclude that the proposed ZTA will result in adverse aesthetic effects to the environment. In addition, any structures constructed by the owners of the chicken hens are subject to setback requirements.

With the established setback requirements, fence height restrictions within the front setback (maximum of three feet in most cases), as well as the requirement that the chickens be located within a fully contained environment, it is probable (but not required) that the majority of chicken hen owners will likely raise chicken hens within a rear yard where a shelter would not typically be visible from the surrounding neighborhood. (Note: the front setback within the Resort Zone District (60 feet) is significantly larger than in the RS and RM Zone Districts, and the aesthetic impact associated with a chicken enclosure will be similar to what is already occurring in the Zone Districts that currently allow the raising and keeping of fowl and poultry).

(2) Agricultural Resource - The adoption of the ZTA may result in an indirect economic impact on existing poultry producers.

Staff Response – According to the Agricultural Commissioner, there would be a negligible, if any, economic impact on existing poultry producers in the County given the anticipated small number of people who will keep up to six chicken hens and the small number of people that already buy eggs and chicken meat from County producers. It should also be noted that unless there is evidence that an indirect economic impact results in a physical change to the environment, it is not considered under CEQA to be an environmental impact. Evidence to this effect has not been provided.

3) Air Quality- The odor impacts that would be generated from property owners not properly cleaning up chicken waste is not adequately addressed.

Staff Response – Under CEQA, odor is not considered an environmental impact to air quality. Odor control related to animal raising and keeping is regulated under County Code Section 17.56.050.E. (Animal Raising and Keeping), which states that “coops, cages, barns, corrals, paddock and feed areas shall be maintained free from excessive litter, garbage and the accumulation of manure, so as to discourage the proliferation of flies, other disease vectors and offensive odors.” Enforcement of this regulation is performed by Code Enforcement. The Coalition has presented no evidence to support its conclusion that property owners will not clean up chicken manure or that “inherent impacts of breathing fumes” will result from the adoption of the proposed ZTA. It should be pointed out that chicken manure is commonly used in residential gardens as fertilizer, and no studies support the notion that health impacts result from this small-scale use.

4) Biological Resources – The ZTA will impact biological communities by creating potential conflicts with various wildlife being attracted to the chicken hens, chicken food, and/or the eggs. The possible conflicts include the killing or transporting of wildlife. The letter also raises concerns about impacts to wetlands and migratory wildlife.

Staff Response – The Negative Declaration concluded that the potential environmental impacts that could occur with the construction of chicken coops or maintaining of chickens on existing, developed, residential parcels would be on a very small scale, and it is highly unlikely that there would be any impacts on federally protected wetlands and migratory routes. The Coalition has presented no evidence to support a contrary conclusion. In response to the comment that the introduction of chickens will result in the killing or transporting of wildlife, staff concluded that the Coalition has presented no evidence to support this conclusion. Wildlife can be attracted to many things in residential yards, including cat food left outside. When conflicts arise, there are several programs and processes already in place, including the County’s Wildlife Trapper program and the depredation permit program administered by the California Department of Fish and Game. While the Coalition speculates that homeowners will put out

poisons to rid themselves of wildlife, or that chicken waste will build up for three months at a time and result in runoff into creeks and streams, the Coalition presents no studies, documentation or evidence of any sort to support these contentions. As noted in the Air Quality discussion, regulations are in place to require the management of animal waste.

5) Hazards and Hazardous Materials – The Public Interest Coalition disagrees with the Negative Declaration’s conclusion that the use of pesticides/rodenticides is considered to be a less than significant impact since chicken hen owners will not use these products in accordance with the instructions. The letter also states that the disposal of diseased/deceased chickens is not addressed nor is the disposal of chicken manure.

Staff Response – Pesticides/rodenticides are approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency, although the California Department of Pesticide Regulation evaluates the human health risk and environmental risks of use of pesticides and rodenticides before such substances are approved for use by the public. In response to identified potential risks, these agencies impose restrictions on handling, use, and placement, which are included on the product labeling. As with any other property owner in the County, the use of such products must be in accordance with the stipulated handling requirements. The Coalition has presented no studies or documentation to support its conclusion that the use of pesticides will increase due to the introduction of hens into developed residential areas, much less to support its conclusion that individuals will not use pesticides as directed. Absent such evidence, any claim of environmental impacts due to the use or misuse of pesticides is speculative.

Placer County Code (Chapter 6 – Animals) already has established regulations in place to address the timely removal of animal waste. Any property owner keeping hens on their property (as proposed with this Zoning Text Amendment) would be required to comply with these existing County regulations.

6) Hydrology and Water Quality – The potential impacts of ground and surface water contamination is not adequately addressed.

Staff Response – As noted above, property owners will be required (as they currently are) to address the timely removal of animal waste in compliance with the existing provisions of the Placer County Code. In addition, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Nonpoint Discharge Elimination System permit only requires water quality mitigation for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations having a minimum of 9,000 laying hens (40 CFR 122.23 - Concentrated animal feeding operations). According to the Ohio State University extension, chicken hens produce anywhere between 0.14 to 0.21 pounds of manure a day. In more general terms, five small chicken hens generate less waste than one medium size dog. Given the small amount of waste that will be accumulated on-site, water quality impacts were determined to be less than significant.

7) Land Use and Planning – There are not sufficient County safeguards for manure, noise, humane confinement, and animal carcass disposal. The lack of adequate safeguards will create different expectations among neighbors and the lack of clearly defined codes will create a situation that will pit one neighbor against another.

Staff response – As previously stated in this report, the County has numerous regulations that address manure removal, odors and vectors, well-water setbacks, animal enclosure setbacks, and nuisance animals. Potential neighborhood discord is not an environmental issue.

8) Noise - The Negative Declaration does not adequately address the noise produced by potential predators (i.e., dogs) if chickens hen are permitted to be raised in the RS, RM, and Resort Zone Districts.

Staff response – Noise impacts are analyzed based on whether the noise generated from the proposed project will increase substantially the ambient noise levels for the adjoining areas. There is no evidence to support the Coalition’s conclusion that dogs will bark more because of the presence of chickens or that any such barking will exceed the County’s noise level thresholds. Dog barking is not an environmental impact, but rather a nuisance issue that is addressed under Section 6.08.020 of the County Code.

9) Public Services - The Coalition does not agree with the Negative Declaration’s conclusion that the ZTA will not affect governmental services.

Staff Response - Under CEQA, an environmental impact to public services occurs when an increase in services leads to the requirement of construction of new or expanded facilities, which could result in an impact to the environment. Although Animal Services has commented that the proposed ZTA may incrementally increase the number of hours that Animal Services and Code Enforcement may spend in implementing the ZTA, there is no evidence, nor has either department concluded, that the additional hours would result in the need for additional staff to handle the potential of increased workload.

10) Utilities and Service Systems – Since the ZTA will not result in new drainage improvements, there is a likelihood of new manure-contaminated flows.

Staff Response – Under CEQA, an environmental impact to utilities and service systems occurs if the increased demand by a proposed project requires the construction of new, or extension of existing, facilities which may impact the physical environment. No evidence has been presented by the Coalition that such increases will occur. In addition, the Coalition’s conclusion that chicken manure will clog the storm water systems is speculative. The number of chicken hens allowed by the ZTA is relatively small, and the impacts of the same to utilities and service systems are considered to be less than significant. In response to the drainage issues raised by the Coalition, most areas where hens would be kept would not be located immediately adjacent to drainage ways because this ordinance would only allow hens on already developed residential lots, which are already subject to setback requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are three County agencies that could be affected by the proposed Zoning Text Amendment: Animal Services, Code Enforcement, and the Agricultural Commissioner (animal trapping). According to Animal Services, adoption of the Zoning Text Amendment could result in Animal Services spending approximately 52 hours per year of administrative work associated with the processing of complaints and 155 hours per year on the enforcement of animal regulations. The Code Enforcement Division and the Agricultural Commissioner anticipate minimal and no impacts, respectively, associated with the adoption of the Zoning Text Amendment. All County departments concluded they have adequate staffing to address any increase in workload that may result from the implementation of this Zoning Text Amendment.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

The proposed Zoning Text Amendment is subject to environmental review and a Negative Declaration has been prepared. The Negative Declaration was presented to the Planning Commission for its consideration (Attachment 1). On July 22, 2010, the Planning Commission

considered the Negative Declaration and recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Negative Declaration subject to specific findings, which have been included in this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

On behalf of the Planning Commission, the Planning Services Division of the Community Development/Resource Agency recommends that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

1. Approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration subject to the following findings:
 - a. There is not substantial evidence in the record as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.
 - b. The Negative Declaration, as adopted for the project, reflects the independent judgment and analysis of Placer County, which has exercised overall control and direction of its preparation.
 - c. The custodian of record for the project is the Placer County Planning Director, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 140, Auburn, CA, 95603.
2. Adopt the ordinance approving Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA 200900403) as recommended by the Planning Commission, subject to the findings set forth below, in order to modify County Code Chapter 17 as follows:
 - a. Amend Chapter 17 , of the Placer County Code to revise the Animal Raising Activity chart located in section 17.56.050 (D) and amend Section 17.56.050 (F)(6) (Fowl and Poultry).

Findings: Having considered the staff report, supporting documents and public testimony, the Board of Supervisors hereby finds that:

- a. The proposed Zoning Text Amendment is consistent with the objectives, policies, general land uses, and programs as specified in the Placer County General Plan.
- b. The proposed Zoning Text Amendment expands the land use of the raising and keeping of chicken hens into the RS (Residential Single-Family), RM (Residential Multi-Family), RES (Resort) Zone Districts and also allows the raising and keeping of chicken hens within the –AG (Combining Agriculture) on parcels less than one-half acre and within the RF (Residential Forestry) on parcels less than one acre. The provisions established in the Zoning Text Amendment (i.e., the prohibition of rosters, peahens, and guinea hens) are designed to minimize any potential land use conflicts with neighboring residences.

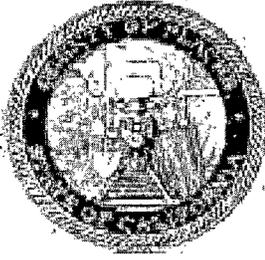
The following attachments are included for the Board' s consideration:

- Attachment 1: Negative Declaration
- Attachment 2: Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments
- Attachment 3: Planning Commission Workshop Staff Report (April 8, 2010)
Attachments not included

Attachment 4: Public Comment Requesting Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (Public Interest Coalition)
Attachment 5: Correspondence

cc: All MAC's
All BOS
Ag Commission, Josh Huntsinger
Animal Services, Michael Winters
Animal Services Advisory Committee, Mark Starr
Farm Advisor/4H, Roger Ingram
Code Enforcement, Tim Wegner

Sent by Planning:
Engineering and Surveying Department
Environmental Health Services
Air Pollution Control District
Andy Fisher, Parks Department
Anthony La Bouff, County Counsel
Karin Schwab, County Counsel
Michael Johnson, CDRA Director
Paul Thompson, Deputy Planning Director
Holly Heinzen, Assistant CEO
Various Interested parties via e-mail and us mail
Subject/chrono files



COUNTY OF PLACER
Community Development Resource Agency

**ENVIRONMENTAL
COORDINATION
SERVICES**

Michael J. Johnson, AICP
Agency Director

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

In accordance with Placer County ordinances regarding implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, Placer County has conducted an Initial Study to determine whether the following project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and on the basis of that study hereby finds:

- The proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment; therefore, it does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and this **Negative Declaration** has been prepared.
- Although the proposed project could have a significant adverse effect on the environment, there will not be a significant adverse effect in this case because the project has incorporated specific provisions to reduce impacts to a less than significant level and/or the mitigation measures described herein have been added to the project. A **Mitigated Negative Declaration** has thus been prepared.

The environmental documents, which constitute the Initial Study and provide the basis and reasons for this determination are attached and/or referenced herein and are hereby made a part of this document.

PROJECT INFORMATION

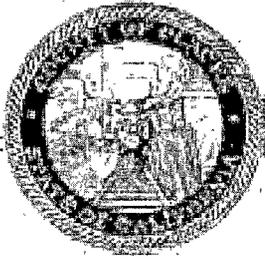
Title: Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment	Plus# PTZA T20090403
Description: The project proposes to amend <i>the Animal Raising and Keeping</i> section of the Zoning Ordinance and modify section 17.56.050 (f) (6) for Fowl and Poultry.	
Location: Countywide, Placer County	
Project Applicant: Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603	
County Contact Person: Charlene Daniels	530-745-3073

PUBLIC NOTICE

The comment period for this document closes on **June 16, 2010**. A copy of the Negative Declaration is available for public review at the County's web site <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/EnvCoordSvc/EnvCoordSvc/NegDec.aspx>, the Community Development Resource Agency public counter, and the County Clerk's office. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Environmental Coordination Services, at (530)745-3132 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603. For Tahoe projects, please visit our Tahoe Office, 565 West Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145.

If you wish to appeal the appropriateness or adequacy of this document, address your written comments to our finding that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment: (1) identify the environmental effect(s), why they would occur, and why they would be significant, and (2) suggest any mitigation measures which you believe would eliminate or reduce the effect to an acceptable level. Regarding item (1) above, explain the basis for your comments and submit any supporting data or references. Refer to Section 18.32 of the Placer County Code for important information regarding the timely filing of appeals.

ATTACHMENT 1



COUNTY OF PLACER
Community Development Resource Agency

**ENVIRONMENTAL
COORDINATION
SERVICES**

Michael J. Johnson, AICP
Agency Director

3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190 • Auburn • California 95603 • 530-745-3132 • fax 530-745-3003 • www.placer.ca.gov

INITIAL STUDY & CHECKLIST (Revised)

The Initial Study & Checklist was posted for a 20-day public review from May 28, 2010 to June 16, 2010. Subsequent to the public posting period, comments were received resulting revisions and/or clarifications to the analysis/discussions in "Project Description".

The above cited revision, made on June 25, 2010 does not constitute a "substantial revision" as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15073.5(b) and it has been determined that recirculation is not required (Section 15073.5(c)).

This Initial Study has been prepared to identify and assess the anticipated environmental impacts of the following described project application. The document may rely on previous environmental documents (see Section C) and site-specific studies (see Section I) prepared to address in detail the effects or impacts associated with the project.

This document has been prepared to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.) CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before acting on those projects.

The Initial Study is a public document used by the decision-making lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. If the lead agency finds substantial evidence that any aspect of the project, either individually or cumulatively, may have a significant effect on the environment, regardless of whether the overall effect of the project is adverse or beneficial, the lead agency is required to prepare an EIR, use a previously-prepared EIR and supplement that EIR, or prepare a Subsequent EIR to analyze the project at hand. If the agency finds no substantial evidence that the project or any of its aspects may cause a significant effect on the environment, a Negative Declaration shall be prepared. If in the course of analysis, the agency recognizes that the project may have a significant impact on the environment, but that by incorporating specific mitigation measures the impact will be reduced to a less than significant effect, a Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared.

A. BACKGROUND:

Project Title: Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment	Plus# PTZA T20090403
Entitlements: Zoning Text Amendment	
Location: 80 miles northeast of San Francisco, Placer County encompasses 1,506 square miles (including 82 square miles of water) or 964,140 acres (including 52,780 acres of water). Placer County is bounded by Nevada County to the north, the state of Nevada to the east, El Dorado and Sacramento counties to the south, and Sutter and Yuba Counties to the west. The amendment to the Placer County Zoning Ordinance will apply to the entire county with the exception of the incorporated cities of Auburn, Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, Loomis, and Colfax,	
Project Description: The County is proposing to amend the Animal Raising and Keeping section of the Zoning Ordinance (attached) and modify section 17.56.050 (f) (6) for Fowl and Poultry to: Allow the keeping of no more than six (6) chicken hens within the Residential Single-Family (RS), Residential Multi-Family (RM), and Resort (RES) zone districts on parcels with a minimum gross lot area of 5,000 square feet. Residential Single-Family uses located within an adopted specific plan are subject to this provision. The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, and pea hens (peacock family) is prohibited. In the combining agricultural (-AG) zone district, the keeping of no more than nine (9) chicken hens is permitted on parcels less than	

one-half acre and in the Residential-Forest (RF) zone district, the keeping of no more than fifteen (15) chickens hens is permitted on parcels less than one acre; and the keeping of roosters, guinea hens, and pea hens (peacock family) is prohibited.

The County's Animal regulations require unattended animals to be kept on the owner's property. According to County Code section 6.08.010 A and B, it is unlawful for any animal to run "at large" or to allow any animal to trespass upon public property or upon any private property without the consent of the property owner. The term "at large" means that an animal is off the premises of its owner and not under restraint by leash, or under the control and in the immediate presence of the owner. Since the County's Animal Code already requires all domestic animals to be kept on-site, the proposed Zoning Text Amendment does not restate this requirement.

B. PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:

The County has determined that an Initial Study shall be prepared in order to determine whether the potential exists for unmitigatable impacts resulting from the proposed project. Relevant analysis from the County-wide General Plan and Community Plan Certified EIRs, and other project-specific studies and reports that have been generated to date, were used as the database for the Initial Study. The decision to prepare the Initial Study utilizing the analysis contained in the General Plan and Specific Plan Certified EIRs, and project-specific analysis summarized herein, is sustained by Sections 15168 and 15183 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Section 15168 relating to Program EIRs indicates that where subsequent activities involve site-specific operations, the agency would use a written checklist or similar device to document the evaluation of the site and the activity, to determine whether the environmental effects of the operation were covered in the earlier Program EIR. A Program EIR is intended to provide the basis in an Initial Study for determining whether the later activity may have any significant effects. It will also be incorporated by reference to address regional influences, secondary effects, cumulative impacts, broad alternatives, and other factors that apply to the program as a whole.

The following documents serve as Program-level EIRs from which incorporation by reference will occur:

- ➔ Placer County General Plan EIR

Section 15183 states that "projects which are consistent with the development density established by existing zoning, community plan or general plan policies for which an EIR was certified shall not require additional environmental review, except as may be necessary to examine whether there are project-specific significant effects which are peculiar to the project or site." Thus, if an impact is not peculiar to the project or site, and it has been addressed as a significant effect in the prior EIR, or will be substantially mitigated by the imposition of uniformly applied development policies or standards, then additional environmental documentation need not be prepared for the project solely on the basis of that impact.

The above stated documents are available for review Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, at the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603. For Tahoe projects, the document will also be available in our Tahoe Division Office, 565 West Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145.

C. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The Initial Study checklist recommended by the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines is used to determine potential impacts of the proposed project on the physical environment. The checklist provides a list of questions concerning a comprehensive array of environmental issue areas potentially affected by the project (see CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G). Explanations to answers are provided in a discussion for each section of questions as follows:

- a) A brief explanation is required for all answers including "No Impact" answers.
- b) "Less Than Significant Impact" applies where the project's impacts are insubstantial and do not require any mitigation to reduce impacts.
- c) "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." The County, as lead agency, must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).
- d) "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

- e) All answers must take account of the entire action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15063(a)(1)].
- f) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, Program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15063(c)(3)(D)]. A brief discussion should be attached addressing the following:
 - ➔ **Earlier analyses used** – Identify earlier analyses and state where they are available for review.
 - ➔ **Impacts adequately addressed** – Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of, and adequately analyzed in, an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards. Also, state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - ➔ **Mitigation measures** – For effects that are checked as “Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- g) References to information sources for potential impacts (i.e. General Plans/Community Plans, zoning ordinances) should be incorporated into the checklist. Reference to a previously-prepared or outside document should include a reference to the pages or chapters where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached and other sources used, or individuals contacted, should be cited in the discussion.

I. AESTHETICS – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? (PLN)			X	
2. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, within a state scenic highway? (PLN)			X	
3. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (PLN)			X	
4. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? (PLN)			X	

Discussion- All Items:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) will not significantly impact aesthetic resources within the Residential Single-Family (RS), Residential Multi-Family (RM), Resort (RES), Residential-Forest (RF), and Combining Agriculture (-AG) zone districts. Potential visual impacts from the adoption of the ZTA could include increased yard fencing and chicken coop structures in what would likely be the rear yards of the single-family residences. Any chicken coop structures that may be erected in the front yard will be subject to the setbacks established by the applicable zone district. The visual impact from additional fencing and small chicken coops would be minimal and would be offset by the application of setbacks for any "structure" associated with fowl and poultry and therefore result in a less than significant impact for aesthetic resources. No mitigation measures are required.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? (PLN)				X
2. Conflict with General Plan or other policies regarding land use buffers for agricultural operations? (PLN)				X
3. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? (PLN)				X
4. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland (including livestock grazing) to non-agricultural use? (PLN)				X

Discussion- Item II-1:

The adoption of the ZTA is for land zoned Residential Single-Family (RS), Residential Multi-Family (RM), Resort (RES), Residential-Forest (RF), and Combining Agriculture. The adoption of the ZTA will not convert Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance to non-agricultural uses.

Discussion- Items II-2,3:

The proposed ZTA will make the keeping of up to six chicken hens a consistent use within the RS, RM, and RES zone districts and therefore be consistent with the General Plan, the zoning, and Williamson Act contracts, if applicable. The proposed ZTA would expand the potential for the raising and keeping of chicken hens and therefore not conflict with existing agricultural operations.

Discussion- Item II-4:

The proposed ZTA which would allow for the keeping of up to six chicken hens in the RS, RM, and RES zone districts and the expansion of the permitted number of chicken hens on smaller lots within the RF and (-AG) zone districts, would not result in conversion of Farmland (including livestock grazing) to non-agricultural uses.

III. AIR QUALITY – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (APCD)				X
2. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? (APCD)			X	
3. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? (APCD)				X
4. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? (APCD)			X	
5. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? (APCD)			X	

Discussion- Item III-1:

The project proposes changes to the fowl and poultry section of the Placer County Zoning Ordinance in order to allow, but also limit, the number of fowl and poultry birds within the Residential Zone Districts of the unincorporated portion of the County. The proposed text amendment would not involve any activities that would obstruct with the implementation of the Sacramento Air Quality Attainment Plan. There will be no impact.

Discussion- Items III-2,5:

The allowance for fowl and poultry within a residential zone district could result in violations of air quality standards relating to odor. The project, however, proposes to limit the number of fowl and poultry within the residential districts. The Placer County Air Pollution Control District regulates odor related air quality standards through the enforcement of Rules adopted by the APCD Board of Directors. Where a use does not constitute an agricultural operation, and a violation occurs, RULE 205: NUISANCE will be enforced by the District. With the enforcement of the following rule, impacts resulting from air quality violations will be less than significant and no mitigation measures are required.

RULE 205: NUISANCE adopted 12/08/1970 (amended 05/24/1977)

“A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any persons or the public, or which cause to have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property.

County Code 8.16.120 deals with animal wastes and requires that all manures generated by domestic animals shall be picked up and cleaned every three days and properly disposed of weekly. Compliance with the regulation will prevent the creation of objectionable odors, and therefore, the impact is considered to be less than significant.

Discussion- Item III-3:

The proposed zoning text amendment would be enforceable in all three air basins of Placer County (Sacramento Valley Air Basin, Mountain Counties Air Basin, and Lake Tahoe Air Basin). The project does not propose any uses which may increase any criteria for which the region is in a non-attainment status under federal or state ambient air quality standards. There will be no impact.

Discussion- Item III-4:

A poultry coop containing a limited number of chicken hens would not cause an increase of air pollutants generated during project construction that could potentially affect sensitive receptors like children attending school and senior citizens living in the vicinity of the project.

As discussed above, the keeping of poultry in a residential neighborhood could generate nuisance complaints relating to odor. With the implementation of the District's Rules, impacts to sensitive receptors would be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish & Game or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service? (PLN)			X	
2. Substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number of restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species? (PLN)			X	
3. Have a substantial adverse effect on the environment by converting oak woodlands? (PLN)			X	
4. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations or by the California Department of Fish & Game or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service? (PLN)			X	
5. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? (PLN)			X	
6. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? (PLN)			X	
7. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? (PLN)			X	
8. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? (PLN)				X

Discussion- Items IV-1,2:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment, in and of itself, will not affect biological communities. The proposed ZTA may encourage the construction of chicken coops and additional fencing, but this should have a minimal impact, if any, on natural resources. Additionally, the parcels that could be subject to the

adopted ZTA are already developed with residential structures making it highly unlikely that significant impacts would occur. This impact is considered to be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Items IV-3,4,7:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment, in and of itself, will not affect oak woodlands, riparian habitat, or other sensitive natural communities. The potential impacts associated with the construction of chicken coops and additional fencing as a result of the adoption of the ordinance would not negatively impact existing natural resources due to the very small scale of the potential construction activities. Additionally, the parcels that could be subject to the adopted ZTA are already developed with residential structures making it highly unlikely that significant impacts would occur. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Item IV-5:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment, in and of itself, will not adversely affect federally protected wetlands. The likely construction impacts associated with the adoption of the ZTA would be the construction of chicken coops and additional yard fencing. Since the amount of construction activity would occur on existing residential parcels and would be on a very small scale, it is highly unlikely that there would be any impact on federally protected wetlands. It is not anticipated that protected waters would exist on residential properties, but should they occur, the applicant would be subject to General Plan Policies and applicable state and federal regulations. This impact is considered less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Item IV-6:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment, in and of itself, will not affect the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The type of construction activity that could result from the adoption of this Zoning Text Amendment (fencing, chicken coops) would occur on parcels that are already developed at an urban/suburban scale and are on such a small scale that it would not negatively impact the movement of native or migratory fish and wildlife species. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Item IV-8:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment would have no direct effect on habitat and there is no adopted Habitat Conservation Plan that would be impacted by any activities generated as a result of the adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Substantially cause adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5? (PLN)				X
2. Substantially cause adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5? (PLN)				X
3. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? (PLN)				X
4. Have the potential to cause a physical change, which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? (PLN)				X
5. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? (PLN)				X
6. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? (PLN)				X

Discussion- All Items:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment would have no direct effect on cultural resources.

The type of construction activity that could result from the adoption of this ordinance (fencing, chicken coops) is on

such a small scale and would occur on parcels already developed that it would not negatively impact these resources.

VI. GEOLOGY & SOILS – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Expose people or structures to unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures? (ESD)				X
2. Result in significant disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcrowding of the soil? (ESD)				X
3. Result in substantial change in topography or ground surface relief features? (ESD)				X
4. Result in the destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features? (ESD)				X
5. Result in any significant increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site? (ESD)				X
6. Result in changes in deposition or erosion or changes in siltation which may modify the channel of a river, stream, or lake? (ESD)				X
7. Result in exposure of people or property to geologic and geomorphological (i.e. Avalanches) hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards? (ESD)				X
8. Be located on a geological unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? (ESD)				X
9. Be located on expansive soils, as defined in Section 1802.3.2 of the California Building Code (2007), creating substantial risks to life or property? (ESD)				X

Discussion- Items VI-1,4,8,9:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require any grading or construction of improvements. The proposed project will not result in exposing people or structures to unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures. It also will not result in the destruction or modification of any unique geologic or physical features. Furthermore, the changes will not result in a geological unit or soil unit that is or will become unstable resulting in landslides, liquefaction or collapse. The proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance will not create substantial risks to life or property due to expansive soils. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Items VI-2,3:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require any significant grading or construction of improvements. Some minor amount of ground disturbances may be associated with the construction of small agricultural buildings. Given the urban/suburban character of the zone districts for which the standard applies and the current disturbed characteristic of that landscape (e.g. pad graded) no new additional environmental effects are anticipated. The proposed project will not result in significant disruptions, displacements, or overcrowding of the soil and will not result in a substantial change in topography or ground surface relief features. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Items VI-5,6:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require any grading or construction of improvements. The project will not result in any significant increase in wind or water

erosion of soils and will not result in changes in deposition or erosion or changes in siltation which may modify the channel of a river, stream, or lake. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item VI-7:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require any grading or construction of improvements. The proposed project will not result in exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, ground failures, or similar hazards. Therefore, there is no impact.

VII. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine handling, transport, use, or disposal of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials? (EHS)			X	
2. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? (EHS)			X	
3. Emit hazardous emissions, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? (APCD)			X	
4. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? (EHS)				X
5. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? (PLN)				X
6. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing in the project area? (PLN)				X
7. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? (PLN)				X
8. Create any health hazard or potential health hazard? (EHS)			X	
9. Expose people to existing sources of potential health hazards? (EHS)				X

Discussion- Items VII-1,2:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the zoning ordinance would not create a significant risk to the public or the environment through the routine handling, transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. The types and quantities of hazardous materials that would routinely be used for the number of fowl and poultry allowed by the zoning text changes would be limited to those typically handled for residential/household use, such as pesticides and rodenticides. The risks associated with use of these chemicals include accidental poisoning of humans; and accidental or secondary poisoning of pets and wildlife (consumption of prey by predators or scavengers with rodenticide stored in body tissues). The US Environmental Protection Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency, through the California Department of Pesticide Regulation evaluates the human health risk and environmental risks of use of pesticides and rodenticides. In response to identified potential risks, these Agencies impose restrictions on handling, use, and placement, which are included on the product labeling. Therefore the use of pesticides and rodenticides in association with the

keeping of limited quantities of fowl and poultry would be subject to standard handling and use requirements as labeled on the product and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Item VII-3:

Hazardous materials used in conjunction with chicken/fowl coops include the use of pesticide, deodorizer for the treatment of odor, ammonia, alkaline and other lime based products from waste, and bacteria from diseased or dead carcasses. Improper use of hazardous materials has the potential to pollute ground water, surface waters and create air borne toxics. Compliance with regulations set by the US Environmental Protections Agency through the California Department of Pesticide Regulation would reduce contamination resulting from the construction of chicken coops, use and transport of hazardous materials, disposal and/or treatment of diseased or dead fowl, and demolition of coops or similar structures. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Item VII-4:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the zoning ordinance applies to allowable activities within zone districts. It would not result in the project being located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore it would not result in a significant hazard to the public or environment.

Discussion- Item VII-5:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment will not have a direct impact on airports. A ZTA that allows for the raising and keeping of up to six chicken hens within the RS, RM, and RES zone districts and expands the number of chicken hens that are permitted on lots less than 1/2 acre within the (-AG) zone district and on lots less than one acre within the RF zone district, will not create a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

Discussion- Item VII-6:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment will not result in any residential units that could be placed near private airstrips.

Discussion- Item VII-7:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment will not result in the placement of residential or urbanized uses in proximity to wild land fire areas.

Discussion- Item VII-8:

The keeping of even small quantities of animals, has the potential to create a health hazard if the collection, storage and disposal of feces are mismanaged. Mismanagement of feces would result in the attraction of flies and/or vermin. The potential for mismanagement of feces will be subject to Placer County Code, Section 8.16.120, which requires all manures to be picked up or cleaned every three days and properly disposed of weekly. The risk of creating any health hazard or potential health hazard is less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Items VII-9:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the zoning ordinance is unlikely to cause an impact on the exposure of people to existing sources of potential hazards.

VIII. HYDROLOGY & WATER QUALITY – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Violate any potable water quality standards? (EHS)			X	
2. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lessening of local groundwater supplies (i.e. the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses			X	

or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? (EHS)				
3. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area? (ESD)				X
4. Increase the rate or amount of surface runoff? (ESD)				X
5. Create or contribute runoff water which would include substantial additional sources of polluted water? (ESD)			X	
6. Otherwise substantially degrade surface water quality?(ESD)			X	
7. Otherwise substantially degrade ground water quality? (EHS)			X	
8. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? (ESD)				X
9. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area improvements which would impede or redirect flood flows? (ESD)				X
10. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? (ESD)				X
11. Alter the direction or rate of flow of groundwater? (EHS)			X	
12. Impact the watershed of important surface water resources, including but not limited to Lake Tahoe, Folsom Lake, Hell Hole Reservoir, Rock Creek Reservoir, Sugar Pine Reservoir, French Meadows Reservoir, Combie Lake, and Rollins Lake? (EHS, ESD)				X

Discussion- Items VIII-1,7:

The droppings of fowl and poultry carry bacteria and chemical contaminants that may degrade ground water quality if allowed to accumulate or if provided a conduit to a groundwater supply. The Placer County Well Construction Ordinance adopts by reference the California Department of Water Resources Water Well Standards. All wells constructed under permit from Placer County Environmental Health Services are required to meet the minimum construction requirements of these standards. These standards require animal and fowl enclosures to maintain a horizontal setback of at least 100 feet from a water well to prevent potential contamination of the water supply. By maintaining proper setbacks and implementation of animal waste management practices, potential impacts to water quality are unlikely and less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Items VIII-2,11:

The adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the zoning ordinance will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lessening of local groundwater supplies. The adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the zoning ordinance will not interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, as the keeping of the limited number of fowl and poultry that is allowed by the zoning text changes would not typically create large areas of impervious surfaces. The demand for groundwater for the keeping of limited number of fowl and poultry is not large enough to disrupt the direction or rate of flow of groundwater. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Item VIII-3:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require any grading or construction of improvements and will not result in any substantial alteration of the existing drainage pattern of the site or area. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item VIII-4:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require any grading or construction of improvements and will not result in a significant increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Items VIII-5,6:

The droppings of fowl and poultry carry bacteria and chemical contaminants that may degrade surface water quality. However, for the limited number of fowl and poultry allowed by the adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance, potential impacts to surface water quality are unlikely and less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Item VIII-8,9,10:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require any grading or construction improvements and will not result in the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area or place improvements within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows. Furthermore, the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance will not result in exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item VIII-12:

Because of the limited number and relatively low density of fowl and poultry allowed by the adoption of the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance the project will not result in impacts to the watersheds of important surface water resources. Therefore, there is no impact.

IX. LAND USE & PLANNING – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Physically divide an established community? (PLN)				X
2. Conflict with General Plan/Community Plan/Specific Plan designations or zoning, or Plan policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? (EHS, ESD, PLN)			X	
3. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan or other County policies, plans, or regulations adopted for purposes of avoiding or mitigating environmental effects? (PLN)				X
4. Result in the development of incompatible uses and/or the creation of land use conflicts? (PLN)			X	
5. Affect agricultural and timber resources or operations (i.e. impacts to soils or farmlands and timber harvest plans, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? (PLN)				X
6. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)? (PLN)				X
7. Result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area? (PLN)			X	
8. Cause economic or social changes that would result in significant adverse physical changes to the environment such as urban decay or deterioration? (PLN)				X

Discussion- Items IX-1,6:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment will not have a direct impact on General, Community or Specific Plans, planned uses or divide existing communities as it will apply to developed areas and properties.

Discussion- Item IX-2:

The adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the zoning ordinance will allow the keeping of up to six (6) chicken hens in the Residential Single-Family (RS), Residential Multi-Family (RM), and Resort (RES) zone districts. on lots with a minimum gross lot area of 5,000 square feet. The adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the zoning ordinance would allow limited numbers of fowl and poultry in the combining Agricultural (-AG) and Residential Forest (RF) zone districts. The keeping of the limited number of fowl and poultry in these zone districts will not result in a conflict with General Plan/Community Plan/Specific Plan designations or zoning, or Plan policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Additionally, compliance with General Plan/Community Plan/ Specific Plan designations or zoning, or Plan policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect will be evaluated through the permitting process. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Item IX-3:

There is not an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan within the County and the adoption of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment will not conflict with County policies or regulations for purposes of avoiding environmental effects.

Discussion- Items IX-4,7:

The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, and pea hens (peacock family), and other exotic hens is prohibited as noted in the proposed ZTA due to their potential for generating nuisance noise. In the past, the complaints that the County has received regarding the raising and keeping of poultry have been with the nuisance noise generated by roosters. Typically, chicken hens will make some sounds while laying an egg and the resulting sound does not produce greater noise levels than what is generated by other domesticated animals (cats, dogs, etc) permitted in the RS, RM, and RES zone districts. Although the RF and -AG zone districts do not currently restrict any types of Fowl and Poultry, the proposed ZTA allows for the keeping and raising of only "chickens hens" on lots less than a half acre in the -AG zone district and on lots less than one acre in the RF zone district. Given that there is a greater potential for land use conflicts of keeping fowl of poultry on smaller lots, the raising and keeping of roosters, guinea hens, and pea hens (peacock family)are prohibited. Since the proposed ZTA includes these restrictions and will minimize the potential for nuisance noise, there would not be a significant impact with regard to land use conflicts. Additionally, the present or planned land use of an area will not be significantly impacted. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Item IX-5:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry ZTA will not adversely impact agricultural or timber operations, but expand the opportunity for persons within the RS, RM, RES, RF, and -AG zone districts to keep and raise chicken hens.

Discussion- Item IX-8:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry ZTA will provide for the raising and keeping for up to six chicken hens within the RS,RM, and RES zone districts and for up to nine chicken hens for lots less than half an acre in the Combining Agriculture zone district and for up to 15 chicken hens for lots less than one acre in the RF zone district. The proposed ZTA will not cause economic or social changes that would result in significant adverse physical changes to the environment such as urban decay or deterioration.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project result in:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. The loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? (PLN)				X
2. The loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? (PLN)				X

Discussion- All Items:

The primary mineral resource in Placer County is gravel. Mineral Reserve combining zoning has been placed on lands that may contain valuable mineral resources to protect the opportunity for the extraction and use of such

24

resources from other incompatible land uses and to provide for the extraction of mineral resources. The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry ZTA will not adversely impact mineral resources.

XI. NOISE – Would the project result in:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local General Plan, Community Plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? (EHS)			X	
2. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? (EHS)			X	
3. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? (EHS)			X	
4. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (EHS)				X
5. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (EHS)				X

Discussion- Items XI-1,2,3:

The keeping and raising of roosters, guinea hens, and pea hens is prohibited as noted in the proposed ZTA due to their potential for generating nuisance noise. In the past, the complaints that the County has received regarding the raising and keeping of poultry have been with the nuisance noise generated by roosters. Typically, chicken hens will make some sounds while laying an egg and the resulting sound does not produce greater noise levels than is generated by other domesticated animals (cats, dogs, etc) permitted in the RS, RM, and RES zone districts. Although the RF and -AG zone districts do not currently restrict any types of Fowl and Poultry, the proposed ZTA allows for the keeping and raising of only "chickens hens" on lots less than half an acre in the -AG zone district and on lots less than one acre in the RF zone district. This restriction will decrease the potential noise impact from fowl and poultry to a less than significant level. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Items XI-4,5:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry ZTA does not relate to any specific project site. However, the adoption of the ZTA will not create any impacts with regard to airport or private airstrip noise levels.

XII. POPULATION & HOUSING – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (i.e. by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (i.e. through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? (PLN)				X
2. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? (PLN)				X

Discussion- All Items:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry ZTA will ultimately result in increasing the number of chicken hens raised within the RS, RM, RES, RF, and -AG zone districts. The proposed ZTA will not induce substantial population growth, either directly or indirectly, nor will it displace a substantial number of existing housing.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES – Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental services and/or facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services?

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Fire protection? (EHS, ESD, PLN)			X	
2. Sheriff protection? (EHS, ESD, PLN)				X
3. Schools? (EHS, ESD, PLN)				X
4. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? (EHS, ESD, PLN)				X
5. Other governmental services? (EHS, ESD, PLN)				X

Discussion- Item XIII-1:

The type of construction activity that could result from the adoption of the Fowl and Poultry ZTA (fencing, chicken coops) will occur on existing developed parcels and is on such a small scale that it would not negatively impact Fire protections services. No mitigation measures are required.

Discussion- Items XIII-2,3,4,5:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry ZTA will not impact Sheriff, schools, maintenance of public facilities or other governmental services.

XIV. RECREATION – Would the project result in:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? (PLN)				X
2. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? (PLN)				X

Discussion- All Items:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry ZTA will not generate additional human population who would utilize existing recreational facilities nor would it result in the creation of new recreational facilities. No mitigation measures are required.

26

XV. TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC – Would the project result in:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. An increase in traffic which may be substantial in relation to the existing and/or planned future year traffic load and capacity of the roadway system (i.e. result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? (ESD)				X
2. Exceeding, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County General Plan and/or Community Plan for roads affected by project traffic? (ESD)				X
3. Increased impacts to vehicle safety due to roadway design features (i.e. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? (ESD)				X
4. Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? (ESD)				X
5. Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site? (ESD, PLN)				X
6. Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? (ESD)				X
7. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (i.e. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? (ESD)				X
8. Change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? (ESD)				X

Discussion- Items XV-1,2:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will allow the keeping of chicken hens in various Residential zone districts and will not generate any increase in vehicle trips that will impact area roadways or intersections both individually or cumulatively. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item XV-3:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require the construction of any additional circulation improvements. Because no improvements are proposed or required, there will not be any increase in impacts to vehicle safety. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item XV-4:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not result in inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item XV-5:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require the construction of any parking spaces. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item XV-6:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not create any hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item XV-7:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not conflict with any existing policies or preclude anticipated future policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item XV-8:

The adoption of the Fowl and Poultry ZTA will not create changed in air traffic patterns.

XVI. UTILITIES & SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? (ESD)				X
2. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater delivery, collection or treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? (EHS, ESD)				X
3. Require or result in the construction of new on-site sewage systems? (EHS)				X
4. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? (ESD)				X
5. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? (EHS)				X
6. Require sewer service that may not be available by the area's waste water treatment provider? (EHS, ESD)				X
7. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs in compliance with all applicable laws? (EHS)				X

Discussion- Items XVI-1,2,6:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require the construction of any additional sewer improvements. Because no improvements are proposed or required, no increase in sewer flow generation will occur. Therefore, there will not be any impacts to wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Additionally, with no increase in sewer flow, there is no need for the construction of new wastewater collection or treatment facilities or expansions of existing facilities. Furthermore, with no increase in sewer flow, there is no need for the provision of sewer service. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item XVI-3:

The adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry section of the zoning ordinance will not result in the creation of new onsite sewage disposal systems. Waste from fowl and poultry keeping will not be disposed of in an onsite sewage disposal system. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Item XVI-4:

Adoption of the proposed changes to the fowl and poultry sections of the Zoning Ordinance will not require the construction of any additional drainage improvements. Because no improvements are proposed or required, there is no increase in stormwater flows that will require new stormwater drainage facilities or expansions of existing facilities. Therefore, there is no impact.

Discussion- Items XVI-5,6,7:

The keeping of small quantities of fowl and poultry, as would be allowed by the adoption of the proposed changed to the zoning ordinance would not result in an increased demand for water, sewer, or landfill capacity. Therefore, there is no impact.

E. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Environmental Issue	Yes	No
1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially impact biological resources, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X
2. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)		X
3. Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X

F. OTHER RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES whose approval is required:

<input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Fish and Game	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
<input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> National Marine Fisheries Service
<input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Health Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Toxic Substances	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
<input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<input type="checkbox"/> California Integrated Waste Management Board	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> California Regional Water Quality Control Board	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

G. DETERMINATION – The Environmental Review Committee finds that:

The proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

H. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (Persons/Departments consulted):

Planning Department, Charlene Daniels, Chairperson
 Engineering and Surveying Department, Phil A. Frantz
 Engineering and Surveying Department, Wastewater, Janelle Heinzler
 Department of Public Works, Transportation
 Environmental Health Services, Leslie Lindbo
 Air Pollution Control District, Angel Rinker
 Flood Control Districts, Andrew Darrow
 Facility Services, Parks, Andy Fisher
 Placer County Fire/CDF, Bob Eicholtz/Brad Albertazzi

Signature  Date June 25, 2010
 Loren Clark, Acting Environmental Coordinator

I. SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES: The following public documents were utilized and site-specific studies prepared to evaluate in detail the effects or impacts associated with the project. This information is available for public review, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, at the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, Environmental Coordination Services, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, CA 95603. For Tahoe projects, the document will also be available in our Tahoe Division office, 565 West Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145.

County Documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Plan	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Review Ordinance	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Plan	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grading Ordinance	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Development Manual	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Division Ordinance	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Management Manual	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Ordinance	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoning Ordinance and County Code	
Trustee Agency Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Toxic Substances Control	
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
Site-Specific Studies	Planning Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Study
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources Pedestrian Survey
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources Records Search
		<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting & Photometric Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Paleontological Survey
		<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Survey & Arborist Report
		<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impact Analysis
		<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Delineation
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
	Engineering & Surveying Department, Flood Control District	<input type="checkbox"/> Phasing Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Grading Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Geotechnical Report
		<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Drainage Report
		<input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater & Surface Water Quality BMP Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Study
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Pipeline Capacity Analysis
		<input type="checkbox"/> Placer County Commercial/Industrial Waste Survey (where public sewer is available)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Master Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Utility Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Tentative Map
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
	Environmental Health Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Contamination Report
		<input type="checkbox"/> Hydro-Geological Study
		<input type="checkbox"/> Acoustical Analysis
		<input type="checkbox"/> Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
		<input type="checkbox"/> Soils Screening

		<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Endangerment Assessment
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
	Air Pollution Control District	<input type="checkbox"/> CALINE4 Carbon Monoxide Analysis
		<input type="checkbox"/> Construction Emission & Dust Control Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Geotechnical Report (for naturally occurring asbestos)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Health Risk Assessment
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URBEMIS Model Output
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
	Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response and/or Evacuation Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic & Circulation Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
	Mosquito Abatement District	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidelines and Standards for Vector Prevention in Proposed Developments
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

**An Amendment to the Placer County Code
Chapter 17, Section 17.56.050(D) and
17.56.050(F)(6) related to Fowl and
Poultry.**

Ordinance No.: _____
FIRST READING: _____

The following Ordinance was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:

Clerk of said Board

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Clerk of the Board Signature

Chairman Signature

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF PLACER, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Chapter 17, Section 17.56.050(D) and 17.56.050(F)(6) of the Placer County Code is hereby amended as shown on Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2: This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its passage. The Clerk is directed to publish a summary of this ordinance within fifteen (15) days in accordance with Government Code Section 25124.

EXHIBIT A

D. Limitation On Use. The raising and keeping of specific types of animals shall occur only in the zone districts where "Animal Raising and Keeping" is identified as an allowable use by Sections 17.06.050 and 17.06.060 et seq., and only as also allowed by the following table:

Note. This chart indicates which animal types are permitted to be kept in each zone district. Specific regulations for each animal type are contained in subsection F.

Zone Districts and Allowed Animal Raising Activities

Animal Raising Activity	RS	RM	RF	RA	C1, C2	C3	MT	RES	BP, IN, INP	AE	F	FOR	O	TPZ	-AG
Animal husbandry (F)(1)	R	R	X	X						X	X				R
Bee raising (apiaries) (F)(2)			R	R						R	R	R	R	R	R
Birds ¹ (aviaries) (F)(3)	R	R	R	R						R	R				R
Cattle (F)(4)			R	X				X		X	X	X	X	X	R
Dogs and cats ² (F)(16)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Equestrian facilities (F)(5)			R	R				R		X	X	X	R	R	R
Fowl and poultry ³ (F)(6)	R	R	R	X				R		X	X				R
Goats and sheep ⁴ (F)(7)			R	X						X	X	X	X	X	R
Hogs and swine ⁵ (F)(8)			R	R						R	R	R	R	R	R
Horses (F)(9)			R	X				X		X	X	X	X	X	R
Household pets ⁶ (F)(10)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Kennels and catteries (F)(17)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Llamas, etc (F)(11)			R	R				R		R	R	R	R	R	R
Ostriches, etc. (F)(12)			R	R				R		R	R				R
Other small animals (F)(13)			X	X						X	X				X
Worm farms (F)(14)			X	X						X	X				X
Zoo animals (F)(15)			R	R				R		R	R		R		R

KEY

X	Activity allowed by this section with no discretionary permits required.
	Activity not allowed
R	See subsection F for additional special regulations.
¹	Does not include "fowl and poultry" or "ostriches, etc." as regulated by subsections (F)(6) and (F)(12).

2	Includes "kennels and catteries" as regulated by subsection (F)(17).
3	Does not include "birds" or "ostriches, etc." as regulated by subsections (F)(3) and (F)(12).
4	In the RS zone, does not include pygmy goats, which are regulated as "household pets" by subsection (F)(10).
5	In the RS zone, does not include pot-belly pigs, which are regulated as "household pets" by subsection (F)(10).
6	Does not include the keeping of dogs and cats which is instead regulated by subsections (F)(16) and (F)(17).

Section 2. Section 17.56.050(F)(6) of Chapter 17 is hereby amended as follows:

Fowl and Poultry. The number of fowl or poultry that may be kept on a site where allowed by subsection D is not limited by this section except as follows:

a. In the Residential Single-Family (RS) , Residential Multi-Family (RM) , and Resort (RES) zone districts, the keeping of no more than six (6) chicken hens is permitted, on parcels with a minimum gross lot area of 5,000 square feet. The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, or pea hens (peacock family) is prohibited. Residential Single-Family uses located within an adopted specific plan are subject to this provision.

ab. In the combining agricultural (-AG) zone district , the keeping of no more than nine (9) chicken hens is permitted on parcels less than one-half acre (where the site must be no less than one half acre for any such animals to be kept) and in the Residential-forest (RF) zone district-district, the keeping of no more than fifteen (15) chicken hens is permitted on parcels less than one acre. The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, or pea hens (peacock family), is prohibited. (where the site must be no less than one acre for any animals of this type to be kept). On parcels greater than one-half acre in the combining (-AG) zone district and on parcels greater than one acre within the RF zone district, no more than twenty-four (24) such animals per acre shall be maintained and there shall be no restrictions on the type of fowl or poultry; and,

bc. The keeping of more than one hundred (100) fowl or poultry is considered to be a "chicken/turkey ranch," and is subject to the requirements of Sections 17.06.030 et seq., (Allowable land uses and permit requirements) for such uses.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force thirty (30) days after the date of its passage. The Clerk is directed to publish this ordinance, or a summary thereof, within fifteen (15) days in accordance with Government Code section 25124.



COUNTY OF PLACER
Community Development Resource Agency

Michael J. Johnson, AICP
Agency Director

PLANNING

HEARING DATE: April 8, 2010
ITEM NO.: 2
TIME: 10:20 A.M.

TO: Placer County Planning Commission
FROM: Development Review Committee
DATE: March 8, 2010
**SUBJECT: WORKSHOP - ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT
FOWL AND POULTRY (PZTA T200090403)**

STAFF PLANNER: Charlene Daniels

LOCATION: County wide (except the Tahoe Basin)

PROPOSAL:

The County is proposing to amend the Animal Raising and Keeping section of the Zoning Ordinance and modify section 17.56.050 (f) (6) for Fowl and Poultry to:

- a) Allow the keeping of no more than three (3) chicken hens within the (RS) Residential Single-Family and (RM) Residential Multi-Family zone districts, subject to the approval of an Administrative Review Permit (ARP). The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, peacock hens, or other exotic hens is prohibited. Chicken hens shall be confined to the subject property and shall not be allowed off-site. Single Family uses in the Tahoe Basin, the Squaw Valley Land Use Plan area, as well as other adopted specific plans, are subject to this provision.
- b) In the combining (-AG) Agricultural zone district, the keeping of no more than six (6) chicken hens is permitted on parcels less than one-half acre and in the (RF) Residential-Forest zone district, the keeping of no more than twelve (12) chickens hens is permitted on parcels less than one acre. The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, peacock hens, or other exotic hens, is prohibited.” (See attachment A for the track change version of the proposed Zoning Text Amendment)

The purpose of the workshop is for the Planning Commission to provide staff direction on several issues that were raised during staff review of the Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) and at various MAC meetings and at the Agricultural Commission meeting. A discussion of each issue is located in the Planning Commission Direction section of this report

CEQA COMPLIANCE: As no formal action is being taken at this time, environmental review is not required. At such time that a ZTA is brought forward for formal consideration an environmental document will be provided for the Planning Commission consideration.

PUBLIC NOTICES AND REFERRAL FOR COMMENTS: All Municipal Advisory Committees, Placer County Agricultural Commissioner, Farm Advisor, 4H, Placer County Animal Control Services, Animal Services Advisory Committee, Placer County Code Enforcement, and other interested parties received the agenda for this Planning Commission workshop. Formal notification will be provided when this item comes back to the Planning Commission for a public hearing.

BACKGROUND:

The existing Fowl and Poultry provisions contained in the Placer County Zoning Ordinance limit the number of permitted animals to 100 in the (RA) Residential Agriculture, (F) Farm, and (AE) Agriculture Exclusive zone districts. It also limits the number of animals in the combining (-AG) Agricultural zone district (where the site must be no less than one-half acre for any such animals to be kept) and in the Residential-forest (RF) zone district (where the site must be no less than one acre for any animals of this type to be kept), to no more than twenty-four (24) such animals per acre. The keeping of more than one hundred (100) fowl or poultry is considered to be a "chicken/turkey ranch," and is permitted in the Agricultural Exclusive and Farm zone districts subject to the approval of a Conditional Use Permit

The RS and RM zone districts currently allow the raising and keeping of up to four dogs and/or cats, up to four pot-belly pigs, pygmy goats, or domestic household pets of similar size, and an unlimited number of birds in an "indoor" aviary and up to 150 canaries/finches, 40 doves/quails/pigeons, and up to 24 parrots on lots greater than 5,000 square feet in an "outdoor" aviary.

The raising of chickens in an urban environment is part of a growing movement of people who want to raise their own food for health and financial reasons. This movement is sometimes referred to as "locally grown". Numerous web sites (the City Chicken, Urban Chickens, Mad City Chickens, CLUCK, etc..) are devoted to the promotion of this movement. There are many jurisdictions in California that allow the keeping of chickens in urban areas. These jurisdictions include, but are not limited to: Auburn, Folsom, Roseville, Benicia, Long Beach, Anaheim, and the City of San Diego. In addition, the City of Sacramento is proposing an ordinance to allow keeping of chickens.

The County has received several requests to allow the raising of chickens within the RS zone district. In order to address a potential land use compatibility problem associated with these requests, staff has been directed to prepare a ZTA to allow the keeping of up to three chickens subject to the approval of an Administrative Review Permit (ARP) within the Residential Single-Family zone district. Staff was also directed to prohibit the keeping of roosters in the RS district due to their potential to generate nuisance.

ANALYSIS

RM zone districts

Several modifications have been made to the proposed ZTA that was originally intended to allow for the keeping of up to three chickens in the RS zone district. The (RM) Residential

Multi-Family zone district was added because single family homes are a permitted use within the RM zone district and the same animal raising activities have traditionally been permitted within both zone districts. Although concerns have been raised about the keeping of chickens in multi-family complexes, the ARP requirement would likely prevent the raising of chickens, unless special circumstances could be demonstrated to justify that land use compatibility issues could be adequately addressed.

Based on the recommendation of the Agricultural Commissioner, the ZTA was also modified to specify the keeping of "chicken" hens since there are several types of hens (i.e. guinea, pea hens) with the potential for generating nuisance noise.

Combining Agriculture and Residential-Forestry zone districts

The combining (-AG) Agriculture and (RF) Residential Forestry zone districts were also modified to permit the raising of chicken hens on lots smaller than one-half acre and one acre respectively. This modification was needed so that the RS and RM zone districts would not be less restrictive with respect to the raising of chickens hens than in the - AG and RF zone districts, which are intended to be more rural and agricultural in nature.

Tahoe Basin

The ZTA was initially intended to be Countywide. However, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Code (Chapter18) currently requires a minimum lot area of 2 acres for the keeping of chickens. Approximately 18 Plan Area Statements would need to be modified to allow for the keeping of chickens within the Placer County portion of the Tahoe Basin. At this time, TRPA is reluctant to revise these Statements to include the keeping of chickens for parcels under two acres. TRPA is working on their Regional Plan Update of their code and Placer County has requested that TRPA consider including the raising of chickens hens on single family residential lots as a part of this update.

Administrative Review Permit

In preparing the Fowl and Poultry ZTA, a conservative approach was taken to require an ARP, given that chickens are not traditionally allowed within residential single-family neighborhoods. The ARP costs \$55 dollars, requires neighbors within 300 feet of the project site to be notified of the application, staff analyzes the request, and the County Zoning Administrator issues a written decision on the ARP; however, public hearings are not held for ARPs. The ARP application must include specific project information as noted in section 17.56.050 of the Zoning Ordinance (Attachment B). In the RS and RM zone districts, ARPs are currently required for the keeping of carnivorous animals other than dogs, cats, non-poisonous reptiles and amphibians and for the keeping of between five to eight dogs and/or cats.

PLANNING COMMISSION DIRECTION

The proposed ZTA was reviewed by all County Municipal Advisory Councils and the Placer County Agricultural Commission during the months of January and February 2010. (See Attachment D for their recommendations). The recommendations made by these committees ranges from not supporting the ZTA (Squaw Valley) to increasing the number of chickens hens and eliminating the ARP requirement (Agricultural Commission, Foresthill Forum). Given the various issues that were raised at these meetings, comments from the Animal Services Advisory Committee, and also from the correspondence received on the proposed ZTA, a workshop provides the best forum to discuss these issues and gives the Planning Commission

an opportunity to provide direction to staff on any modifications to the ZTA. Accordingly, staff is requesting that the Planning Commission provide direction on each of the following issues:

1) Eliminate the Administrative Review Permit (ARP) requirement – Several MAC's, the 4H, and the Agriculture Commission recommended that the ARP requirement be eliminated. There was a concern that the ARP requirement is excessive especially when is it compared to households in the RS and RM zone districts that can have up to four dogs/cats and up to four pot belly pigs/pygmy goats without requiring a permit. The \$55 filing fee for the ARP was also cited as a concern since it would discourage people from applying for a permit. Most jurisdictions within California do not have a discretionary permit requirement for the raising of chickens and instead have either a minimum lot size requirement and/or established setbacks for chicken enclosures (coop). The jurisdictions which have a permit requirement (City of Auburn, San Mateo, and Albany (for over six chickens)) tend to be ministerial, with the purpose of the permit being to verify whether the animal enclosure satisfies setback requirements and that the number of permitted chickens are not exceeded. Comments were also received in support of the ARP requirement which included that it would help keep track of the number of chickens and that it would provide necessary oversight by the County to address any potential problems.

When the County originally proposed the ARP requirement it was assumed that the raising of chickens was primarily an agricultural related activity. After reviewing the number of urban jurisdictions that allow chicken raising as a matter of right, the conservative approach the County originally recommended may not be warranted. Staff supports eliminating the ARP requirement with the exception of the RM zone district as there may be land use compatibility issues in multi-family complexes.

2) Establish a minimum lot size requirement. - The Granite Bay MAC, Foresthill Forum and the Agricultural Commission recommended that a minimum parcel size be established for the ZTA. There were concerns that there should be sufficient area for the chickens to be raised. Establishing a minimum lot size requirement would be particularly beneficial if the County decided to not have an ARP requirement. A minimum lot size requirement would allow for an adequate area for the chicken hens and it would also preclude chicken hens from being raised within a multi-family complex. A minimum lot size of 5,000 square feet was recommended by the Granite Bay MAC and the Agricultural Commission as providing sufficient room to raise chickens. Staff supports establishing a minimum lot size requirement of 5,000 square feet (See attachment C for chicken raising standards of other communities). If the Planning Commission supports a minimum lot size requirement, staff recommends that the ARP requirement in the RM zone district be eliminated

3) Include Resort zoning – The Meadow Vista MAC recommended that the Resort zone district should be included in the ZTA since cattle, horses, llamas and other types of farm animals were already permitted in this zone district. The Resort zone district permits single-family residential uses. There are several single-family homes in the Lake Combie area. The purpose and intent of the Resort zone district is: “applied to mountainous area, water-oriented, or other areas with significant natural amenities and commercial recreational potential, with good access to major highways”. Lots zoned for Resort are typically located in the rural areas of the County. Staff supports including the Resort zone district into the ZTA.

4) Establish a “chicken hen per lot area” standard – After reviewing the comments that were made on the proposed ZTA, there is another option that could determine the number of chicken hens for each residential lot. This option was not discussed at any of the previous meetings and it involves establishing a lot area standard to determine the number of permitted chickens. Placer County has a wide range of existing lot sizes in the RS zone district and these lot sizes range anywhere from 3,000 square feet to over 2.3 acres. It is difficult to establish one number that would be appropriate for such a wide range of lot sizes. For example, a “one chicken hen per 2,500 square feet of lot area” standard would allow for up to two chicken hens on a 5,000 square foot lot and up to 17 chicken hens for a one-acre lot. Other jurisdictions which have adopted a “chicken hen per lot area standard” include the City of Anaheim which allows one chicken hen per 1,800 square feet of lot area and the City of Los Altos allows one chicken hen per 1,000 square feet of lot area.

Should the Planning Commission decide to recommend a “chicken hen per lot area” standard, the Planning Commission may also want to consider establishing a maximum number of chicken hens to prevent an excessive number of chicken hens allowed on the larger lots (See discussions below). Staff supports establishing a “chicken hen per lot area standard. Please note that if the Planning Commission chooses to establish a lot area standard, the number of chicken hens proposed for the smaller lots within the –AG and RF zone districts may need to be adjusted.

5) Allow 24 chicken hens on lots greater than 40,000 square feet. This issue was raised at the Agricultural Commission. Todd Valley was used as an example, where there are a significant number of Residential Single-Family lots, with a minimum lot size requirement of 40,000 square feet that could support more than three chickens. It was argued that on larger lots, additional chickens could be accommodated without raising land use compatibility issues. However, in order to keep the RS and RM zone districts as more restrictive with respect to animal raising, the number of chickens permitted within the RS and RM zone districts should not be the same as the number permitted in the –AG and RF zone districts which is 24 chickens per acre. Should the Planning Commission recommend establishing a “chicken hen per lot area” standard, it will address the issue of allowing the raising of additional chicken hens on larger lots.

6) Increase the maximum number of permitted chickens from three to six. The Agricultural Commissioner, Foresthill Forum, North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council, recommended that the maximum number of chickens be increased to six (6). Three chickens were originally recommended since it would generate the maximum number of eggs that would typically be consumed by a household. Young laying hens can produce about one egg a day. As a hen ages, her egg producing capability diminishes. Most jurisdictions in California allow between two to 20 chickens. Should the Planning Commission decide to not recommend a “chicken hen per lot area standard”, staff would be concerned about increasing the maximum number of chicken hens for the smaller residential sized lots.

Should the Planning Commission decide to recommend establishing a “chicken hen per lot area” standard, the maximum standard could be set at anywhere between 6 to about 20 chicken hens. However, staff recommends that a standard which could allow for 24 chicken hens per acre should not be established. Staff is supportive of increasing the maximum number of chicken hens under this criterion.

7) Animal Welfare – Numerous comments have been made about the ZTA not addressing the welfare of chickens. These comments include, but are not limited to: requiring chicken hens to be kept within a properly designed, predator-proof enclosure; prohibiting slaughter; ensuring that the public is properly educated on how to properly raise chickens; ensuring that only disease free chickens are kept; and addressing the potential impacts on animal shelters receiving unwanted chickens, including baby roosters that were sold as hens.

It is important to note that the purpose of the Animal Raising and Keeping section of the Zoning Ordinance is to “*minimize potential adverse effects on adjoining property from the establishment of incompatible uses related to the raising and keeping of animals*”. This section establishes the number of animals that may be kept, the permit requirements, and any measures that are needed to ensure land use compatibility issues, such as odor, vector, and noise are adequately addressed. The Animal Raising and Keeping section does not regulate how animals are to be raised. Animal welfare issues are under the prevue of the Animal (Chapter 6) regulations. Animal address slaughter (6.08.080) and require that animals have adequate food, water, shelter, and proper care.”(6.080.010.K).

Should the Planning Commission desire the County to address animal welfare issues, staff recommends that the Planning Commission transmit any concerns to the Board of Supervisors to address the animal welfare issues as part of amending Chapter 6. Any amendments to the Animal regulations would be handled by the Animal Services Division and not through this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance..

8) Attracting Predators and/or Rodents. Comments were made from several citizens that the keeping of chicken hens could attract predators (i.e. bears, mountain lions, raccoons, etc) to a neighborhood. Generally, unless an animal is kept entirely inside a structure, there is a risk that predators will be attracted to that animal whether it be a cat, dog, or chicken. One of the most effective ways to discourage predators is to provide adequate shelter. As previously discussed, the requirement of providing adequate shelter is under the prevue of the Animal regulations.

Another concern that was raised by various humane societies was that the food used to feed the chicken hens could attract rodents. As with any animal that is fed outside, the storage and distribution of food needs to be handled in a safe and proper manner, such as storing the food in a rodent proof container; otherwise, there will be a problem with attracting unwanted animals. In addition, comments were also raised during the ZTA review about the pesticides that would be used to eradicate rodents. According to federal and state laws, pesticides must be used in accordance with the label instructions. If pesticides are not used appropriately, it could negatively impact the environment regardless if it is used in connection with the raising of chickens hens or any other activity. The environmental document prepared for the ZTA will address pesticide use.

9) Impact on Placer County Agencies. Concerns were also raised by members of the Animal Services Advisory Committee about the impact the proposed ZTA would have on the workload of County agencies. There are three County agencies that could be affected by the ZTA and these include Animal Services, Code Enforcement, and the Agricultural Commissioner (animal trapping). Animal Services reviewed the proposed ZTA and estimated that if the ZTA is adopted, it would result in 52 hours per year of administrative work associated with the processing of complaints and 155 hours per year on the enforcement of animal regulations. At present, the main activities Animal has with chickens is dogs at large killing neighbor's chickens and owners surrendering their chickens to the animal shelter. The Code Enforcement Division and the Agricultural Commissioner anticipate minimal and no impacts respectively associated with the adoption of the ZTA. With the increased interest of raising chicken hens in recent years, the Placer County Code Enforcement Division has not experienced an increase in the number of chicken related complaints (noise, odor, zoning violations) over the last decade. Typically, when the Code Enforcement Division receives a complaint about chickens, it is about the noise associated with roosters.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Development Review Committee recommends that the Planning Commission conduct a workshop and provide staff direction on the issues discussed under the "Planning Commission Direction" section of the staff report.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Daniels
Senior Planner

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A – ZTA track change version
- Attachment B – Additional ARP submittal requirements for animals
- Attachment C – Chicken raising standards within other communities
- Attachment D – Letters from the MACs and Agricultural Commission
- Attachment E - Correspondence

- cc:
- Applicant
 - Engineering and Surveying Division
 - Environmental Health Services
 - Air Pollution Control District
 - Andy Fisher - Parks Department
 - Scott Finley - County Counsel
 - Karin Schwab – County Counsel
 - Michael Johnson - CDRA Director
 - Paul Thompson – Deputy Director
 - Holly Heinzen – CEO Office
 - All MAC's
 - All BOS
 - Ag Commissioner – Christine Turner
 - Various Interested parties via e-mail and us mail
 - Subject/chrono files



PUBLIC INTEREST COALITION



August 31, 2010

Sent via email

Board of Supervisors
Placer County
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment (PTZA T20090403)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We wish to submit the following comments on the proposed project, the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA), and have them included in the administrative record. In addition to salient points that others have submitted, we urge you to consider the following and NOT approve the proposed amendment as currently written.

We are fully aware and support growing trends to raise one's own "food," backyard gardening (fruits and vegetables), etc., as long as they are in compliance with zoning, codes, and ordinances. However, a vegetable garden in an urban or residential zone is entirely different from raising farm animals in the same areas.

Our first overarching concern is that under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the amendment as proposed requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The current Negative Declaration (Neg Dec) is wholly insufficient. Before proceeding with the amendment, Placer County must prepare an EIR that properly analyzes the environmental impact from, and alternatives to, the project.

CEQA provides that a lead agency may issue a Neg Dec and may avoid preparing an EIR only if "[t]here is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the lead agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment." Pub. Res. Code § 21080(c)(1). An initial study must provide the factual basis, with analysis included, for making the determination that no significant impact will result from the project. CEQA Guidelines § 15063(d)(3). In making this determination, the agency must consider the direct and indirect impacts of the project as a whole (CEQA Guidelines § 15064(d)), as well as the project's growth-inducing and cumulative impacts. See *City of Antioch v. City Council of Pittsburg* (1986) 187 Cal. App. 3d 1325, 1333.

An agency must prepare an EIR whenever it is presented with a "fair argument" that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, even if there is also substantial evidence to indicate that the impact is not significant. *No Oil, Inc. v. City of Los Angeles* (1974) 13 Cal. 3d 68, 75; CEQA Guidelines § 15064(f)(1). Where there are conflicting opinions regarding the significance of an impact, the agency must treat the impact as significant and prepare an EIR. CEQA Guidelines § 15064(f)(1); *Stanislaus Audubon Soc'y v. County of Stanislaus* (1995) 33 Cal. App. 4th 144, 150-51.

We submit that in addition to meeting the threshold to necessitate the preparation of an EIR, there are obvious critical direct and indirect significant environmental impacts from the amendment as proposed. An EIR is required.

One of the direct or indirect significant impacts includes the attraction of predators to chickens and chicken coops and subsequent depredation permits issued to

PUBLIC INTEREST COALITION P.O. Box 713 LOOMIS, CA 95650
Public-Interest@live.com 916-652-7005

kill natural wildlife that may be attracted to fowl or poultry (including but not limited to: bears, mountain lions, foxes, raccoons, skunks, etc.).

We realize the public comment period has lapsed, but because we were under the impression that this amendment was to allow only three animals (fowl or poultry) and that consideration was to be given to the environmental impacts, we assumed the County would adhere to sound principles in drafting the amendment. We were recently informed of the current amendment, its unfortunate deviation from its original wording, and lack of realistic regulations and provisions for enforcement; thus, we are compelled to submit our concerns and insist upon the preparation of an EIR.

To address each item separately:

I. Aesthetics

1—There are very few, if any, existing chicken coops that would not present an eyesore after a couple of years of use. Unless cleaned on the suggested regular schedule, the manure itself can be considered unsightly. Many chicken coops are built with “leftover” materials, and as such resemble shanties.

2—To rely on existing setbacks to ameliorate visual impacts is unacceptable. Variances to setbacks are granted routinely in Placer County and are not considered binding. The aesthetic impacts “may” be significant. To inform the public, and to consider proper mitigations, an EIR must be prepared.

II. Agricultural Resource

There may be an indirect economic impact on Agriculture, especially with existing County poultry producers who are raising/selling poultry products. We don’t/won’t know unless a study and EIR is prepared.

III. Air Quality

The ZTA assumes that limiting the number of fowl and poultry will somehow translate into novices knowing when and how to clean a chicken coop. Odors are notorious where chickens are confined. However, without an EIR, the public has no idea of what can occur with odor from chicken coops.

The ZTA also places an additional burden on the County’s Air Pollution Control District (APCD) for taking action against a violation. So now we have one neighbor having to report to authorities via a complaint about odor. This is unacceptable and will more than likely create confusion and consternation in neighborhoods.

Since manure and animal wastes are mentioned here, it is highly unlikely that after the novelty of the chickens wears off, that the coops will be cleaned “every three days” and [waste] disposed of properly on a weekly basis. As interest wanes, a monthly or every three month schedule, if there is a clean-up schedule at all, is more likely to be the norm. This section relies solely on “compliance with the regulation” to prevent objectionable odors, and therefore is very likely to create problems. Odor aside, neighbors need to know the inherent impacts of breathing fumes and dealing with flies, rodents, etc., from a neighbor’s chicken manure.

There appears to be a reliance on “implementation of the APCD’s rules to handle nuisance complaints, yet, we see no stated consequences for violations and actions by the APCD. Are the chickens confiscated? Must there be civil action?

IV. Biological Resources

Contrary to the claim that the ZTA will not affect biological communities, we submit that it will indeed affect biological communities. As soon as foxes, skunks, possums, bears, coyotes, rodents, etc., and yes, deer, discover eggs, grains, or the chickens themselves, there will be conflicts. We cannot stress this strongly enough. That

alone will result in the killing or capturing/transporting of wildlife, which is an adverse impact.

Worse, many residential homeowners will react by putting out poisons, thus exposing all wildlife to toxins resulting in unintended kills and/or secondary kills (raptors or snakes who eat the poisoned animal). Only an in-depth study can assess the true cost and impact this ZTA will have on wildlife. It must be prepared in an EIR and circulated for public review.

We disagree with the statement/conclusion that because of the “small scale” of the ZTA, impacts will be non-existent. If anything, the impacts will be magnified in a residential area. Assuming some, if not all, of these areas have storm drains, chicken manure run off in storms and or in “hosing out” may end up being washed into the storm drains and into our creeks. We are not being told what the impacts will be to our creeks. A three-month chicken waste build up (or longer, judging by some chicken coop maintenance in the County) may create a significant negative impact to our creeks, fisheries, and other riparian elements.

This proposed ZTA may have very detrimental impacts to wetlands. Although the applicant would be subject to regulations, we know too well how easy it is to obtain a variance with promises of no runoff into adjacent wetlands. Without an EIR, we, the public have no information with which to judge.

The claim that there will be no impact to native or migratory wildlife is questionable. It is a known fact that some migratory species may change their patterns when the food sources become “available and easy.” Chicken feed will attract rodents, which will attract other predators, which will attract...and on it goes. It is not the “small scale” that attracts and/or deters wildlife; it is the ease and availability of resources. Chickens that are not properly housed and cared for will attract and impact normal, natural wildlife patterns. Only a properly prepared EIR can inform the public and mitigate these impacts.

VII. Hazards & Hazardous Materials

We strongly disagree with the stated logic that because directions are included on product labeling, that therefore there will be no significant impacts in the handling, use, and placement of pesticides and rodenticides (poisons). The risks mentioned are more likely to occur when a frustrated chicken owner who has lost eggs, feed, or even chickens, is now madder than a wet hen, and is likely to operate on the premise that if a little poison is good, more must be better. We see this modus operandi enough—repeatedly—it is common knowledge. Using the rationale that people will use hazardous products according to label instructions to claim that there will be no significant hazard to the public or the environment is unacceptable. Not only may this cause a significant impact, it most likely will, but we won't know unless we have an EIR.

There is no mention of how the diseased or deceased chickens will be disposed of to not pollute ground water, surface waters, and/or create air borne toxics. Compliance with an obscure regulation means the chickens or fowl will be disposed of in whatever manner is most expedient for the owner. We don't know what diseases may be created by the ZTA and imparted to our wildlife populations.

Again, the collection, storage, and disposal of feces every three days and properly disposed of weekly will be impossible to enforce, and thus may create a huge health hazard. Recent County presentations indicated that Code Enforcement is complaint driven only; staff does not have the time or resources to “patrol” and inspect. Worse, even if staff sees a violation, we were informed that they will not take action. We submit that fowl or poultry waste disposal may be significant and must be studied further in an EIR.

VIII. Hydrology & Water Quality

The contamination of a well from chicken manure runoff may be prevented by a 100 foot coop setback from a well, but this does not address the runoff from years of chicken manure seeping into the ground. There may be significant impacts to ground water.

There may be no increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff with no grading for a chicken coop, but we don't know how harmful the contents of the runoff is from any number of chickens after a certain number of years or decades. A build up of manure, combined with a heavy downpour or hose washing, may create slurry that will either go into creeks or groundwater.

The ZTA concentrates on not having improvements or housing in the flood plain, but a chicken coop can very easily not qualify as either. Therefore, it can/will and may be placed anywhere on a parcel that's convenient, which may be near the edge of a setback and/or in a flood hazard. There may be an impact, and this must be studied.

Again, the Neg Dec relies on the verbiage, "Because of the limited number and relatively low density of fowl and poultry allowed..." and comes to the erroneous conclusion that therefore the ZTA will not result in impacts to watersheds. First, we don't know—don't have any idea actually—as to how many people will raise fowl and poultry. Also, we don't know how long the fad will last. Second, we do know that any fowl and poultry will accumulate waste—lots of it. As well intended as fowl and poultry owners may be, the County's clean up schedule may not fit with the bird owner's. There will be manure build ups, especially if chickens are kept for years. The cumulative effects of even minimal manure runoff must be addressed via an EIR.

IX. Land Use and Planning

There needs to be a discussion of how people who moved into residentially zoned areas, fully expecting compliance with ordinances and knowing full well that raising farm animals is appropriate for agriculturally zoned areas, will react. If there are sufficient safeguards for manure, noise, humane confinement, disposal, etc., then there may be no problems. However, a ZTA with no safeguards is a willy-nilly approach and is bound to create contention. When an owner kills the first chicken, in addition to the blood, there will be feathers flying. Neighbors may not think so kindly of each other, depending upon how these details are prescribed. If they are not spelled out in the codes, then the County is creating a situation that will pit one neighbor against another.

XI. Noise

The noise of three or six hens may be minimal as far as the daily lives of the chickens and neighbors are concerned. But those noises will attract predators, as will the odors and scents. Dogs who may pose no aggressive tendencies may see chickens differently (as docile dogs sometimes change when they see a squirrel), which in turn may manifest in more barking. We submit that the noise impacts from this ZTA have not been fully examined and must be so that the public can be informed.

XIII. Public Services

We disagree with the conclusion that the ZTA will not impact Public Services. Animal Control, which has experienced budgetary cuts, will have an additional burden of enforcing this ZTA and its vague regulations (which will make their job even more difficult). Sheriff Deputies will be called upon when one neighbor's interpretation of a transgression infringes on a right, etc. No, we "cannot just get along." We need strong, clear, and well-written regulations to support any such ZTA. Lacking such language, this ZTA will impact our Public Services.

XVI. Utilities & Service Systems

While it is true the ZTA should not impact sewers or wastewater treatment, it may result in unacceptable runoff. Because there will be no new drainage improvements, we submit that there is a likelihood of new manure-contaminated stormwater flows.

In Conclusion:

We submit that there may be considerable cumulative impacts. We have no idea of how many homes will have fowl or poultry, how many each will have, and for how long. Thus the range of cumulative impacts could range from potentially very significant to no impact. We won't know unless an EIR is prepared.

CEQA requires full disclosure for an intelligent evaluation of the potential environmental effects of any proposed activity. This Neg Dec does not allow for reliable analysis. The ZTA is simply opening the door for raising farm animals in residentially zoned areas without adequate, sustainable, reliable and enforceable regulations to support the zoning amendment.

There is no discussion of the size of the chicken coops, protection of the chickens (from predators, weather, etc.), or education of new chicken owners. The passing of Prop 2 brought the needs of chickens and their humane treatment to the public's attention, but there is no mention of either element in this ZTA.

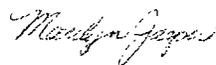
Depending upon how meticulous a chicken owner is with sanitation, we currently see how horrific diseases can spread to humans (i.e., the egg recall due to salmonella contamination).

We submit that there are many environmental impacts in this ZTA which the Neg Dec has not addressed. Possibly there can be mitigation to correct, but as it stands now, we request that an EIR be circulated to fully inform the public and allow comments, as intended by CEQA.

There needs to be an economic analysis of who picks up the tab for any County services that will or may occur as a result of this ZTA. We see no mention of a fee to offset and absorb the costs of clerks, Animal Control, Sheriff, and/or possibly superior court for the civil litigation. In a County that's cutting back almost everywhere, this is a very appropriate situation to impose a fee schedule to offset costs. Such costs can be waived if the economy and the County recover, but until then, a fee schedule should be implemented to permit fowl and poultry.

This proposed ZTA demands that an EIR be created and circulated.

Thank you,



Marilyn Jasper, Chair

cc Charlene Daniels

Shirlee Herrington

From: Cheryl Stevens [cherylws8@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2010 11:31 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Jennifer Montgomery; Tim Goffa; ringram@ucdavis.edu; hunane@anamalplace.com
Subject: Chicken ordinance

 **Attention** Placer County Planning Commission

I applaud the planning staff and Jennifer Montgomery for introducing and refining through workshops the Chicken Ordinance which will be reviewed today. However, groups like UC Ext., 4-H, Placer County Humane Society have animal care and housing guidelines that could and should be incorporated.

As a Foresthill resident, with chickens and Nigerian goats simple chicken housing for any Placer County resident of would be an adequate area enclosed with twisted wire no-climb fencing with a shelter inside or a wooden framed chicken wire enclosure with shelter inside .Nesting boxes are great. However hens also love to nest in the dirt with a little saw dust, again underneath shelter. These materials are readily available with guidance from Placer Farm Supply (Newcastle),(Home Depot (Auburn) or Colfax :

cheers and wellness

cheryl

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Wanda Schwall
address: 6154 S. Walnut Street #40
city: Loomis,
state: CA
email: wanda4choice@gmail.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Therese Mary Finn

address: 243 Spring Lane

city: Newcastle

state: CA

email: tfinn@calwvsp.com

7/21/2010 10:29 AM FROM: FAX NUMBER: Page 1 of 1

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2010
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Sheryse Lewis
address: 360 Pinewood Way
city: Meadow Vista
state: CA
email: yoooomere@yaho.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that affect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Sharon Ketcherside

address: 8940 Derby Court

city: Newcastle

state: CA

email: ketch07@hotmail.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Lydia Mundy

address: 6722 Magnolia

city: Rocklin

state: CA

email: mundybo@surewest.net

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Loyce Smallwood

address: 4097 Helen Lane

city: Auburn

state: CA

email: loy@foothill.net

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed:

Linda Ann Klinger

address:

506 Navigator Drive

city:

Lincoln

state:

California

email:

linda_klinger@comcast.net

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Jim Cather

address: P.O Box 2052

city: Loomis

state: CA

email: jimcather@hotmail.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission **MUST** provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure.

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that affect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Janet and Mark Thew
address: 5572 St Francis Cir W
city: Loomis
state: CA
email: gavelgoddess@gmail.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2010
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Faye Bewernick
address: PO box 4174
city: Auburn
state: Calif.
email: fanniefaye@webtv.net

7/21/2010 10:13 AM FROM: Elizabeth Metz Page 1 of 1

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2010

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission **MUST** provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Elizabeth Metz

address: 3431 Brennans Rd

city: Loomis

state: CA, 95650

email: ametz2000@yahoo.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Earl Shirley

address: 1510 Foxridge Circle

city: Auburn

state: CA

email: eshirley@sbcglobal.net

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Dawn Abel

address: 2524 McCloud Way

city: Roseville

state: CA

email: dswan05@yahoo.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

Danny Klinger
506 Navigator Drive

Lincoln
California

dannyklinger@comcast.net

63

R...

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that affect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Anita M. Wright
address: 3423 Kingmont Drive
city: Loomis
state: California
email: anitaml@ncbb.net

65

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED
JUL 20 2010
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed:	Ann Metz
address:	3431 Brennans Rd
city:	Loomis
state:	CA
email:	ametz2000@yahoo.com

65

Revised

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals. Thank you for considering my view.

signed: christy thomas

address: po box 1050

city: meadow vista

state: ca

email: info@cltdesigns.com

Respect

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Claire D. Bryant

address: 402 Kelse Court

city: Roseville

state: CA

email: cbryant7@yahoo.com

Rec'd

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County\'s proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn\'t an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County\'s departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: eunice bliss

address: 340 black oak dr

city: auburn

state: ca

email: bliss70@msn.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County\'s proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn\'t an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County\'s departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: karen jenkins

address: 2751 newcastle road

city: newcastle

state: ca

email: karenmj@ncbb.net

7/20/10

RECEIVED
JUL 20 2010
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals. Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Katie Cather

address: P.O Box 2052

city: Loomis

state: CA

email: ktcather2002@hotmail.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

7/2/2010

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2010

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission **MUST** provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals. Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Lant Thomas
address: 301 Pinewood Way
city: Meadow Vista
state: CA
email: plnewood1986@gmail.com

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County\'s proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn\'t an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County\'s departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Linda Lianne Hutchinson

address: 20 Fleming Rd.

city: Lincoln

state: Ca.

email: linda95648@hotmail.com

C
2
44

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

Rhonda Wilder

710 Murray Way

Roseville

CA

rwilderbr@comcast.net

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2010

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Proposed

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

RECEIVED
JUL 20 2010

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled **Raising and Keeping of Animals**. This precedence-setting standard shows that the Commission can write language to include enclosures for these animals contrary to the claims this Commission has made thus far. If nothing else, the County's departments should ALL be working together when ordinances are written that effect other departments.

I respectfully request you require staff to include enclosures in the proposed zoning text amendment or send this proposal back to staff to work with the appropriate department(s) to draft language that protects the welfare of animals.

Thank you for considering my view.

signed: Rosemary Frieborn

address: 70 Whittington Drive

city: Newcastle

state: CA

email: rfrieborn@earthlink.net

Charlene Daniels

From: Lindee Gerardi [lindeegerardi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2010 1:02 AM
To: Placer County Board of Supervisors; Robert Weygandt; Kirk Uhler; Jim Holmes; Jennifer Montgomery; Charlene Daniels; Rocky Rockholm
Subject: HEN ORDINANCE

Dear Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

In light of your current plans to allow chickens in more areas in Placer County, I suspect you aren't aware of the chicken problem we have in Sheridan where my mother lives. Let me take a minute to inform you of this serious matter.

Chickens are not allowed in downtown Sheridan but we have several that roam the streets because owners do not provide them with housing. Oftentimes, I find one or two chickens dead along the side of the road and once when my mother was driving, she panicked and swerved to avoid running over a chicken. She then overcorrected her car and fatally injured the animal.

Most recently we have learned that the county is considering condoning the raising of chickens and not requiring any kind of cage to keep them in. This means that during certain times of the day chickens will be roaming the streets. No one wants to see these animals dead on the roadway, no one wants to fight with their neighbors about how they should or should not keep their animals and no one wants to be responsible for calling out animal control to haul them away. It is your responsibility to minimize these confrontations.

If we do call animal control out, what will happen since these animals won't be required to be kept in a cage? (we've been told that the animals will be killed if they go to the shelter.) Will the owners tie the animals up on the property to keep them there? How will they keep them out of the street?

Keeping citizens safe and eliminating traffic hazards is the duty of the county. Requiring these animals to be kept in cages is not only good for the animal but it protects the rights of drivers on public roadways.

Lindee Gerardi
Hazel Gerardi, Sheridan

Scanned
7/19/10
11:11 AM
X



BEAR League

Bear Education Aversion Response
P.O. Box 393 Homewood, CA 96141 (530) 525-PAWS

July 19, 2010

Board of Directors

Executive Director
Ann Bryant

President
Fran Gerhardy

Secretary
Laura Seligman

Treasurer
Bill Edic, CPA

Board Members
Carole Edic
Cheryl Millham
Kathy Davisson

Board Member Emeritus
Louie Gerhardy

Newsletter Editor
Sandy McKnight

Webmaster
Sue Jennings

Honorary Board Member.
Marvin the Porcupine

Assistant to Director//Office Manager
Rachel Snyder

Dear Placer County Planning Commissioners,

This correspondence pertains to the current proposal to allow the keeping of chickens on small neighborhood lots in heavy bear country here in Placer County. When I first heard this was being discussed I thought for certain someone was making a joke and I assumed if it was indeed being considered everyone would quickly realize it was a bad idea and it would go no further. Now I understand the TRPA is disallowing chickens under their jurisdiction, thankfully, but our Planning Commission is seriously looking into this option for residents outside of TRPA's boundaries

The BEAR League answers phone calls from all over California regarding problems humans have with bears coming into residential areas. One hundred percent of the time it is the caller or a neighbor who has invited the bears by offering a food source...garbage, pet food, bird seed, fruit trees, chickens etc. We have worked very hard in Placer County with a garbage ordinance and a bear feeding law and between the Department of Fish and Game and the BEAR League we have educated thousands of residents and visitors on proper protocol for co-existing with these large eating machines. It would be a giant step backward to allow residents within bear territory to lure bears back into neighborhoods with chickens, the food they are fed, and the eggs they lay. Unless the chicken coop is electrified the bears and the coyotes will break in and wreak havoc. Raccoons will also be enticed in abnormally high numbers. This will not be fair to the chickens, the neighbors or the wildlife. Wildlife can legally be killed for attacking livestock. It is beyond comprehension that our county would thoughtlessly invite predators with the presence of a food source they simply cannot refuse and then condone the issuing of depredation permits.

I have always proudly stated that I am a resident of Placer County...the county with the finest Sheriff's Department, the most proactive Animal Control agency, the most skilled firefighters, the most honorable District Attorney and staff etc. But to imagine the Placer County Planning Commission is actually going to carelessly create an unnecessary problem for people and bears is shameful and mind-boggling. If you could see our call logs and read how many times the presence of chickens has created

enormous problems you would quickly decide against this proposal. I hope you will look at the bigger picture and not allow a few people the right to cause trouble for their many neighbors and for countless wild animals. Please contact me if I can provide any further data for your consideration.

Very truly yours

Ann Bryant

Charlene Daniels

From: juneh@re4u.net
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 7:08 PM
To: Supervisor@placer.ca.gov
Subject: proposed zoning text amendment

*Received
by the Board of Supervisors*

—: **PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY**

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment.

I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled
June Havekost
3205 Brennans Road
Loomis

signed:
address:
city:

state:
email:

California
jneh@re4u.net

Charlene Daniels

From: cmcclure@ssctv.net
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 6:09 PM
To: Supervisor@placer.ca.gov
Subject: proposed zoning text amendment

—:

PLEASE REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ENCLOSURES FOR POULTRY

Dear Honorable Chair, Planning Commission Members and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this letter to voice my firm opposition to the proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment.

I am extremely concerned that the welfare of these animals has not been taken into consideration by this Commission. I am extremely concerned that the welfare of the animals in the County's proposed Poultry Zoning Text Amendment has not been taken into consideration by this Commission.

While there are numerous problems with this proposal, at the very least, the Planning Commission MUST provide for the protection of these animals from extreme weather conditions and predators by requiring an appropriate enclosure

An enclosure will also be a tool for animal control to use when resolving conflicts between neighbors.

The cities of Roseville, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis all require chickens to be kept in enclosures so this requirement isn't an unusual request and only solidifies our resolve to ask the Commission to apply standards of care in Placer County that are best practices in other jurisdictions.

The current Zoning Ordinance does specify structures for indoor and outdoor bird aviary structures. In fact, this section is titled
Catherine McClure
13150 Sierra Trail
Auburn

signed:
address:
city:

state:
email:

CA
cmcclore@ssctv.net

Kathi Heckert

*emailed
to
Carmen...
7/20/10*

From: Pea Ce [pea-ce@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 10:42 PM
To: Placer County Planning; Kathi Heckert
Subject: Hen Ordinance Comments for Jul 22 10 Hearing
Attachments: Hen Ordinance Zoning Amendment-Jul 15 10.doc

Please accept the attached comments for the record for the July 22, 2010 meeting of the Planning Commission.
Thank you.
Randall Cleveland for
the PEACE Team

PS: The body is pasted below in case the attachment will not open.

July 15, 2010
Sent via email.

Attn: Charlene Daniels
Placer County
Planning Dept and Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Subject: ZTA FOWL & POULTRY - PZTA - T20090403

As currently proposed, we urge you to vote NO on this zoning change and ordinance amendment.

An environmental impact report (EIR) should be prepared because this ordinance “may have an adversarial impact on the environment.” Placer County’s proposal to amend the “Animal Raising and Keeping” section of the county’s Zoning Ordinance and to modify section 17.56.050(f)(6) for Fowl and Poultry will create significant environmental impacts and easily meets the California Environmental Quality Act’s (CEQA) threshold that requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The low threshold was deliberately established to encourage a preference for resolving doubts in favor of preparing an EIR.

With noise, odor (flies), health issues (especially if a neighbor has respiratory issues), manure residue flowing into storm drains and into our creeks, and disease that can be transferred to either humans, avian agricultural operations, and/or wildlife, we urge the County to prepare an EIR as mandated under CEQA. The impacts from this proposed zoning change and amendment “may” be significant and must be studied via an EIR and circulated for public comment under CEQA.

We urge you to **not** adopt the hen ordinance as currently proposed due to the impacts it will create. Here are just a few:

- environmental impacts (manure run off flowing into storm drains and waterways).
- neighborhood tranquility disturbed or ruined from litigation (noise, odor, etc.).
- disease due to most urbanites not having a clue as to proper care of chickens.
- attraction of predators, if not for the chickens themselves, then for chicken feed and/or eggs (creating more neighborhood disharmony from dog barking). Predators may then kill or injure other household pets in secondary attacks.
- attraction of rodents to chicken food and/or to eggs resulting in citizens using more rodent poison resulting in subsequent secondary raptor and snake kills.

—depletion of fiscal resources as more calls to Animal Control are generated—loose or feral chickens; dogs chasing chickens, sick/dying or other cruelty charges against the poultry owners.

—contentiousness when chickens become feral (Fair Oaks, CA is a prime example).

Agricultural zoning exists for a good reason. Mixing urban and agricultural activities is normally a recipe for disaster (Animal Control complaints, neighborhood hostilities, dog/chicken issues, predators, etc.). Placer County's hen ordinance as currently proposed will cost the county and its citizens precious fiscal resources as folks call Animal Control, law enforcement and/or tie up the courts when they finally have to resort to litigation.

Chickens are a novelty at first—everyone enjoys hunting for eggs. But because animal husbandry is not typically the expertise of urban community residents, when the novelty wears off, the chickens will either be neglected (manure build up, lack of food/water), abandoned, or worse. If nothing else, to be allowed to keep chickens in an urban setting, (1) a maximum number of three should be established; (2) a fee for a permit should be required and be sufficient enough to cover some of the anticipated costs; and (3) educational materials should be distributed at the time of the permit issuance.

Chickens must have adequate care—shelter, food, water, vet care, pen cleaning, and housing, to mention just a few. The only way a good hen ordinance will work is if it is carefully crafted with provisions for chicken protection and care as well as strong enforcement provisions for ordinance violations, complete with fines large enough to cover the many calls that law enforcement and Animal Control will have to deal with.

Whether raised for eggs or meat, how will the slaughter or disposal of the hens be conducted? (On site, in the backyards of neighborhoods? With the County's mobile slaughter trailer?) If on site, where and how will the offal be disposed of? "Spent hen" disposal must be examined from both an environmental, neighborhood conflict, and animal welfare (humane) point of view.

With agricultural poultry producers, the poultry is often medicated for various diseases and as a preventative measure. What safeguards will be in place to assure that only disease-free hens will be brought into residential areas of Placer County? How will safeguards be enforced if chicks (or hens) are purchased via mail order from less-than-reputable poultry breeders?

We take umbrage with the statement that "The County has received several requests to allow the raising of chickens within the RS zone district...." It appears the County is capitulating to "several requests." If people want to keep farm animals, it is their responsibility to move to properly zoned areas to accommodate their desires. If the County insists on amending ordinances or changing zoning whenever there's a there are "several requests," then at the very least it must make those changes responsibly. For the County to make changes that will create conflicts, especially among neighbors who are abiding by zoning regulations, is unacceptable.

We could support a chicken ordinance but only if it's carefully crafted with proper and enforceable safeguards for the chickens, pets, neighbors, wildlife, and has a fee that is large enough to cover County costs. Unless the County plans to double Animal Services budget, adding to their already overburdened workload via this proposal means animals will suffer.

If passed as currently proposed, sooner or later, on someone else's watch, the ordinance will have to be amended. We urge Placer County officials to get it right now.

Sincerely,

Randall Cleveland for

The PEACE Team

Cc: Various entities and organizations

In marginal cases, where it is not clear whether there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant impact and there is a disagreement among experts over the significance of the effect on the environment, the agency "must treat the effect as significant" and prepare an EIR. Guidelines § 15064(g); *City of Carmel-By-The-Sea v. Board of Supervisors* (1986) 183 Cal.App.3d 229, 245.

The New Busy is not the old busy. Search, chat and e-mail from your inbox. [Get started.](#)



Humane Society
of the Sierra Foothills

July 14, 2010

Placer County Planning Commission
3091 County Center Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

2945 Bell Road #175
Auburn, CA 95603

530.823.6828

Honorable Chair and Planning Commission,

We believe the need for a humane enclosure in the Commission's final decision to allow chickens in urban and suburban Placer County will not only help helpless animals but will provide a resolution to human and animal conflicts.

With all due respect, we must disagree with your contention that animal structures are not addressed in the zoning codes. We call to your attention Section 17.04.030 quite specific for indoor and outdoor aviary structures. So detailed are these requirements they address the type of wall material, roof covering configuration and doors. Therefore, provisions for an enclosure for chickens can and should be addressed by this Commission and included in this Section.

In response to the Commission's statement regarding the City of Roseville's chicken ordinance our research connected us with Mark Miller in the city's planning department. Mark indicated that chickens are allowed in the city **but must be confined at all times to an enclosure**. He stated that all enclosures must be at least 20' from any residential structure. Waivers to these requirements are granted by the Chief of Police but to Mark's knowledge the Chief has never issued a waiver. It should be noted that in Roseville the Chief of Police oversees Animal Control.

Furthermore, **the cities of Rocklin and Loomis also require enclosures for chickens**. Contrary to the inaccurate or omitted information on the City Chicken website that staff has referred to numerous times, we created a chart from information we found online directly from city and county ordinances. As you can see **a majority of the cities we researched require an enclosure**. It should be noted that all information we found was reported on the chart regardless of the city's position on enclosures.

While the notion of free roaming chickens conjures up images of days gone by, the simple truth of the matter is, we must protect these animals from severe weather conditions and predators. The humane treatment of animals has evolved and consideration to their wellbeing must be addressed by this Commission when ordinances regarding the keeping of domestic animals are written.

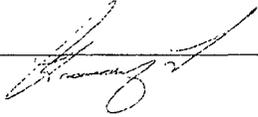
Our Mission:
To Promote the
Wellbeing of Animals

info@humanesocietysierrafoothills.org
www.HumaneSocietySierraFoothills.org

July 14, 2010
Placer County Planning Commission
Page 2

We respectfully request this Commission to require that chickens be kept in a safe enclosure or postpone the enactment of this zoning text amendment until their humane treatment is addressed.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Frieborn, RVT, Humane Officer

cc: Mark Starr, Director Animal Control
Mike Winters, Manager Animal Control
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Hen/Chicken Ordinances Comparison Chart

City	Zoning	Maximum Number	Enclosure Required	Enclosure location	Additional Information
Placer County (proposed)	RS, RES -AG ¹ RF	6 6 12 24	NO		No roosters, hen peacocks, guinea hens. Minimum lot size requirement of 5,000 square feet. RS and RES zone districts. On parcels less than one-half acre (roosters, guinea & peacock hens prohibited) On parcels less than one acre (roosters, guinea & peacock hens prohibited) On parcels greater than one-half acre in the (-AG) zone and > one acre in the RF zone no more than 24 per acre. No restrictions on type of fowl or poultry.
City of Roseville	AG only	10 ²	yes	Not <20' from any building or property line	Special Permit. If chief of police or designee makes a finding that because of soil, drainage, prevailing winds, absence of insect life, unusually effective sanitations measures, population density in the area, innocuousness of the animal or poultry involved, or like conditions, the public health and welfare will not be endangered thereby and such animals or poultry shall be kept in a manner consistent with the conditions, if any, imposed in such special permit.
City of Davis	In City	6 ³	yes	Not <40' from any residence	No well shall be located closer to a potential source of pollution than the distance listed below. When, in the opinion of the director, adverse conditions or unusual sources of pollution exist which may cause degradation of water quality, distances prescribed may be extended by the director. Animal or fowl enclosure 150'
City of Folsom	In City RA ⁴ A ⁵	2 ³ 100 100	yes	At least 20' from property line	Comment from City Official: "except for a very small area of the city that is on the Orangevale side of the river, nothing has any Ag overlay, so except for that area, they are limited to 2".
City of Berkeley	In city	No limits	yes	Not <25' of any dwelling house	
Town of Loomis	RS RE, RA RR ⁷	MUP	yes		Minor Use Permit. Prior to a decision on a minor use permit, the town shall provide notice of a public hearing in compliance with Chapter 13.78. a. Public Notice. The notice shall state that the director will decide whether to approve or disapprove the minor use permit application on a date specified in

¹ (-AG) zone = combining agricultural

² Combined: ..no person shall keep any goose, or turkey, or more than 10, whether singly or in combination, of the following: ducks, chickens, or pigeons.

³ Combined: A total of not more than six chicken hens or six pigeons or a combination of chicken hens and pigeons not to exceed the number of six, or a total of not more than six rabbits.

⁴ RA Zone defined - Agricultural

⁵ A Zone defined- Agricultural Combining district – livestock farming

⁶ Combined: not more than any combination of two chickens, ducks, pigeons and/or rabbits shall be kept...

					<p>the notice, and that a public hearing will be held only if requested in writing by any interested person prior to the specified date for the decision.</p> <p>b. Hearing. When a hearing is requested, notice of the hearing shall be provided in compliance with Chapter 13.78, and the director shall conduct the public hearing prior to a decision on the application in compliance with Chapter 13.78.</p>
City of Albany	In the city	Up to 6 w/permit	yes		<p>Unlawful to slaughter.</p> <p>proposed housing and animals' premises must be separate from the guardian's/owner's house and at least fifty (50') feet from any residence or business not owned by the guardian/owner or, alternatively, every party whose properties border on the area affected by the animal premises must give their unanimous written consent to the City for this permit to be granted.</p> <p>The design of the proposed housing will provide a safe and humane facility for the chickens or rabbits as described in subsection 10-2.1.</p>
City of American Canyon	?	?	?	?	<p>This section is intended to implement the general plan's provision for certain agricultural uses. Animal husbandry: raising of animals or production of animal products, such as eggs or dairy products, on an agricultural or commercial basis. This classification includes grazing, ranching, dairy farming, poultry raising, the raising of fur-bearing animals, and the sale and storage of materials produced on-site, but excludes the raising of swine, feed lots, stockyards, slaughterhouses, dead animal rendering and wild animal keeping.</p> <p>Minimum Lot Size. A minimum lot area of twenty thousand square feet is required for livestock keeping, as defined by Chapter 19.05, Use Classifications, at least seventy-five percent of which is accessible to and usable by the large animal(s).</p> <p>COULD NOT VERIFY INFORMATION ON CITY WEBSITE</p>
City of Irving	In the city	2	yes	Not <30' from any dwelling unit other than that of the owner of the poultry	<p>No person shall keep or maintain or cause to be kept or maintained within the corporate City limits poultry in excess of two, or rabbits in excess of two, over four months of age except under the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Such poultry and rabbits shall under no circumstances be permitted to run at large but shall be at all times confined within a suitable house or coop with enclosed runway. Under such conditions, the maximum number shall not exceed a total of four poultry and/or rabbits. 2. Such house or coop runway shall at all times be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, shall provide protection from the weather, and shall at all times be free from offensive odors. 3. Clean potable water shall be available to the poultry and/or rabbits in conformance with the principles of good animal husbandry unless restricted by a veterinarian. Water receptacles, containers or dispensers shall be kept clean and sanitary at all times. 4. Food receptacles shall be accessible to all poultry and/or rabbits unless

⁷ 12 animals per acre min lot size ½ acre, SETBACKS: 25' from side/rear property lines 50' from streets & dwellings

					restricted by a veterinarian and shall be located so as to minimize contamination by excreta. Food contaminated by urine shall be discarded and replaced with fresh uncontaminated food. Disposable receptacles may be used, but should be discarded after each use. Self-feeders may be used for the feeding of dry food and seed, but they must be kept clean and free of mold, deterioration and the caking of food.
Los Altos	R1	1 for each 1,000 square feet of lot area	?	See additional information	<p>1. No animal may be permanently confined in a required front yard setback, and any animal permanently confined in an area between the residence and the front property line, but outside the required front yard setback, shall be screened from view outside the property line by dense plantings or a solid fence constructed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14.72.</p> <p>2. No animal may be permanently confined within five feet of the side property line on the secondary street side of a corner lot, and any animal confined within the remaining required secondary street setback shall be adequately screened from view outside the property by dense plantings or a solid fence constructed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14.72.</p> <p>3. Unless the area of confinement contains two thousand (2,000) square feet or more, no animal may be permanently confined within ten (10) feet of a rear or side property line, excepting the less restrictive five foot setback along a secondary street property line of a corner lot as set forth in subsection (B)(2) of this section</p>
City of La Puente	In the city	Not more than 20 poultry/rabbits and small animals for each 10,000 sq ft of lot area in the residential zones.	yes	More than 50' of any residence, dwelling or building used for human habitation, nor within 50' of any public street; nor within 30' of any portion of an adjoining residential zoned property, except where said residential properties are lots containing one-half acre or more; nor	<p>10.68.030 Noisy animals prohibited. No person shall keep or maintain upon any premises in any residential or commercial zone in the city, any crowing rooster, peacock, guinea fowl or any other fowl or animal which by any sound or cry shall unreasonably disturb the peace and quiet of any neighborhood.</p> <p>10.68.050 Keeping of poultry, rabbits and small animals restricted. No person shall keep or maintain more than a combined total of twenty poultry and/or rabbits and small animals for each ten thousand square feet of lot area in the residential zones. Poultry or small animals under three months of age and not exceeding twenty-five in number shall not be considered in computing the number of poultry or small animals on the premises.</p> <p>All premises upon which animals or poultry are kept and all enclosures, yards, buildings, structures, pens and corrals shall be kept in a clean, orderly and sanitary condition so that they will not cause foul odors, breeding of flies or any way become a nuisance or be detrimental to the health, comfort or safety; all rules and regulations of the health department to this end shall be complied with.</p>

				within three hundred feet of any school, church, hospital or public park.	
County of Sacramento	RD-1-7	No limit			Separation. All wells must be located an adequate horizontal distance from known or potential sources of pollution or contamination: Animal/fowl enclosure 100'
	AG				The property must have a net lot area of at least 10,000 sq. feet in the RD-1-7 zone to keep chickens and/or rooster with a "conditional use permit". (single family residential only.) Cost of permit \$4,500. Chickens are also permitted on lots of at least 10,000 square feet in general agricultural and agricultural-residential land use zones.
City of Rocklin		10	yes	Not <20' of any building or property line	Combination, of the following: ducks, chickens or pigeons.

Kathi Heckert

From: sanctuary@bravebirds.org
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 12:19 PM
To: Kathi Heckert
Subject: Important Letter Regarding the Issue of Keeping Chickens in Placer County
Attachments: Backyard Birds Letter and Statement to Municipalities MARCH 31, 2010.doc

Importance: High

Greetings!

Attached, please find a letter and position statement regarding the keeping of chickens in an urban or semi-urban setting. If you could please forward this to the members of the Planning Commission, that would be very helpful.

These materials were created by a coalition of animal rescue organizations which, after carefully examining the results of existing urban backyard bird endeavors, has concluded that allowing chickens to live in a town setting of any kind is problematic for both citizens and chickens.

We understand that some citizens in Placer County are urging the Planning Commission to consider changing its zoning ordinances to allow for the keeping of backyard birds. We believe this would be a mistake, and urge you to take the attached information into account during your decision-making process.

Thank you so much, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Miriam Jones, Eastern Shore Sanctuary and Education Center

Eastern Shore Sanctuary and Education Center
158 Massey Road
Springfield, VT 05156

As the country's largest coalition of animal sanctuaries involved in the direct care of unwanted chickens, we are writing to you with our recommendations regarding the recent trend in backyard chicken-keeping. As the popularity of raising backyard flocks has grown, our shelters have become inundated with calls to take in unwanted chickens. In addition, we understand many communities are now besieged with requests to legally regulate the keeping of backyard flocks. Recognizing the importance of this issue, we have crafted the attached Position Statement.

Backyard chicken-keeping by amateurs raises many serious concerns regarding both the welfare of the birds, and the community. Moreover, it raises serious concerns about ordinance enforcement issues, and the burden placed on already overwhelmed local shelters when birds are abandoned, seized, or surrendered.

Further, it must be pointed out that hatcheries marketing chickens for backyard flocks use cruel factory farm methods which include overcrowding, de-beaking, and the shipment of day old chicks by mail—a process that subjects them to temperature extremes, injury, and sustenance deprivation. Unmarketable male chicks are often included as living packing material—leading to their eventual abandonment or surrender to local shelters.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully urge you to read and consider the issues raised in the attached position statement on the keeping of chickens. We urge you to consider the reasons we give for encouraging your municipality to resist becoming zoned for chicken-keeping. If zoning is already in place, we urge your municipality to establish and enforce strict requirements designed to protect both the birds, and your community, from serious problems that will, quite predictably, otherwise result.

Thank you very much for your consideration. For more information, please contact [] and we'll be more than happy to talk with you.

Sincerely,

Miriam Jones, spokesperson for the Coalition
Eastern Shore Sanctuary and Education Center

RECEIVED
JUN 25 2010
PLANNING DEPT.

Collective Position Statement on Backyard Poultry

Background

In the past year, shelters and sanctuaries in urban and suburban areas have witnessed a dramatic increase in the intake of chickens, particularly roosters. Hatcheries producing day-old chicks for shipment to feed stores and individuals are backlogged with orders. The desire to raise poultry can be linked to organic backyard farming as well as a desire to have direct access to food (eggs and, in some cases, meat).

As a coalition of animal sanctuaries interested in the welfare of hens and roosters, we have created this position statement on the keeping and raising of chickens. All of us have been inundated with calls to take in hens and roosters who are a) no longer wanted; b) not the correct sex; c) not legally permissible. As organizations with limited resources and space, it is no longer feasible to take in even a small percentage of these unwanted animals. Even with placement assistance, most of these chickens, particularly roosters, do not find permanent placement. This leaves municipal dog and cat shelters the task of taking in, housing, feeding, caring for, and inevitably killing healthy, adoptable chickens.

Problems associated with urban backyard flocks

Hatcheries are like puppy mills: When animals are reduced to commodities, their best interests are pushed aside in favor of profit. Hatcheries that produce chicks for backyard flocks treat chickens and their offspring in much the same way puppy mills treat breeding dogs and their puppies. There are no legal requirements dictating how breeding hens and roosters are housed, meaning they may be crammed into small cages or sheds without outdoor access.

Shipping day-old chicks is cruel: Most chickens purchased are bought from hatcheries or feed stores (these chicks originate from hatcheries). Hatcheries ship day-old birds through the postal service without any legal oversight. Young chickens are deprived of food and water for up to 72 hours and exposed to extremes in temperature. As Dr. Jean Cypher, a veterinarian specializing in avian medicine states, "A day-old chick can no more withstand three days in a dark crowded box than can any other newborn." Other experts in avian medicine and behavior agree that transporting day-old chicks in boxes for the first 24-72 hours of life is cruel and medically detrimental to the birds.

Chicken sexing is more art than science: Using data collected from sanctuaries and rescues that field calls daily about unwanted chickens, we estimate between 20-50% of purchased "hens" are actually roosters. Depending on breed, visually identifying a rooster can take weeks to months.

Roosters may be unwanted and are often illegal: Male chickens are generally unwanted for two reasons: They don't produce eggs and they are rarely legal in urban or suburban settings. Hatcheries may use rooster chicks as packing material, regardless of whether they were ordered. Most incorporated or urban regions that do permit chickens only allow hens, not roosters. Unwanted roosters may be abandoned to the streets, slaughtered, or

end up in a municipal shelter to be killed. Very few find their way into a permanent home or sanctuary.

Chickens attract rodents: Even the cleanest coop is attractive to rats and mice who enjoy the free bedding (straw and shavings) and food. Rodents are generally viewed as pests and their presence is unwanted by chicken owners and neighbors.

Lack of professional medical care: Avian medicine has made progress but there are few vets specialized in the treatment and care of birds. Veterinarians who do treat poultry are often expensive, with the average vet visit starting at a minimum of \$100.

Concerns with new ordinances allowing backyard poultry

Enforcement costs: Municipal shelters run on a tight budget dealing with animal cruelty cases, dangerous dog calls, and the normal day to day operation of their facilities. Adding an extra burden, like enforcing chicken licensing laws and related complaints, is unwise amidst current economic concerns.

Slaughter: The average chicken guardian is ill-equipped to “properly” stun and kill a chicken. Further, slaughtering can be traumatic for neighbors, including impressionable children. If chickens are to be permitted in urban areas, they must be protected from cruel mistreatment as much as “traditional” companion animals like dogs or cats, including a ban on slaughtering them for consumption.

Roosters will be killed: Creating new ordinances permitting chickens creates a market for killing 50% of all chicks born in hatcheries. Urban and suburban areas considering chickens generally ban roosters, yet male chickens comprise half of all chicks born. Hatcheries mail roosters as packing material, and sexing of chickens is more art than science (see above). When residents purchase chicks from hatcheries or feedstores and end up with roosters, they will be put in the position of having to rehome the bird(s). Most roosters *are not* rehomed and end up abandoned or dumped at shelters, where they are invariably killed.

Suggestions if you are considering a backyard flock

Make sure it's legal: If you live in an unincorporated area, contact your planning department and ask about the zoning requirements regarding poultry. If you live in an incorporated region, contact the city clerk for information on ordinances regarding chickens.

Adopt: Avoid the cruelties of the hatcheries by adopting birds already in existence who need homes. Check out www.petfinder.org for animals available at your local shelter. Visit www.sanctuaries.org or www.farmanimalshelters.org and contact a sanctuary near you about adopting birds. If they do not have birds, do not give up. Sanctuaries and rescues receive inquiries daily regarding animals needing homes – ask that you be contacted if one of these calls occurs.

Do your research: Chickens can be wonderful companions. While they are relatively easy to maintain, they do have special needs. Be sure to research housing, predator proofing, diet, and medical needs. Some things to be aware of:

- *Some breeds of chickens are cold-sensitive:* Hens and roosters with large single combs are prone to frost-bite in cooler climates. Make sure adequate housing accommodates birds in both cool and hot temperatures.
- *Predator protection is vital:* Chickens should be locked up at night in a safe enclosure that prevents access by all predators, including dogs, raccoons, aerial predators, rats, cats, wild canines, weasels, etc. During the day, animals should be housed in a fully-fenced enclosure or yard with proper protection from aerial, day-time predators and neighborhood dogs and, in the case of small bantams, large domestic free-roaming cats.
- *Veterinary care is critical:* Avian medicine is still considered an “exotic” practice and, as such, is more expensive. A one-time visit may start at \$100. Nevertheless, before considering housing chickens, it is imperative that they have access to veterinary care.

Supporting Organizations

[Animal Place](#)

[Chenoa Manor Animal Sanctuary](#)

[Chicken Run Rescue](#)

[The Chocowinity Chicken Sanctuary & Education Center, Inc.](#)

[Eastern Shore Sanctuary and Education Center](#)

[Farm Sanctuary](#)

[Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary](#)

[Sunnyskies Bird and Animal Sanctuary](#)

[United Poultry Concerns](#)

[Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary](#)

RECEIVED

JUN 04 2010

June 4, 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION SERVICES

Michael J. Johnson
Loren Clark
Charlene Daniels
Placer County Community Development Resource Agency

Subject: Proposed negative declaration, Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment

I have read your Initial Study for the proposed project of amending the Animal Raising and Keeping section of the zoning ordinance. Your environmental document is internally inconsistent because your project description (and, if I understand it correctly, the proposed "text amendment") does not say that the project would require chickens to be kept in coops or enclosures, yet the initial study describes and relies for its findings on the premise that chickens will be kept in coops or enclosures.

To be more specific, Item 1, Aesthetics: The argument is made that chicken coop fencing will not be a significant aesthetic issue. However, there is no discussion of the potential for free-roaming chickens to degrade aesthetics. For instance, would the project make it possible for domestic chickens to wander in scenic areas like the American River Canyon and Hidden Falls Park, lowering the quality of the outdoor experience? If not, should the reader assume that the fencing is an implied mitigation measure?

Item IV, Biological Resources: How will listed and candidate species be protected from disease transmission and predation by domestic chickens if the chickens are allowed to run free? Chickens are very likely to kill and eat insects, salamanders and frogs, for instance. The ambiguous statement in the discussion of items IV 1 -4 and IV 7 that "the proposed ZTA may encourage the construction of chicken coops" is insufficient. The ordinance must require the confinement of the chickens as a mitigation measure in order to keep the potential for impacts to biological resources from being significant.

Item VIII-1, having to do with water quality: again, you are relying on an imaginary mitigation measure when you assert that chicken enclosures will be set back at least 100 feet from a water well.

I couldn't find in your documentation an explanation of why the incorporated cities and towns in Placer County were not consulted, and why the initial study was not circulated to the California Department of

page 2

Fish and Game. Is it your assumption that free-roaming chickens will not cross city limit lines to forage for food?

Your document lacks discussion of mandatory findings of significance, so the reader has no way of knowing how you conclude there is no potential for cumulative impact if every household were to keep its maximum number of chickens. Has your staff even quantified how many parcels would be affected by the proposed change in the zoning law?

In closing I would like to summarize. Your environmental document does not support a finding of no significant impact to the environment. Either the zoning text amendment needs to be re-written to incorporate the mitigation measure of keeping chickens confined and a new initial study circulated, or you should find that in the absence of project modification/mitigation measure incorporation, the project does have the potential to significantly affect the environment and an environmental impact report is required.



Sue Stack
14298 Edgehill Lane
Auburn CA 95603

April 16, 2010

Placer County Planning Commission Members: Harry Crabb, Ken Denio, Richard Johnson, Jeffrey Moss, Miner Gray III, Larry Sevison and Gerald Brentnall
3091 County Center Dr.
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED

APR 19 2010

RE: Proposed Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA T20090403)

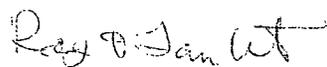
CDRA

Dear Planning Commission Members:

We attended your Planning Commission meeting last Thursday and gave input on the issue of "Proposed Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA T20090403).

We agree wholeheartedly with the Agricultural Commissioner's (Christine Turner) comments on the proposed Fowl PZTA. We the people are quite capable of managing our own lives and do not need the "government" micro-managing every little inch of it. We are quite capable of researching, studying, buying and raising our own chickens. We SHOULD NOT have to pay an administrative fee to do this!

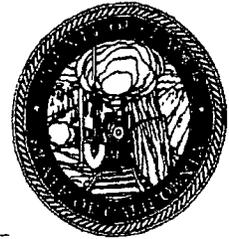
Thank you,



Roy & Tamra West
P.O. Box 292
Auburn, CA 95604

Resident's of Foresthill (Roy is Chairman of the Foresthill Forum)

County of Placer
MEADOW VISTA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
P. O. Box 610
Meadow Vista, CA 95722-0610
County Contact: Administrative Aide (530) 889-4010



March 11, 2010

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Zoning Text Amendment T20090403 – Fowl and Poultry

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council is currently composed of six members who live and work in the Placer County area of Meadow Vista, and is the local advisory body to the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

At its February 3, 2010 meeting, the Council considered Zoning Text Amendment ZTA T20090403 – Fowl and Poultry and voted as follows:

The Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment passed 4/1 vote, with one abstention. The motion was "to approve the amendment as proposed with a recommendation that staff refine zoning where three hens are permitted, i.e., resorts – 3 or more; multi-family residential allowing a coop-type situation, several residents share a common plot of land for the purpose."

Sincerely,

Alex Constantino
Chair, MV MAC

RECEIVED			
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS			
5 BOS Rec'd	_____	AMB	_____
Other	_____	TS	_____
		COB	_____
MAR 15 2010			
Sup D1	_____	Sup D4	_____
Sup D2	_____	Sup D5	_____
Sup D3	_____	Aide D1	_____
		Aide D2	_____
		Aide D3	_____
		Aide D4	_____
		Aide D5	_____

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Lichtig
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 8:24 AM
To: Dennis Oliver
Subject: RE: New General Complaint

Placer County is relaxing its rules, but (to my knowledge) TRPA is not changing its regs prohibiting chickens. I'm not sure what Jennifer Montgomery is talking about, but I certainly have never told anyone that TRPA is going to amend the rules to allow chickens on parcels under 2 acres.

Scott

From: Dennis Oliver
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 8:12 AM
To: Scott Lichtig
Subject: FW: New General Complaint

This complaint came in last week.

-----Original Message-----

From: GeneralComplaints@trpa.org [mailto:GeneralComplaints@trpa.org]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 3:44 PM
To: GeneralComplaints
Subject: New General Complaint

Complaint Submitted By: Request to Remain Anonymous

Request Response: YES

Date of Occurrence:

Time of Occurrence:

Location of Occurrence: 11490 Silver Fir Drive - Truckee

Description: The owner of the property located at the above address has been out of compliance with both TRPA and Placer County ordinances where the keeping of livestock in residential areas - for Placer County and less than two acres for TRPA is prohibited. It is my understanding that Placer County Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery is in the process of addressing a change to the county ordinance to allow hens to be kept in single-family residential zones on parcels of 5,000 square feet or larger.

In speaking with the County's planner, Charlene Daniels, she indicated that Placer is working with TRPA to also consider allowing livestock in the Tahoe Basin on parcels less than 2 acres. Can you tell me if this is correct and where and how I can oppose this change with TRPA?

Thank you.

Sent on the Sprint(r) Now Network from my BlackBerry(r)



**PLACER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

11477 E Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603-2799 (530) 889-7372 FAX (530) 823-1698

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and Measures

February 17, 2010

TO: Charlene Daniels, Placer County Supervising Planner

FROM: Christine Turner, Agricultural Commissioner

SUBJECT: Proposed Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA T20090403)

During the Placer County Agricultural Commission's February 8, 2010 meeting, the Commission unanimously voted, 8 to 0 (Commission member Jim Brenner absent) to recommend to the Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors, to support the Planning Department's proposed Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA T20090403) with the following changes:

1. Increase the keeping of chicken hens to a maximum of six birds.
2. Eliminate the Administrative Review Permit requirement.
3. Allow the keeping of chicken hens on parcels of 5,000 square feet in the Single-family Residential and Multi-family Residential zone districts.
4. If a residential parcel is one acre or more, allow the keeping of twenty- four (24) chicken hens.

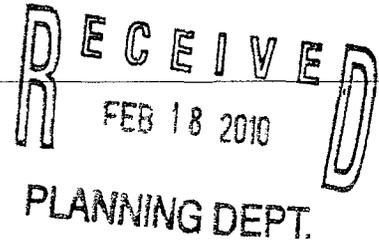
The Agricultural Commission considered the available information from the Planning staff, including the fact that up to four pot-belly pigs or pygmy goats are currently allowed in the RS and RM zone districts without and Administrative Review Permit. In addition, there is a national movement towards greater self-reliance in providing for our food needs and the keeping of hens for fresh eggs supports that effort. In an era when fewer and fewer people are involved in producing food, urban/suburban chicken keeping can play a vital role in helping people understand and appreciate where food comes from.

cc: Placer County Agricultural Commission

County of Placer
WEST PLACER MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 1466
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678



February 16, 2010



Placer County Planning Department
11414 B Avenue
Auburn, Ca. 95603

Ref: Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA T200090403)—Fowl and Poultry

To Whom It May Concern:

The West Placer Municipal Advisory Council, at a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 with three members present hear information regarding the proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance with specific reference to the RS zone district for the keeping of up to 3 hens. After much community and Council discussion neither a support of nor a non-support motion passed. The points of discussion involved the high cost of the ARP for the hens, the fiscal impact of spending budgetary resource on the ordinance itself in these tight times, the lack of perceived input from animal control, and enforcement issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeremy Lawson by dh".

Jeremy Lawson, Chairman
West Placer Municipal Advisory Council

Cc: Board of supervisors
JL/dh

Here are the comments regarding the article
& the humane societies views
*Let us have our hens!
please

CD

Remove scrollbar

On 2/11/10 at 10:00 PM, Yahoo!ligan wrote:

"The initial planning proposal also included the possibility of a \$55 permit fee." This isn't a FEE it's a tax. Taxing the american people for the right to own an animal, and in eco freak terms" reduce their carbon footprint"!! What a bunch of cr@p!!

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 04:36 AM, ~~keepingupdated~~ wrote:

Ok....who has the money to spend flippin \$6/dozen on organic eggs?

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 06:28 AM, chicksrule wrote:

"Frieborn said concerns also lie with the trendiness of the urban chicken movement and what happens to the birds when people find out the costs and time involved. "

This comment is absolutley ridiculous! How can you ban the idea of people having a pet because of the potential that they may not like caring for the animal??? There will always be people who are like that, whether it is a dog, cat, hamster, parrot, ect. You cannot ban hens for all because of the "POTENTIAL" that some may not realize the "time involved" for caring for their hens. If you have that mindset, then why are any animals allowed? An animal is an animal, they all need care; livestock, domestic, doesn't matter. Stop looking through your crystal ball Fireborn and trying to predict failure. There are too many people trying to control what we do in our own homes/yards that WE pay for. Go away!

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 06:38 AM, Stitches wrote:

"It's going to put neighbor against neighbor," Frieborn said.

Ah ha! What an assumption of irresponsibility. If the dog owner takes full and complete responsibility of feeding, entertaining and controlling his/her dog, there will be no problem. But, if dogs are running loose, packing up against domestic farm animals, the dog owner is in violaoation of county law and country common sense. Do not for one minute think I will allow a "visiting pet" to harm my way of life on my piece of land. Good fences make good neighbors.

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 07:09 AM, auburnite wrote:

Do i want a rooster crowing me awake every morning? Nope, been there done that with my own chickens years ago, I hope there is some kind of a noise ordinance that covers chickens....

Report inappropriate comments

RECEIVED
FEB 16 2010
PLANNING DEPT.

On 2/12/10 at 07:11 AM, chickerule wrote:

Auburnite: Roosters are not allowed for anyone in this amendment.

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 07:28 AM, JonGreen wrote:

Most people in Placer County have never eaten a fresh egg. Store bought eggs are three to four weeks old. Fresh eggs can be kept unrefrigerated for a least a week.

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 07:29 AM, Mountain wrote:

They forgot to mention rats. Rats and chickens go together like bread and butter. Unfortunately.

I hate rats. We can't keep them out of my wife's otherwise impenetrable coop and chicken yard. As soon as you get rid of them they are back.

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 07:31 AM, Born_Here wrote:

"Frieborn said her group is continuing to monitor the zoning amendment's progress to ensure the welfare of chickens, particularly in regard to caging conditions, is also being taken into consideration. The Humane Society wants an examination of possible coop regulation to protect chickens from both air and ground attacks."

So... Now they are trying to get regulations to force us to protect chickens from natural predators? I think that if we spend the money on raising chickens (feed, shelter, labor, etc.) I think we will take appropriate measures to protect our investment, dont you? What makes Frieborn and her collective think they are "The Supreme Animal Sherriff's"? Other people are intelligent and can do a great job in raising pets, or livestock without their help and have been doing so for generations. Rosemary...Just where do you get off?

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 07:35 AM, chickerule wrote:

If a coop is designed with hardware cloth instead of chicken wire, a rat cannot get in if you have a tightly built coop. This is the mistake many people make when building a coop. Chicken wire is designed to keep chickens in, not predetors out. anything more that a half inch gap will allow something to climb in, reach in. Hardware cloth must be buried a foot down and 6" out along the perimeter of the coop to prevent anything from digging under the coop to get in. If you build it tight, no worries.

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 07:40 AM, chickerule wrote:

P.S. I have had rats around ever since i bought my house. There is a huge field across the street. They are here whether there are chickens or not. We live in the country. Put some traps out.

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 08:11 AM, auburnite wrote:

Good no roosters, weasels can wipe out a whole chicken coop in one evening they can squeeze through a whole the size of a 50ct piece or smaller and they can chew through anything a rat can, wood is no problem...ask me how i know

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 08:21 AM, JonGreen wrote:

When I had a chicken coop, my cats ate a lot of rats.

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 08:27 AM, Born_Here wrote:

What continues to gall me is the fact that arrogant people continue to assume that the rest of us are too stupid to do what is right for our animals. Ms. Frieborn and her collective obviously know more about animals than any of us can ever know, so lets committ to their word as gospel.... I don't think so!

I like animals more than I do people, and I have spent more money on medical, and feed for my animals in the last year then I have for myself. I'll be damned if I will let the Animal Nazi's push me around and more stupid regulations like Ms. Frieborn suggests.

Report inappropriate comments

On 2/12/10 at 08:28 AM, chicksruis wrote:

We can go on and on about predators. When i got my Boston terrier puppy, my vet gave me a stern warning not to let the puppy outside because a hawk, cayote can snatch it right up. "Dont let the dog outside"???? So, why isn't there a requirement to keep small dogs out of yards in the event a predator might get it? This whole argument is ridiculous. There will always be predators, there will always be some losses. This is mother nature. Pet owners do what they can to protect their animals and that is that. You cannot dictate to someone each and every detail of what they must do to own a pet. Do we Mandate all dogs be on heartworm medicine because mosquitos might bite them, give them heartworm and the dog might die? Do we mandate all cats must remain inside so that they don't get into a fight and possibly get leukemia? This has just absolutley gone to far Mrs. Rosemary from the Humane Society.

PRINT THIS · CLOSE WINDOW

2/11/10 | 16 comments | 448 views

SHARE

Placer County gets cracking on new chicken-raising rules for homeowners

By Gus Thomson, Journal Staff Writer



Ben Furtado/Auburn Journal

Echo Valley Ranch employees Brooke Robison holds one chicken and Sarah Bahrman holds two. New rules could aid homeowners looking for ways to be self-sufficient and raise their own chickens.

A new urban chicken movement is all about the eggs.

But Placer County is embarking on an effort to put revised chicken-raising rules in place that are more about dogs, fee structures, coops, raccoons, animal-rights activists, neighbors and coyotes.

The county's planning division is moving ahead with changes in zoning rules to allow up to three chickens on residential properties in unincorporated areas like North Auburn or Newcastle.

Auburn has its own zoning regulations that allow homeowners with less than an acre to have up to five chickens within city limits after being issued a permit. In both instances, roosters are banned.

Paul Thompson, the county's top planner, is projecting the zoning ordinance modification will be ready for Planning Commission's consideration in the spring. From there, the next step would be a hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

Thompson reported that the zoning changes reflect local and national trends, a phenomenon that Auburn's Echo Valley Ranch farm supply store has seen over the past year or so.

"With the economy going down, people are moving toward being more self-sufficient," Echo Valley owner Greg Kimler said Thursday. "People are putting in gardens and they're buying chickens and baby chicks."

They're also buying feed, with Echo Valley experiencing a sizeable spike in sales of organic chicken feed, Kimler noted.

Egg lovers can now spend as little as 97 cents a dozen these days for store-bought eggs. Or they can invest in poultry, feed, coops and other necessities.

From there, they'll have to deal with all matter of critters trying to get at their chickens. Kimler said the threat comes from on high – from hawks – and from on the ground – where raccoons, foxes, bobcats and skunks are bound to make a try for fresh poultry and protein-rich egg yolks.

Aside from the wild animals attempting to get at the birds, the Humane Society of the Sierra Foothills is speaking out about the potential impact on the domestic dog population from the growth in licensed chicken-raising residential properties.

Rosemary Frieborn, a Human Society officer, said shooting of any animal is allowed under state law if it comes onto someone's property to harass or worry their livestock. Dogs have a natural instinct to chase chickens, Frieborn noted.

It could also mean a jump in county animal control division work at a time when financial cutbacks are making it difficult to handle all calls efficiently, she said.

"It's going to put neighbor against neighbor," Frieborn said.

Frieborn and her group are calling on the planning division to look more widely at impacts related to zoning changes that would allow the chickens in residential areas.

Frieborn said her group is continuing to monitor the zoning amendment's progress to ensure the welfare of chickens, particularly in regard to caging conditions, is also being taken into consideration. The Humane Society wants an examination of possible coop regulation to protect chickens from both air and ground attacks.

Frieborn said concerns also lie with the trendiness of the urban chicken movement and what happens to the birds when people find out the costs and time involved.

The initial planning proposal also included the possibility of a \$55 permit fee. Thompson stated that Agricultural Commissioner Christine Turner has objected to any discretionary action that would mean permits being required.

For an increasing number of people, the possibility of farm-fresh eggs is an irresistible lure into the world of poultry management.

Kimler, who grew up on a ranch around 200 hens, said raising chickens can become a fun and educational part of a family's lifestyle.

The bonus is the eggs. Organic eggs sometimes fetch \$6 a dozen. As well as the savings, farm-fresh eggs just seem to be a better product, he said.

"The yolks are orange instead of the yellow you see in store-bought and the whites are more consistent, not runny," Kimler said.

12205 Dry Creek rd
Auburn, Ca. 95603

SACRAMENTO CA 957

12 FEB 2010 PM 1 L



Planning Commission
3091 County Center dr.
Suite 140
Auburn, Ca. 95603

RE: 2009-2013 Poultry Amendment

Gerry Brentnall

County of Placer
NEWCASTLE/OPHIR MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
P. O. Box 1222
Newcastle, CA 95658
County Contact: Administrative Aide (530) 889-4010

February 15, 2010

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2010
PLANNING DEPT.

✓ Gerry Brentnall, Chairman
Placer County Planning Commission
3091 County Center Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Placer County Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments

Dear Mr. Brentnall:

The Newcastle/Ophir Municipal Advisory Council met on January 21, 2010, and was asked to provide input on revisions to two Placer County Zoning Ordinances:

- a) Emergency Shelters, Transitional and Supportive Housing Zoning Text: To bring the Ordinance into compliance with State Housing law for emergency shelters, transitional and supportive housing. The MAC heard the proposed revisions presented and voted to support staff's recommendations on the zoning text amendment language, but expressed their concerns that law enforcement monitor these half-way houses in residential areas.
- b) Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment: To provide input on the proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of three hens in the Residential Single Family zone district. The MAC voted to oppose the Zoning Text Amendment until input has been received from Animal Control, Code Enforcement or the Animal Services Advisory Committee, as well as other animal related Associations such as the 4H.

Respectfully submitted,

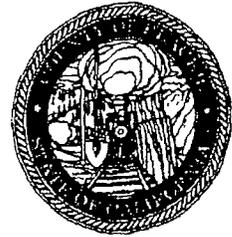


ELLIOTT ROSE, CHAIRMAN

cc: Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Jim Holmes

CC: Charlene Daniels
Jennifer Dzakovic

County of Placer
PENRYN MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
P. O. Box 498
Penryn, CA 95663
County Contact: Administrative Aide (530) 889-4010



February 10, 2010

Supervisor Jim Holmes
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: PENRYN MAC RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Supervisor Holmes:

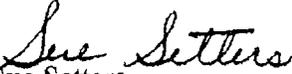
At the January 26, 2010 Penryn MAC meeting the MAC took the following action in regards to the **Emergency Shelters, Transitional and Supportive Housing Zoning Text Amendment**:

The Penryn MAC voted to support the planning staff report on revisions to the Placer County Zoning Ordinance to bring the Ordinance into compliance with State housing law for emergency shelters, transitional and supportive housing. Director Bennett made the motion to recommend supporting the Zoning Text Amendment in compliance with state law; seconded by Director Neifer. Motion carried unanimously with all Directors present.

Also on the agenda for action was the *Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment*. The Penryn MAC decided to make no recommendations regarding this action item. Some of the issues that the MAC felt they needed more information on before making a recommendation included: fee based approach, maintaining public health, assuring animal welfare, expanding the ordinance and the lack of educational campaign before changing the zoning text.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and how it affects the Penryn community.

Sincerely,


Sue Setters,
Penryn MAC
Recording Secretary

Charlene Daniels

From: Roger Ingram [RSIngram@ucdavis.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 2:48 PM
To: Charlene Daniels
Subject: Re: proposed hen ordinance

Hi Charlene,

i think 4-H is good with most of the ordinance. The only one that questioned it concerned the \$55 permit.

Roger

On Feb 10, 2010, at 11:16 AM, Charlene Daniels wrote:

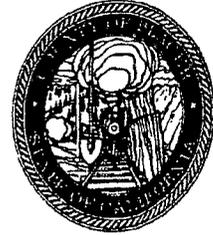
Roger:

Thank you for your help on this ordinance. Please send any comments that you may have received to me no later than Feb 16. I will be meeting with the Deputy Planning Director to discuss whether any changes should be made to the draft ordinance based on all the input we have received at the various community meetings.

Charlene

Roger Ingram
UC County Director and Farm Advisor
Placer and Nevada Counties
11477 E Ave
Auburn, CA 95603
530.889.7385 phone
530.889.7397 fax

County of Placer
FORESTHILL FORUM
P. O. Box 207
Foresthill, CA 95631
County Contact: Administrative Aide (530) 889-4010



February 7, 2010

Placer County Planning Department
3901 County Center Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: PZTA T20090403 – Fowl and Poultry

Dear Placer County Planning Commissioners:

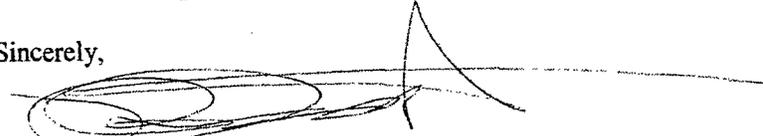
On Monday, February 1st, 2009 Jennifer Dzakowi of the Planning Department presented an overview of the proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance. As you may know, the revisions would allow for the keeping of up to three (3) chicken hens in RS zoned areas of Placer County as well as other quantities for other zone areas. Other provisions of the revision include the requirement of a permit and a fee of \$55.00 for the permit.

It was explained that this revision would also include multi-family dwellings such as apartment buildings, condominiums and duplexes. In essence the revision is a broad brush policy change that only takes zoning into consideration and does not seem to take some obvious factors into account:

1. Three chicken hens for the purpose of providing eggs for personal consumption is inadequate for that purpose; a higher number of six or more was agreed to make more sense by the Forum members.
2. Lot size – there are parcels within the RS zoned areas that are considerably smaller than what seems reasonable for the keeping of poultry without generating conflicts between neighbors as well as providing adequate area for the healthy raising of the birds. There needs to be a minimum lot size designated for the allowance of raising any poultry.
3. The inclusion of RM zoning within this amendment seems misguided; because of sanitation concerns, adequate space and neighbor conflicts; apartment buildings, condominiums, and other multi-family dwellings should not be included in the allowance of keeping poultry.
4. Permit and Fee: The Forum members agreed that the zoning amendment would be adequate for accomplishing the goal of allowing poultry under certain conditions; the additional burden of applying for a permit and paying a \$55.00 fee for administration costs is not only unnecessary, but would be burdensome to citizens and County staff.

To summarize, the Foresthill Forum votes against the zoning text amendment as written and recommends that County staff be directed to take the suggestions listed above into consideration and submit a revised proposal.

Sincerely,



ROY WEST, Chairman
Foresthill Forum
P.O. Box 207
Foresthill, CA 95631

Cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors: Montgomery, Uhler, Weygandt, Rockholm and Holmes
175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603

Charlene Daniels

From: Pea Ce [pea-ce@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 12:08 AM
To: Placer County Board of Supervisors; Rocky Rockholm; Robert Weygandt; Jim Holmes; Kirk Uhler; Jennifer Montgomery; Placer County Environmental Coordination Services; Charlene Daniels
Subject: Hen Ordinance--ZTA FOWL & POULTRY - PZTA - T20090403

February 3, 2010

Sent via email.

Attn: Charlene Daniels
Placer County
Planning Dept and Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Subject: ZTA FOWL & POULTRY - PZTA - T20090403

It is our understanding that Placer County is considering a proposal to amend the "Animal Raising and Keeping" section of the county's Zoning Ordinance and to modify section 17.56.050(f)(6) for Fowl and Poultry. We believe the amendment not only "may" create environmental impacts (the threshold that triggers CEQA), but also WILL in fact have significant environmental impacts that must be studied and circulated for public comment under CEQA.

We wish to submit the following for your immediate attention.

(1) In rural/agricultural areas, or larger res/ag zoned areas, normally rodents are somewhat managed by their natural predators. However, in residential areas, those natural predators may not be as prolific as they are in rural or agricultural areas, or may not exist at all. Even with domestic or feral cats populations present in residential areas, the potential for increased rodent populations with the keeping of fowl is well documented. Thus, the rodent population could, and most likely will, increase exponentially in residential neighborhoods if the hen ordinance is implemented.

In a residential area, we submit that when rodent populations become a problem, the primary method for rodent eradication will be (and is) poison. This has a huge impact on predators with secondary kills or residual poisoning, and needs to be examined. Of great concern are migratory birds or raptors who may ingest the semi-alive/poisoned rodents. Of equal concern is the residual poisoning of snakes which also play a role in keeping rodent populations down. Mammalian predators may have impacts from eating poisoned rodents as well, although research will have to be conducted.

This secondary kill impact on our wildlife must be studied as a part of the CEQA process.

(2) At first, it would appear that the waste produced by three-hens might not amount to a significant impact level. However, the waste can and will accumulate, either in the chicken areas and/or nearby, and possibly create run off impacts. This may be of special concern in areas where creek or other drainage set backs or buffers were allowed to be minimal (with the assumption that there would be no agricultural activities). Placer County already faces real and potential creek pollution.

How will the chicken waste in a residentially zoned area be disposed by homeowners? If 50% of any residential area chooses to have three hens each, what are the exponential impacts (ie, a 50-unit complex with 25 of those units each having three hens each)? Since the potential will exist for all homes in a complex to have three hens each, how will chicken waste from a large number of residences impact creeks and drainages?

Unless prospective hen-owning homeowners know how to care for chickens, conduct proper sanitary clean up and disposal, the impacts from chicken waste accumulation may be significant, meet the CEQA threshold, and must be studied.

(3) Because potential and real conflicts between urban and agricultural land uses are well known, most jurisdictions make it a point to separate agricultural land uses from the urban/suburban uses. This proposed hen ordinance violates both the letter and the intent of such important land use separations. In fact, the problems have been on such a grand scale, they were the reason Placer County approved a "Right to Farm" resolution/ordinance to partially ameliorate such conflicts.

When people move into Agricultural zones, they know, or should know what is allowed. However, even more importantly, when people move/live in "non-ag" or residential areas, they know, or should know, the restrictions. This zoning amendment blurs that very fine but important line between Agriculture and other land uses.

Will odors, smells, flies, noise and usual agricultural elements bother neighbors in a residential neighborhood?

When the next residential neighbor wants to have milk goats and/or [fill in the blank], will precedent be set to create another zoning amendment, or will the bias be only for a specific narrowly limited variety of hens?

Whether raised for meat or eggs, how will the slaughter or disposal of the hens be conducted? (On site, in the backyards of neighborhoods? With the County's mobile slaughter trailer?) If on site, where and how will the offal be disposed of? Spent hen disposal must be examined from both an environmental and a neighborhood conflict point of view.

(3) With agricultural poultry producers, the poultry is often medicated for various diseases and as a preventative measure. What safeguards will be in place to assure that only disease-free hens will be brought into the residential areas of Placer County? How will safeguards be enforced if chicks (or hens) are purchased via mail order from less-than-reputable poultry breeders?

(4) Just as we have laws on local, county, state and federal levels that cover animal cruelty and/or acceptable levels of care standards, if such a hen ordinance is passed, it must prescribe some level of care. Three hens need a minimum of space, protection from predators and weather conditions. For safety on roadways, a confinement requirement should be in place, but it should not be of such a nature as to be cruel. The passage of California's Proposition 2 made it obvious that cruelty in keeping animals cannot be tolerated.

The hen ordinance needs a great deal more study and input from stakeholders. Whether it is Animal Control or Code Enforcement, Placer County cannot afford any more "load" on its already taxed services. The hen ordinance, as currently presented is unacceptable from both economic and environmental concerns. We urge denial of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Randall Cleveland for

The PEACE Team

Cc: Various entities and organizations

Hotmail: Trusted email with Microsoft's powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

GRANITE BAY MAC MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2010
Excerpt

Teri:

Here is the language from the approved February minutes, regarding Fowl and Poultry:

"Motion to approve the proposed amendment with two modifications: (1) that the keeping of three chicken hens on parcels 5000 square feet or larger be allowed without an Administrative Review Permit; and (2) that the term "peacock hens" be changed to read "pea hens, a.k.a. "female peacocks"... The motion passed (6-1) by roll call vote."

CC: [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]

RECEIVED
FEB 01 2010
PLANNING DEPT.

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to support the proposed amendment to the hen ordinance for Placer County. In reading the draft, I am unclear whether or not Residential Ag (which is my zoning) and under a half acre falls into the 3 hen limit or not. I would prefer that the number of hens allowed be based on land size instead of limiting everyone under a half acre to 3. With that said, I would like to state some benefits and facts of owning hens.

A small number of backyard chickens allow us the opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and support the local food movement

Backyard chickens eat grass clippings and food scraps, thus keeping these products out of the local landfill by reusing them on site.

Chickens themselves do not smell. This is a fact. It's only their feces that have the potential to stink, which is also true of feces from dogs, cats, or any other animal that leaves their waste in the yard.

Chickens manure is a natural source of fertilizer, if allowed to free range, their manure gets scratched into the dirt and decomposes very quickly (avoiding any odor).

Or, it can be composted with their bedding (again, avoiding any potential odors)

As far as noise goes, can you honestly categorize a clucking hen as more annoying to the neighbors than a barking dog? I think not.

The benefits of owning hens are numerous. In fact, I think it should be encouraged, as we are currently faced with bad air quality, toxic pesticides and the countless negative effects that has on our health, air, and water. We all need to get back to the basics here. This is one step we can take to help our environment.

I feel that we all should have the "right to grow food", whether it be a vegetable garden, or being able to have your own fresh healthy eggs which are of much better quality than what you can get at any grocery store. It

helps us get back to a more self sustaining lifestyle, which in these horrible economic times, is more valuable than ever.

California Cities that allow hens:

	No. of hens allowed
Anaheim, CA	3
Berkely, CA	Unlimited
Downey, CA	5
Irvine, CA	2
Long Beach, CA	20
Mountain View, CA	4
Oakland, CA	Unlimited
Petaluma, CA	20
Redwood City, CA	3
Roseville, CA	10
San Jose, CA	6
San Francisco, CA	4
Vallejo, CA	25

Most of these cities are heavily populated and most allow a good number more than 3.

Please consider these points I've made.

The Woodwards
12205 The Forest Rd.
Auburn, CA 95603

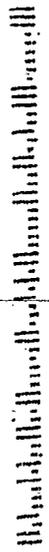
SACRAMENTO CA 957

NOV 1988 10:10 PM '71



Planning Commission
3091 County Center Dr.
Suite 140
Auburn, Ca. 95603

9560322612



**PRELIMINARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
SQUAW VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
January 28, 2010**

B. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT (PZTA T20090403) – Fowl and Poultry - The MAC is being asked to provide input on the proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of up to three hens in the RS zone district. The proposed wording is as follows: “In the Residential Single-Family (RS) and Residential Multi-Family (RM) zone districts, the keeping of no more than three (3) chicken hens is permitted, subject to the approval of an Administrative Review Permit. The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, peacock hens, or other exotic hens, is prohibited. Chicken hens shall be maintained on to the subject property and shall not be allowed off-site. Residential Single-Family uses located in the Tahoe Basin, the Squaw Valley Land Use Plan area, as well as other adopted specific plans, are subject to this provision.” The Zoning Text Amendment also proposes to allow the keeping of no more than three (3) chicken hens, on parcels less than one-half acre, in the combining Agricultural (AG) zone district and to also allow no more than 12 chicken hens, on parcels less than one acre, in the Residential Forest (RF) zone district.

Presenter: Stacy Wydra, Senior Planner, Placer Co Planning Department

STACY WYDRA presented the proposed amendment and answered questions of the Council. She explained the amendment has to do with land use, whereas Animal Control deals with animal protection. LUCKHARDT and ROCCA noted that there are areas of Squaw Valley where the CC&Rs would take precedence over this amendment and discussion followed regarding details of the proposal. The item was open to Public Comment.

DAN WARREN, who requested this amendment, addressed the Council explaining his experience with raising hens. He asked the Council consider raising the number to 10 hens and no administrative review permit be required.

ANDREW LANGE spoke in support of the proposal.

Public Comment was closed and the Council continued their discussion. ROCCA asked if Squaw Valley could be exempt from this ordinance. KASTAN explained that the ordinance would be County-wide. O'KEEFE supports the ordinance, given that a property owner can have up to four cats or dogs, 150 canaries and 40 pigeons without a permit.

in residential areas. She commented that Squaw Valley's General Plan could be revised to include a provision to prohibit chicken hens for the Valley as a whole, as included in some Homeowner Association CC&Rs, thus allowing the rest of Placer County to have hens. She agreed that there should not be an administrative review.

LUCKHARDT stated that a large percentage of the homes in Squaw Valley are under CC&Rs that would prohibit hens on the property. He voiced concern that given the climate in Squaw, only older sections of the Valley not controlled by CC&Rs would be affected, and that would be discriminatory. He feels this is inappropriate for Squaw Valley. SHEEHAN agreed that the proposed amendment is inappropriate.

ROCCA was in favor of raising hens, but felt that areas of Squaw Valley should be removed from the amendment. Discussion followed regarding the land use plan identified in the Squaw Valley Master Plan. STRANGE spoke in favor of the amendment.

Motion to support the Zoning Text Amendment as proposed. O'KEEFE/STRANGE/AYES: O'Keefe and Strange. OPPOSED: Luckhardt, Rocca, Sheehan. Motion failed 2-3-0.

COPY

2010 01 29 10:00 AM
JAN 29 2010

January 26, 2010

Supervisors Montgomery, Holmes, Weygandt and Rockholm
Chairman Kirk Uhler.

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2010

PLANNING DEPT.

I am writing to you today about a concept currently being explored by the MACs and the Planning Department staff. As far as I know it is not on your or the Planning Commission's agenda but assuming it will be put onto your agenda soon, I want to express an opinion that would take more than 3 minutes to read into the record. I am going to send a copy of this letter to the Planning Commission also.

The zoning text amendment you are being asked to endorse was presented at my local Municipal Advisory Council and I made oral and written comments (copy of written comments is attached), but since that time I have thought more about the issue and strongly oppose not the idea of hen keeping, but rather the way it is proposed to be accommodated by this amendment. At the risk of over-simplifying, it seems that somebody with residential zoning is keeping a couple of hens and has convinced the planning staff that it would be in the county's best interest to amend our existing law to make hen-keeping allowed in residential zoning.

Some of my comments below are informed by my opinions about animals and human nature and I realize not many people share my opinions but nevertheless they are as follows

- CHICKENS AND OTHER ANIMALS ARE SENTIENT BEINGS -

I believe that sometimes there are popular trends that result in a lot of people getting the latest fad pet and losing interest in it some time later but I can sympathize with people in residential areas who might want to have pet chickens, and would treat them like pets, giving them decent housing, food, and other care. I don't think government needs to limit a person's choice of housepet; common sense is sufficient for that.

Unfortunately, the proposal would allow people in residential areas who think of chickens as a piece of living food machinery to keep them out in the blazing sun or the rain, or stuff them in a bucket, etc. The prospect of living next door to someone who neglects their dog is bad enough, and already exists. Do we now want to make it possible for the person who neglects a dog to also neglect three hens? I realize no zoning amendment in the world will make people respect animals, however, zoning laws can be used to limit the opportunities people have to put their lack of respect into such close proximity with their neighbors. Therefore I ask that unless you are going to strengthen animal protection laws and insist they be followed, I recommend you decide against the proposed zoning text amendment.

- COUNTRY IS COUNTRY; TOWN IS TOWN -

Another way of thinking about the issue of living next door to a suffering animal is: most of us understand that people who want to live a farming lifestyle will logically live "out in the country" where they have space to do the farming and also are not likely to have nearby neighbors to bother. I have the expectation that if I want to get away from neighbors who raise really stinky garlic, for instance, I can move to where the lots are small and the zoning is residential. But what if I want to escape from egg farming? Residential zoning would no longer be a safe bet. In other words, I think the proposal increases the potential for conflict or at least perceived incompatibility between neighbors

- NATURE REALLY IS RED IN TOOTH AND CLAW -

Chickens are pretty much defenseless. Raccoons are a different story. Many suburbanites don't realize that raccoons, ringtails, bobcats, bears, cougars even, are prowling their neighborhoods at night. Do you want them to discover this through cleaning up blood and feathers in the morning? The chickens wouldn't be the only losers in this scenario. No doubt there would be some backlash against the wild animals, animals who are really just doing what comes naturally to them. Humans who create the opportunity for nature to take its course may not even realize what they have done, and are all too likely to blame, retaliate against and punish the wild animals.

Some of the people who live in my neighborhood seem to get a kick out of attracting bears. I see chickens as a danger because they could make the bears more dependant on my neighborhood for food.

- OUR PROPERTY "RIGHTS" ARE SOMETHING WE ALL VALUE HIGHLY BUT OUR NEIGHBORS VALUE THEIRS HIGHLY TOO -

In my opinion, the home-grown eggs "movement" is a fad and will blow over. Nevertheless, there are people who want to raise their own eggs and the county wants to make that possible. But what about conscientious hard-working egg farmers right here in Placer county who have managed to break even selling eggs under the existing rules? If their customer base vanishes overnight because the county changed the rules on them, will the county be expected to bail them out? If they invested their life savings in farm property in order to grow the eggs, isn't expansion of farming into residential areas a form of "taking" in that their property right might become less valuable? I admit this line of reasoning borders on absurd. Can't the same be said about a hypothetical "right" to have chickens in the back yard?

- THERE ARE RULES MORE FUNDAMENTAL THAN THE ZONING LAW-

I wonder if in putting forward the proposed hen text amendment the zoning staff is meaning to correct what they see as a "glitch" when you, having more perspective, will recognize that some basic courtesies or community standards should underlie the zoning law. In the past I have written to you about aggressive dogs and aggressive drivers making people feel afraid to walk in this county. How about exploring the idea of assuring people that their right to peace and quiet, their right to walk, their right to tranquility will over-ride their neighbor's "right" to raise chickens in the event of a conflict? Maybe people applying for special permits to keep hens could be required to read and sign a statement recognizing that there is potential for them to degrade their neighbors' quality of life and they will refrain from that.

Most importantly, I am asserting that as a taxpayer who tries to be a good neighbor, I resent the idea of the county trying to give irresponsible people more ways to be bad neighbors. We already have people abandoning animals when they are evicted, leaving garbage in their yard to rot and attract vectors, making noise when other people are trying to sleep, etc. Why go to so much trouble to create more potential for conflict?

Please respond.

Yours,



Attachment: letter to North Auburn MAC

Charlene Daniels

From: Karen Davis [karen@upc-online.org]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2010 12:07 PM
To: Charlene Daniels; Rocky Rockholm; Robert Weygandt; Jim Holmes; Jennifer Montgomery
Subject: Placer County's Proposed Hen Ordinance

United Poultry Concerns PO Box 150 Machipongo, VA 23405
Phone: 757-678-7875 Fax: 757-678-5070 Website: www.upc-online.org

January 25, 2010

From: Karen Davis, President, United Poultry Concerns
To: Placer County (Auburn, CA) Planning Department
Re: Proposed Hen Ordinance

On behalf of United Poultry Concerns, a nonprofit organization that promotes the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl, I am respectfully writing to you about concerns that we share with the Humane Society of the Sierra Foothills regarding the welfare of chickens, and your community, pursuant to a proposed ordinance that would change zoning to allow three chicken hens to be kept in residential single family and residential multifamily-zoned districts.

If a zoning ordinance permitting hen-keeping is enacted without specific requirements, restrictions, fines or other penalties, problems will predictably arise and multiply. For example:

- 1) If residents purchase hens from hatcheries, there's a fair chance that male chicks (cockerels) will be shipped along with the hens, occasionally or often, because hatcheries make sexing errors, and they often use baby roosters as packing material. This results in a) unwanted, mistreated, and abandoned roosters; and b) intentional or inadvertent hatching of chicks by the owners, resulting in more chicks, including roosters, than the ordinance allows.
- 2) This unwanted population of chickens would place extra burdens on the Placer County Animal Control and related municipal services.
- 3) Hatchery-shipped chickens often have health problems and infections which can cause owners who are keeping hens for eggs to neglect them or cruelly dispose of them. And what happens to hens who lay fewer eggs, or no eggs, as they grow older?
- 4) Chicken coops attract rats and mice to the grain and warm bedding in the coops. The rodent problem, added to the ignorance of many people about the importance of daily cleaning of chicken coops and proper husbandry practices to insure hygiene and poultry health, will cause sanitation and human/animal health issues if the ordinance does not address rodent control and poultry care practices explicitly. Flies, lice and mites can also result from unhygienic husbandry practices.
- 5) Chickens need to be kept in predator-proof yards with predator-proof and weather-proof houses inside the yards, and they need veterinary care and compassionate attention and treatment the same as companion dogs and cats. In fact, they should be regarded by their owners as family pets, and not as mere egg-layers.

6) An ordinance allowing three hens per family in a multifamily-zoned property could conceivably lead to increased problems of hygiene and chicken breeding, and possibly encourage an illegal cockfighting operation if roosters were hatched or brought in.

The overriding concern is that a great deal of research, careful thinking and discussion should be done by Placer County agencies before an ordinance is enacted, to ensure that it specifically addresses problems that will predictably arise regarding the welfare of the birds and the community. With these considerations in mind, the Placer County Planning Department may conclude that a chicken-keeping ordinance is not in the best interest of the community or the birds. This will certainly be the case if an ordinance passes that does not explicitly address the pertinent issues.

One more thing: if a hen-keeping ordinance is passed, it should prohibit the slaughtering of the hens by residents. Chicken slaughter would necessarily involve animal cruelty and create added health, sanitation, and disposal problems for the community.

For more information, please click on this link to the Coalition of Animal Sanctuaries Collective Position Statement on Backyard Poultry:

www.upc-online.org/chickens/backyard_poultry.html

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact United Poultry Concerns if we can be of further assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Davis, PhD, President
United Poultry Concerns
12325 Seaside Road, PO Box 150
Machipongo, VA 23405
(757) 678-7875. Fax: (757) 678-5070
Email: Karen@upc-online.org
Website: www.upc-online.org
Chicken Care: www.upc-online.org/chickens/

Charlene Daniels

From: Joy Smith/FieldHaven [joy@fieldhaven.com]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2010 6:14 AM
To: Charlene Daniels
Subject: Proposed ordinance change

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Charlene Daniels, Planning Department

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I have been a member of the Animal Services Advisory Committee since its inception in late 2006. As a member of this committee, I believe I have worked diligently to help promote the welfare of animals and take on additional responsibilities by accepting the transfer of the County's animals into our organization. In addition, we are participating in Animal Services' emergency response team, CART.

It is my understanding that an important proposal to change the current zoning ordinance allowing hens in single family and multifamily residential zones is moving quickly through the County's approval process. However, it appears this proposal does not take into consideration the need to ensure proper housing and care that would provide a safe environment for the animals and to minimize impact on adjoining properties.

We request an opportunity to address this proposal at the next Animal Services Advisory Committee meeting and formulate a appropriate text amendment to address the welfare of the animals and anticipated neighborhood conflicts.

Thank you,

Joy Smith
FieldHaven Feline Rescue



Joy Smith
President and Co-Founder
FieldHaven Feline Rescue
joy@fieldhaven.com
916-434-6122
Cell: 916-300-8166

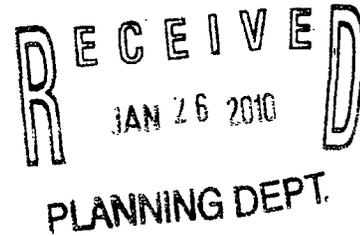
January 25, 2010

Placer County Planning Commission

Planning Commission Clerk

3091 County Center Drive

Auburn, CA 95603



Dear Planning Commissioners,

We are writing today after hearing the County's proposed zoning change to allow three hens – no roosters, guinea hens, hen peacocks or other exotic hens – on single family residential and now multifamily residential parcels. It appears this proposal has significantly morphed as its made its way thought the County's Municipal Advisory Council. We believe this is largely the result of a poorly thought out idea that turned into a knee-jerk reaction to satisfy one person in Tahoe (who has three hens and one rooster and is currently in violation). At first staff's proposal was to allow three hens, no roosters in residential single family properties. Then, after the Rural Lincoln and Weimar/Colfax/Applegate MAC presentations, staff revised the language to state, "no guinea hens, hen peacocks, or other exotic hens. Along with that amendment, it appears staff came to the realization that combining agricultural and residential forest zones would be more restrictive than single family residential zones, so that portion of the text was revised. Now, the latest amendment allows these animals on residential multifamily parcels. Not only that, but according to staff, they intend to allow three hens per "unit" on multifamily properties not per parcel. Just the thought of this is absurd let alone the application.

It is apparent that a number of officials within County government, as well as pertinent advisory committees, need to have significant roles in crafting a new program. It is obvious that a myopic focus on this as a purely "zoning" issue doesn't acknowledge the many agencies, laws, and programs potentially affected by this deceptively simple zoning change.

My sister is an Animal Control Supervisor for a California shelter and we're certain that a proposal like this that neglects to address the humane care of these animals will not pass the muster of this County's animal welfare people. We believe a well written, thoroughly researched program would have and should have vetted all these issues before bringing a proposal to all the Municipal Advisory Councils as an action item and then moving this item to this Planning Commission for a final determination.

We urge to you oppose this proposal should it come before you without input from all the stakeholders to bring forward a well rounded program.

Sincerely,

Donna & Jerry Krebs ~
4923 Bentwood Way
Granite Bay, CA 95746

PS What are hen peacocks? Female peacocks are called Pea Hens and male peacocks are called Peacocks. So exactly what is the proposal allowing?

Charlene Daniels

From: Heather Ireland [on-the-spot@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2010 3:44 PM
To: Charlene Daniels
Subject: Proposed_Hen_Ordinance

LETTER TO THE MAC'S, PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY SUPERVISORS

You will recognize some of us as First Responders to the 49th Fire, others as partners with the County shelter to help reduce euthanasia of adoptable animals and still others who steadfastly work with feral cats and individual pet owners to prevent animals from entering the County facility. Regardless of our individual contribution to the welfare of animals, there is one component that brings us all together – our work is done largely, if not exclusively in Placer County.

In December, Placer County Planning Department brought forward amended text to the zoning ordinance allowing three hens (no roosters, guinea hens, hen peacocks or other exotic hens) in single family residential (RS) zones. The initial proposal has gone through several text amendments since its inception and more recently added multi-family residential (RM) properties to the provision. The Rural Lincoln and WACMAC were the first MAC's to hear the County's presentation. At that time, none of our organizations were aware of the proposal and therefore did not provide comment. The result was the proposal was approved by both MAC's. At the North Auburn, Newcastle/Ophir and Sheridan MAC's, the Humane Society of the Sierra Foothills presented opposition to the proposal based on a disjointed program that fails to address the humane care, education and resolutions to adverse incompatible land use issues, i.e., farming in urban and suburban areas. The Sheridan MAC approved the proposal, but the North Auburn MAC approved it with a recommendation for an enclosure, the Newcastle/Ophir MAC opposed the proposal until input from Animal Control, animal welfare organizations and 4H could be gathered and the Granite Bay MAC postponed their decision for additional community input.

As stated, the text has been amended several times since December and most recently RM zones were included in this proposal. According to staff, three hens per "unit" would be allowed on RM properties which we believe could result in confusion where responsibility and ownership of these animals becomes questionable, not to mention the impact on adjoining parcels when the number of hens exceed the carrying capacity of the parcel size.

At this time, we would like to join the Humane Society of the Sierra Foothills in their opposition to allow hens in RS and RM zones until a complete, well planned program can be thoughtfully presented. Therefore, we respectfully request the opportunity to work with Animal Control, Code Enforcement, 4H, and the Animal Services Advisory Committee to bring forward such a program.

Sincerely,

Heather Ireland
Animal welfare advocate/rescuer

County of Placer
HORSESHOE BAR AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL

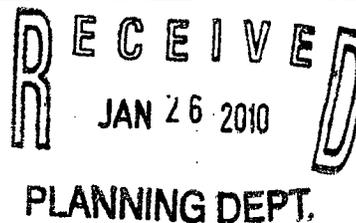
P. O. Box 1081

Loomis, CA 95650

County Contact: Administrative Aide (530) 889-4010



January 22, 2010



Placer County Planning Commission
3091 County Center Drive #140
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment

Dear Commissioners:

At the January 19, 2010, Horseshoe Bar Municipal Advisory Council meeting, the proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of up to three hens in the RS zone district were reviewed and discussed.

The members of the Horseshoe Bar Municipal Advisory Council voted to recommend approval of the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment as presented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SR", written over a horizontal line.

Sharon Roseme
Co-Chair

cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Michael Johnson, Director, Community Resource Development Agency
Charlene Daniels, Placer County Planner

Charlene Daniels

From: Randall Cleveland [randallcleveland@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 10:58 AM
To: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Cc: Rocky Rockholm; Robert Weygandt; Jim Holmes; Kirk Uhler; Jennifer Montgomery; Charlene Daniels
Subject: Placer County Hen Ordinance Amendment

To Placer County Supervisors:

The current Placer County proposal to allow three hens on single family and now multi-family residential parcels is well intended but seriously flawed. Without input from the agencies and organizations that will be directly involved, such as Animal Control, Code Enforcement, etc., tax-payer funded time will be spent responding to complaint calls and neighborhood hassles.

The Planning Department states that they do not want to regulate what people can and cannot do with their property. However, this posturing borders on absurd, especially since current zoning now bans not only hens but also roosters, guinea hens, and other animals.

The driving wind and rains of the past few days emphasize the need to require protective enclosures for these animals at the very least. However, the proposed amendment does nothing to address enclosures or chicken coups which will be critical for raising hens for any purposes as well as for neighborhood peace.

The County should not rush to retrofit a zoning change before doing its homework. Do it right or don't do it at all.

Randall Cleveland
P.O. Box 846
Newcastle, CA 95658
randallcleveland@hotmail.com
916-652-6453

Hotmail: Powerful Free email with security by Microsoft. [Get it now.](#)

Charlene Daniels

From: Marji [marji@animalplace.org]
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 3:29 PM
To: Charlene Daniels
Subject: Placer County Chicken Ordinance

Dear Charlene Daniels:

This is a copy of a letter I have sent to all Placer County Supervisors.

I am writing about the proposed Placer County chicken ordinance permitting three hens in residential districts. I write on behalf of Animal Place, a sanctuary that specializes in the rescue and placement of farmed animals, including poultry. We have two facilities – a 60-acre shelter in Vacaville, CA and a 600-acre sanctuary in Grass Valley, CA. We have extensive experience with caring for chickens.

We received inquiries from our Placer County members who were concerned about the ramifications of a law permitting chickens in residential areas.

While we currently oppose the creation of new ordinances, for a long list of reasons, we ask you to consider the following additions to the proposed ordinance.

Appropriate Enclosures: Chickens, like dogs, require appropriate shelter from the elements. Unlike dogs, chickens attract unwanted predators. In urban areas, raccoons, cats, dogs and humans pose the greatest risk to chickens. Providing chickens with a predator-proof, safe enclosure ensures that they are protected from predators AND do not become a nuisance to neighbors.

Ban on Slaughter: To ensure that animals are not killed, inappropriately or otherwise, and that the peace and tranquility of a residential neighborhood isn't destroyed we strongly encourage you to prohibit the slaughtering of birds.

Education and Care: Whenever a permit is issued, it should come with a care sheet on how to properly house, feed and care for chickens. Animal Place would like to offer our poultry fact sheets for your county. Or we can assist you in developing your own. Contrary to popular belief, chickens are not the incredibly hardy animals people believe them to be. They are prone to a myriad of diseases and disorders. They are heat and cold sensitive. They require certain housing and appropriate feed.

While it is not in your control, it should be duly noted that Placer County *will* see an increase of unwanted roosters if this ordinance is passed. Determining the sex of poultry is not a science, it is more of a guessing game. Roosters are often used as packing material – a buyer may order only hens from a hatchery and still end up with some roosters. Hatcheries won't take them back. Feed stores purchase from hatcheries, so the likelihood of buying a rooster from a feed store isn't any lower.

Determining the sex of most poultry takes 4-6 *months*. That is 4-6 months of a child learning to love her companion bird; 4-6 months of a chicken-lover naming and bonding with that bird. We have received dozens of calls from upset people who are faced with the reality of giving up their rooster. Finding homes for roosters is nearly impossible and sanctuaries are already full of roosters from similar situations.

There is also the issue of rodent control. Chickens, no matter how tightly you pack their food or how often you clean, will attract rodents. Rodents are already viewed poorly and generally are killed using inhumane methods such as poison and traps. An increase of rodents in a neighborhood often inspires the wrath of neighbors. There are many ways to deter rodents from a person's home, but it is far more difficult to deter rodents from an outdoor area where people have less control.

We suggest you analyze the complexities of this issue further. Please consider incorporating a ban on slaughter, distributing educational care sheets and, of great importance, establishing standards of housing into this ordinance. Chickens are intelligent and social animals and, if we are to incorporate them into urban life, should be viewed as companions.

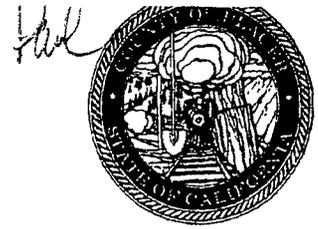
If you need any assistance on the housing and care requirements of chickens, please do not hesitate to contact me. Animal Place has 21 years of experience caring for chickens and would be happy to provide our expertise in making Placer County a safe, enjoyable place for both chickens and humans alike.

Respectfully,
Marji Beach

~~Education Coordinator~~
Animal Place
707 449 4814
marji@animalplace.org

Marji Beach
Education Coordinator
Animal Place
www.animalplace.org
www.animalplacesanctuary.blogspot.com

County of Placer
NORTH AUBURN MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
P. O. Box 6983
Auburn, CA 95604
County Contact: Administrative Aide (530) 889-4010



January 22, 2010

Received

FEB 02 2010

CDRA - Admin.

Placer County Planning Commission
3091 County Center Drive #140
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment

Dear Commissioners:

At the January 12, 2010, North Auburn Municipal Advisory Council meeting, the proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of up to three hens in the RS zone district was reviewed and discussed.

The members of the North Auburn Municipal Advisory Council voted to approve the Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment with a requirement that an appropriate enclosure description be added to the Amendment wording.

Sincerely,

Ken Gregory
Chair

cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Michael Johnson, Director, Community Development Resource Agency
Charlene Daniels, Placer County Planner

131

COUNTY OF PLACER
SHERIDAN MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 185
SHERIDAN, CA 95681-0185
COUNTY CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE (530) 889-4010



January 18, 2010

RECEIVED
JAN 21 2010

Placer County Planning Commission
Attn: Chair
3091 County Center Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

PLANNING DEPT.

Re: Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA T20090403) – Fowl and Poultry

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

On January 13, 2010, the Rural Sheridan Municipal Advisory Council voted unanimously to support the planning department staff recommendation.

The Sheridan MAC appreciates your efforts in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Houck".

Jim Houck, Chair

Cc: Supervisor Robert Weygandt
Jennifer Dzakowic, Placer County Planning Department

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
NORTH TAHOE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

JANUARY 14, 2010

9. Action Items

A. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT (PZTA T20090403) – FOWL AND POULTRY. The MAC is being asked to provide input on the proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of up to three hens in the RS zone district. The proposed wording is as follows: “In the Residential Single-Family (RS) zone district, the keeping of no more than three (3) hens is permitted, subject to the approval of an Administrative Review Permit. The keeping of roosters is prohibited. Hens shall be confined to the subject property and shall not be allowed off-site. Residential Single-Family uses located in the Tahoe Basin, the Squaw Valley Land Use Plan area, as well as other adopted specific plans, are subject to this provision. Presenter: Jennifer Dzakowic, Senior Planner, Placer County Planning Department

JENNIFER DZAKOWIC provided an overview of the proposed Zoning Text Amendment. It was noted that TRPA regulations may not allow hens in their jurisdiction. Discussion followed as the Council and public asked questions about the amendment. DAN WARREN, who requested this amendment, addressed the Council.

Motion to support the amendment, with the revision of allowing up to six (6) hens.

POLIVY/LEFRANCOIS/CARRIED with no votes from Chillemi and Wotel. (6-2-0)

B. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT (ZTA 20080448) EMERGENCY SHELTERS, TRANSITIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The MAC is being asked to provide input on revisions to the Placer County Zoning Ordinance to bring the Ordinance into compliance with State housing law for emergency shelters, transitional, and supportive housing. The proposed amendments will establish definitions for Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, and Supportive Housing as well as identify appropriate zoning designations where these uses will be allowed. (On Oct 8, 2009 the Planning Commission unanimously approved a motion to continue the proposed amendments to allow for additional input from interested parties as well as the MACs. Staff to discuss with interested parties concerns brought up at hearing including expanding proposed uses into additional zoning designations. In addition, staff was directed to change proposed

January 10, 2010

North Auburn MAC
Auburn, CA 95603

SUBJECT: Hen Keeping

Honorable Municipal Advisory Committee members,

I want to express my concerns about the proposed zoning amendment to accommodate people who want to keep chickens. I understand the appeal of the idea and I share an interest in eating locally-grown food, so I am somewhat supportive of the basic idea, but I believe that in order to prevent problems the idea needs more work.

In my opinion guidelines are needed to protect both the well-being of the hens and the neighborhood. Here are some thoughts about the hens

- Will they be protected from extreme weather
- Will their water be clean and not frozen at all times
- Will they be vulnerable to predation
- If they are allowed to forage in the yard, how will they be kept on the property

In terms of the neighborhood, I can tell you that when my neighbor had chickens not only did the chickens go into gardens where they weren't welcome, but another neighbor's guest's dog killed some of them and a raccoon or bear broke into the chickenhouse and killed the others. As far as noise goes, hens can make almost as much noise as roosters. Also, I am sure you know that rats like grain so any existing rat problems could get worse with the introduction of a year-round food source.

I am not advocating for a lot of government oversight but I think anybody who intends to keep chickens should be given some universal common-sense standards and told to follow them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sue Stack



Our Position Statement to the Municipal Advisory Council

Humane Society
of the Sierra Foothills, Inc.

January 9, 2010

Promoting the Welfare of Animals

Dear Council Members,

2945 Bell Road #175
Auburn, CA 95603

530.823.6828

If the Planning Department has not yet presented its proposed hen ordinance, it may do so at your next meeting. They will request input from this Council regarding a zoning change to allow three (3) chicken hens in single family residential districts - roosters, guinea and peacock hens are excluded. The proposal requires the hens to be "confined to the subject property and shall not be allowed off-site." However, the proposal does not require an appropriate enclosure to protect the animals from ground and/or aerial predators.

Furthermore, the proposal did not seek input from Animal Control, Code Enforcement, 4H, or the Animal Services Advisory Committee before drafting the change which has led to this linear 'concept' without appropriate details for implementation.

Finally, this proposal falls short of establishing best practices for maintaining public health, assuring animal welfare, minimizing nuisances and providing appropriate administration.

At this time, we OPPOSE this zoning change as presented but feel we can support it once parallel text amendments are proposed for the "Animal raising and keeping" section of the County's ordinance as well as other sections that will be affected.

For your review, I have enclosed a comparison chart of other city/county/town zoning ordinances relative to the keeping of hens. If Planning has already presented this item, I hope this information assists the Council in re-opening this issue and directing County staff to provide a complete program. If you have not yet heard this matter, we ask you to set aside a decision and once again recommend the County provide a complete program for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Frieborn,
RVT, Humane Officer

Charlene Daniels

From: Michael Winters
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 2:42 PM
To: Charlene Daniels
Cc: Crystal Jacobsen
Subject: RE: draft chicken ordinance

Charlene,

We've outlined some bullet points that express our concerns about the proposed ordinance.

~~We anticipate an increase of approximately 1-2 chicken calls per week resulting in 52-hrs per year spent on complaint intake and tracking in the computer system and an additional 155 hrs per year spent on enforcement, inspection, serving citations and court appearances. Complaints relating to:~~

- dogs killing chickens
- noise
- dead chickens in roadway
- loose chickens in roadway
- chickens damaging neighbors property
- fecal matter, smells
- neglect of chickens, failure to provide water, food, etc.
- Neighbor slaughtering chickens in backyard
- chickens turned into shelter as strays or owner surrender
- predatory wildlife killing chickens

Mike Winters
Animal Services Manager
(530) 886-5537

From: Charlene Daniels
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 4:40 PM
To: Michael Winters
Cc: Crystal Jacobsen
Subject: draft chicken ordinance

Michael:

As we discussed earlier today, the County is preparing a draft chicken ordinance to allow chicken hens in the Residential Single-Family zone district. The ordinance is proposing to allow some chicken hens on the smaller lots within the Residential Forest and Combining Agricultural zone districts. It is currently being heard by the various MACs and it is tentatively scheduled for the Agricultural Commission on January 11. I have attached a draft for your review. Please let me know if you have any comments.

Charlene Daniels
Senior Planner

County of Placer
WEIMAR/APPLEGATE/COLFAX
MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
P. O. Box 1025
Colfax, CA 95713
County Contact: Administrative Aide (530) 889-4010

1/12/10
→ MICHAEL
JOHANSON
→ ANN HOLMAN
MB



January 7, 2010

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Recommendation on Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA T20090403) – Fowl and Poultry

Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On December 16, 2009, the Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Municipal Advisory Council was asked to make a recommendation on proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of up to three hens in the RS zone district.

The proposed wording presented to the WACMAC was as follows: *"...In the Residential Single Family (RS) zone district, the keeping of no more than three (3) hens is permitted subject to the approval of an Administrative Review Permit. The keeping of roosters is prohibited. Hens shall be confined to the subject property and shall not be allowed off-site. Residential Single-Family uses located in the Tahoe Basin, the Squaw Valley Land Use Plan area, as well as other adopted specific plans, are subject to this provision."*

WACMAC Recommendation to Board of Supervisors

On December 16, 2009, the WACMAC voted 5-2 to recommend that the proposed revision to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance be adopted.

Yours truly,

Handwritten signature of David Wiltsee in cursive.

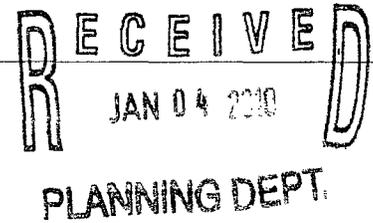
David Wiltsee
WACMAC Chair, 2009

RECEIVED			
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS			
5 ROS Rec'd	MB	LDW	
Other	IS	COB	
JAN - 8 2010			
Sup D1	Sup D4	Aide D1	Aide D4
Sup D2	Sup D5	Aide D2	Aide D5
Sup D3		Aide D3	* /

County of Placer
RURAL LINCOLN MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
P. O. Box 716
Lincoln, CA 95648
County Contact: Administrative Aide (530) 889-4010



December 28, 2009



Placer County Planning Commission
Attn: Chair
3091 County Center Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Zoning Text Amendment PZTA T0403 Fowl and Poultry

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

On December 14, 2009, the Rural Lincoln Municipal Advisory Council voted unanimously to support the proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry Ordinance.

The Lincoln MAC appreciates your efforts in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Fowler".

Mark Fowler, Chair

Cc: Supervisor Robert Weygandt
Jennifer Dzakowic, Placer County Planning Department

From: Ann Bryant
To: Shirlee Herrington;
Subject: Re: Public Hearing Notice - ZTA - FOWL AND POULTRY (PZTA 20090403)
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 1:50:24 PM

Re: Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA
20090403) Fowl and Poultry Negative
Declaration

To The Placer County Board of Supervisors;

I had intended on being present at the February 7th BOS meeting when this agenda item is scheduled to be discussed, however I will be in London on business at the time so am forced to express my viewpoint via this email. Please except this as an official comment opposed to allowing hens to be kept on small parcels anywhere in Placer County. Most, if not all, of Placer County is situated in prime bear habitat. Bears like to eat chickens. Most people don't understand how to keep their chickens safe from hungry bears and become extremely angry when any species of wildlife damage pens and kill their chickens. When this happens the resident can, and usually does, obtain a depredation permit from the California Department of Fish and

Game. A trap is set in the yard as close to the chicken coop as possible and any bear who enters the trap is killed, never relocated. This does nothing to resolve the problem...the chicken is still dead and now so is the bear, but another bear will soon take his place as more fowl are usually purchased to replace those who were killed. Then the cycle begins again...and goes on over and over.

Placer County has an excellent garbage ordinance designed to keep bears away from residential areas. It would be counter-productive to now invite bears back into these areas with the lure of a tempting chicken dinner. Why would we step backwards instead of forging ahead in regards to bear/human conflict issues?

Most people are very diligent in keeping their trash inaccessible to bears and thousands upon thousands of us have purchased costly metal bear garbage enclosures in order to accomplish this goal. We have encouraged our neighbors to do the same so as not to have anything available for bears to eat anywhere around our homes. If

just one person in a residential neighborhood has even just one chicken there will most assuredly be bears and coyotes frequenting that entire area, making the diligence of the remainder of the residents futile. This is not fair to those who are doing all they possibly can to keep the bears away. People are going to become angry with their thoughtless neighbors.

The BEAR League operates a 24/7 live hotline for bear and other wildlife problems and concerns. For well over 12 years now we have answered calls around the clock and of every conceivable nature. A very common type of complaint is a resident calling about chickens being kept in the neighborhood, because they bring in un-naturally high numbers of bears, coyotes and raccoons. The wildlife not only consumes the birds but also the food scattered in the coop for the birds. People living anywhere close by often-time suffer damage to their own property due to the abundance of wildlife being tempted to come into an otherwise inappropriate area. We also receive countless calls from chicken

owners who have discovered the ruins and destruction a bear leaves in his wake after a raid. We explain the laws of man and the laws of Nature. Some of them get it, some don't.

In closing let me emphasize that by opening the door to chickens we will be creating a no-win situation and enormous repercussions will follow. 1) We will have to spend more tax dollars for Wildlife Services to kill more bears (bears who should not have been encouraged to become problems in the first place). 2) We will have angry neighbors complaining, and rightfully so, about obvious increases in predators near their homes.

3) We will have residents discharging firearms in congested areas while attempting to kill or scare a bear who is going after the chickens.

4) We will have increased demand on our already overburdened DFG wardens and biologists for depredation requests (each request must be verified by an on-site visit)

5) We will be responsible for the blood of countless bears (and coyotes and raccoons). Many animals will be killed, chickens included.

6) There will be an increase in home invasions by bears.

Please do not recklessly throw Placer County 25 years backwards in our ongoing march towards

peaceful coexistence in bear country. Instead let us continue to be a model for the rest of the World on how best to share habitat with the existing, and living wildlife.

I am happy to answer any questions any of you may have and can be reached at:

530.525.7297

bearsnsquirrels@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Ann Bryant, BEAR League

Ann Bryant

Executive Director

BEAR League

530.525.PAWS

www.savebears.org

From: Shirlee Herrington <SHerring@placer.ca.gov>

To: Shirlee Herrington.<SHerring@placer.ca.gov>

Sent: Mon, January 24, 2011 11:39:53 AM
Subject: Public Hearing Notice - ZTA - FOWL AND POULTRY (PZTA 20090403)

Attached is the Public Hearing Notice for:

**ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT (PZTA 20090403) FOWL AND
POULTRY NEGATIVE DECLARATION, ALL SUPERVISORIAL
DISTRICTS**

This item is scheduled for BOS meeting: February 8, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Thank you,

Shirlee

~~~~~

Shirlee I. Herrington  
Executive Secretary  
Community Development Resource Agency  
3091 County Center Drive, Suite #280  
Auburn, CA 95603  
(530) 745-3197 - PHN  
(530) 745-3080 - FAX  
[sherring@placer.ca.gov](mailto:sherring@placer.ca.gov)

~~~~~

NOTE: County Offices will be closed on Friday, February 11th in observance of President Lincoln's Birthday and Monday, February 21st in observance of President's Day.

**ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT (PZTA 20090403),
FOWL AND POULTRY
NEGATIVE DECLARATION, ALL SUPERVISORIAL
DISTRICTS**

Placer County Board of Supervisors

**February 8, 2011
11:00 a.m.**

**Correspondence Received
By Board of Supervisors**

As of 1/31/11

January 30, 2011

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

Attn: Jennifer Montgomery, Jim Holmes, Robert Weygandt, Kirk Uhler and Jack Duran

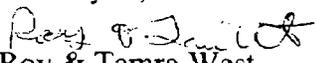
RE: Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA 20090403), Fowl and Poultry Negative Declaration

We are writing to tell you that we support the Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA 20090403) and ask that you vote YES on this amendment.

We live in the rural are of Foresthill and feel that this amendment is well suited for rural areas in Placer County.

Please vote YES on PZTA 20090403!!

Thank you,


Roy & Tamra West
P.O. Box 292
Auburn, CA 95604-0292

RECEIVED
JAN 31 2011
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



PUBLIC INTEREST COALITION



[Sent via email]

February 1, 2011

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED

JAN 31 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen:

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RE: "Hen Ordinance"—Fowl-Poultry Zoning Text Amendment-T20090403

Please accept the following comments as part of the public, administrative record.

We have grave concerns regarding the proposed Fowl-Poultry Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA). Many of our concerns have been stated more than once in numerous public comment documents throughout the process of the County's adoption of this ZTA. However, it appears these concerns have been ignored. We submit the following and strongly urge the Board of Supervisors, to address and resolve these troublesome issues by either rejecting the ZTA as currently worded, or to direct County staff to conduct the proper environmental investigation and evaluation as required by CEQA (a Mitigated Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Primary Concern: The Negative Declaration (ND) is inadequate and inappropriate under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) standards

The ND does not meet CEQA standards because it fails to sufficiently identify, address, or investigate potentially significant environmental effects, and it does not provide mitigation measures where they should be implemented. The ND improperly relies on assumptions and unrealistic expectations of "voluntary" compliance where impacts may be potentially devastating. It wrongly dismisses impacts as not significant when in fact they are, or, at the very least, they meet CEQA's threshold of "may" be significant.¹ Before the Hen Ordinance ZTA is approved, the County should evaluate and mitigate the potentially significant adverse impacts, or in the alternative as required by CEQA, the County should prepare an environmental impact report to evaluate and address the impacts as presented by citizens and organizations.

Pressing Concerns:

Inadequately Addressed Impacts. The ND claims:

1) that visual impacts from chicken coop structures may be offset by applications of setbacks. However, setback variances are often requested and granted in Placer County. "Additional fencing" is pure speculation, unenforceable, and not a reasonable solution to the potential visual impacts; thus the lack of definitive chicken enclosure and fencing requirements may result in negative impacts that must be mitigated.

(2) that air quality will not be impacted with enforcement of "Rule 205" and that manures are required to be picked up every three days. Unless a neighbor has legally-obtained evidence of non-compliance, the reality is that there will be no enforcement, and clean up may occur (or not) only when the situation becomes intolerable. The rhetoric simply does not match the reality.

(3) that biological communities will not be affected by the ZTA in part because of chicken enclosures and parcels are in already developed areas with residential structures. This discussion/argument defies logic.

(a) For the most part, Placer County's residential areas are located in wildlife habitat, unlike large dense incorporated urban areas, but this fact is being ignored (although even in urban areas, occasional predator sightings do occur). The need for enclosure standards or requirements, as much to protect the chickens as to protect wildlife predators, has been repeatedly stressed to no avail. Off-hand references to "type of construction" give no direction nor enforcement options, thus the potential to attract unwanted or nuisance wildlife may (can and will) occur. As currently worded, the ZTA will create cumulative impacts of *increasing wildlife and domestic animal attraction* and may result in negative impacts to both. These issues must be addressed and mitigated.

(b) The ZTA totally ignores the issue of chicken slaughter. When chickens are raised, the common assumption may be for eggs, but it may also be for meat. How will meat hens or "spent" chickens be killed (especially by the novice urban hobby farmer), and how will the entrails (offal) be disposed of in an urban setting? If offal is tossed aside, it will attract scavengers and create problems as mentioned above.

(c) Most disturbing is a misperception that this ZTA requires protective chicken housing or enclosures. To the contrary, the language used in Item IV-1,2 is, "The proposed ZTA may encourage the construction of chicken coops and additional fencing..." [underline added] Instead of approving a ND with such vague and meaningless language, the ZTA must be amended to actually state and specify the minimum requirements of secure enclosures to protect chickens from both weather elements and from predators. "May encourage" is unacceptable and deceptive; it must be reworded with standards for the enclosures and enforceable language, such as "shall require."

The ND wrongly ignores or dismisses these collective impacts. The potential cumulative impacts must be investigated and evaluated before the County can adopt a ND and approve the ordinance. Either a Mitigated ND or an EIR with the aforementioned revisions could satisfy CEQA requirements.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Although the ND acknowledges risks associated with the use of pesticides and rodenticides, the discussion suggests no impacts by relying on hen owners to (1) read labels of pesticides and rodenticides, and (2) comply with safe application practices. This is a naively unrealistic and unenforceable expectation, with unacceptable significant impacts to wildlife (and/or domestic animals). Recent studies on the impact of rodenticides alone, especially with the new, stronger generations of poisons, indicate huge impacts to both raptors and mammalian predators.²

The ND acknowledges "...the use of pesticide, deodorizer for the treatment of odor, ammonia, alkaline and other lime based products from waste, and bacteria from diseased or dead carcasses," and potential health hazards from mismanagement. Amazingly, the ND dismisses the potential devastating impact by relying on "Compliance with regulations..." The rationale used in this discussion is akin to claiming we have posted speed limits on roadways to which drivers are subject; therefore, there will be no traffic risks because of compliance with the regulations. Threats and risks inherent in the use of hazardous materials by urban chicken owners will create significant impacts and must be addressed and analyzed with enforceable mitigation measures via a Mitigated ND or an EIR.

Hydrology and Water Quality. The discussion alone provides evidence that environmental impacts "may" occur and therefore meets the threshold to prepare either a Mitigated ND or a full EIR. Suddenly, the ND is talking about animal and fowl enclosure setbacks, where previously the public was led to believe the enclosures were optional. Assuming there will be enclosures (how will anyone know?), how will the 100' distance from

a well be enforced? How many homeowners or renters actually know where their neighbors' wells are located?

Behind "increased yard fencing" (as stated in I. Aesthetics, that could lessen the visual impact), how will one neighbor know that the chicken pen is 100' from their wells? We must assume that since there are no enclosure requirements, no permits, fees, or inspections for compliance, that this discussion is futile. The only way to ensure water quality impacts will be avoided or mitigated, whether on surface water, open waterways, swales, or wells, is to prepare a full EIR. Fowl enclosures must be required and should be inspected as to location to protect water contamination.

The ND attempts to diminish potential impacts by relying on the "limited number of fowl and poultry allowed" by the ZTA—the original proposal was for three hens, which is a much more reasonable number than six hens for an urban setting. However, "limited number" is meaningless when there are no provisions for enforcement of the three-day cleaning up preference. There are situations in Placer County where "clean up" has never taken place in the chicken coops or pens for years. Chicken manure is piled at least a foot high in mounds under roosts or landing levels (in pens where roosts are not provided). All it will take is one good rain to create runoff. Unless the issue is studied and/or the ZTA contains enforcement language, the negative impacts to ground water and degraded surface runoff can only be speculative. Again, because the ZTA is so loosely written, with no enforceable requirements, then negative impacts to water quality may occur. Therefore, it must be mitigated and either a Mitigated ND or an EIR must be prepared.

The ND reiterates that the ZTA will not require any grading or construction improvements. How can this be known to the County or enforced by it? If grading or construction (chicken housing?) is prohibited, who will be notified and how? Because the ZTA is so vague, the likelihood of citizens who want chickens to simply grade, build, and thumb their nose at the County for noncompliance, is immense.

Other Concerns:

A. It is not clear why both CA Dept of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife were not notified of this ZTA. There may be concerns of avian, migratory, and other bird species vulnerability to contracting diseases from fowl being kept in urbanized area in a County characterized with diverse wildlife habitat.

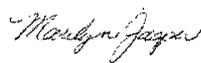
B. We respectfully disagree with the conclusions from "E. Mandatory Findings of Significance" that (1) the project does not have the potential to impact biological resources and (2) the project does not have cumulative impacts. We submit that the project has both significant and cumulative impacts on wildlife which must be addressed and mitigated, either via a Mitigated Negative Declaration or an EIR.

C. With all the economic issues facing the County, and with the necessity for inspection and enforcement of this potentially conflict-laden ZTA, the "ordinance" should require permits and adequate fee assessments. County resources may be expended in order to minimize conflicts, educate would-be urban poultry producers, and cover the costs of County compliance investigations. Inevitable burdens will be placed on Animal Services when called upon for neglect, abuse, abandonment, backyard-slaughter, stray captures, and impoundment issues.³ Rather than open the flood gates with a citizen "sink or swim" approach to ZTA's, "governance" should play its role; it is reasonable to charge a permit fee and utilize County resources accordingly.

In closing, we fully support growing trends to raise one's own "food" as long as activities are in compliance with zoning, codes, and ordinances, and as long as the backyard farmers are fully educated as to obligations and risks. A vegetable garden in an urban or residential zone is entirely different from raising farm animals in the same areas, especially where rodents and predator attraction is the norm; residual wildlife poisoning from the use of rodenticides will occur.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to NOT approve this ZTA, to NOT certify the ND, and to direct County staff to conduct the proper environmental investigation and evaluation as required by CEQA.

Thank you for considering our views,



Marilyn Jasper, Chair

Attachments: Exhibit A,

¹ Section 15064(g) of the CEQA Guidelines requires lead agencies, when presented with a fair argument that a project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, to prepare an EIR. Placer County, acting as the lead agency, has a duty to fully investigate the environmental impacts of its proposal, especially as they relate to predator depredation and/or secondary kills of wildlife from rodenticides. The County is obligated to investigate adverse impacts of the Hen Ordinance ZTA, and analyze adverse impacts, direct or indirect, as submitted in previous comments.

² “Super-toxic” rat poisons kill owls, other wildlife...”

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/rodenticides-kill-wildlife>

³ Once the novelty wears off, exponentially increasing chicken surrenders occur. Animal sanctuaries and shelters throughout the country have seen a spike in their intake of chickens.

The challenge presented by the increased interest in backyard flocks is to insure that people make an informed choice before they bring a living creature into their lives. Common reasons many people cite for getting chickens are interests in sustainability, knowing where their food comes from, and rejecting the intense confinement of factory farms. However, often the animal’s interests are compromised or forgotten.

Human nature being what it is, the bottom line—considerations of space, effort, and cost—leads novices to acquire chickens without education about or sensitivity to the needs of the bird. Chicken discussion forums are an incredible source of misinformation, and in many classes on chicken “care,” much of the material consists of recipes. Small, barren pens or “tractors” (read: small cages that move around with the bird) are promoted, as are ramshackle “coops” (read: boxes) constructed from “recycled” materials (read: junk) that have less space than a battery cage and are devoid of protection from extreme weather and predators. Cramped structures are impossible to clean properly and forces the birds to live in their own filth.

The most common causes of behavior problems between birds are overcrowding and lack of means to satisfy instinctive behavior, followed by nutritional deficiency. Diet is often just “scratch” (read: cheap junk food) supplemented with “compost” (read: garbage). Veterinary care is rarely sought; the average cost of a chicken is less than \$10, but the average veterinary visit starts at \$50, even assuming that the vet will treat chickens or knows much about avian medicine. Thus, “do-it yourself” care is often promoted. MacMurray’s Hatchery, for example, sells a do-it-yourself castration kit, and antibiotics are widely available in feed stores and online. Home remedies are being substituted for illnesses that require proven medicine.

Males, sick or injured birds, and hens whose laying has slowed down are discarded or killed in any convenient manner in residential neighborhoods. At Chicken Run Rescue, we receive many do-it-yourself inquiries from people wanting to “put a bird out of their misery” for otherwise very treatable conditions or in cases that really require humane euthanasia to be administered by a licensed vet.

Source: <http://advocacy.britannica.com/blog/advocacy/2010/08/who-cares-about-city-chickens/>

**EXHIBIT A:
COLLECTIVE POSITION STATEMENT ON BACKYARD POULTRY**

<http://www.farmsanctuary.org/pdf/Collective%20Position%20Statement%20on%20Backyard%20Poultry.pdf>

Background

In the past year, shelters and sanctuaries in urban and suburban areas have witnessed a dramatic increase in the intake of chickens, particularly roosters. Hatcheries producing day-old chicks for shipment to feed stores and individuals are backlogged with orders. The desire to raise poultry can be linked to organic backyard farming as well as a desire to have direct access to food (eggs and, in some cases, meat).

As a coalition of animal sanctuaries interested in the welfare of hens and roosters, we have created this position statement on the keeping and raising of chickens. All of us have been inundated with calls to take in hens and roosters who are a) no longer wanted; b) not the correct sex; c) not legally permissible. As organizations with limited resources and space, it is no longer feasible to take in even a small percentage of these unwanted animals. Even with placement assistance, most of these chickens, particularly roosters, do not find permanent placement. This leaves municipal dog and cat shelters the task of taking in, housing, feeding, caring for, and inevitably killing healthy, adoptable chickens.

Problems associated with urban backyard flocks

Hatcheries are like puppy mills: When animals are reduced to commodities, their best interests are pushed aside in favor of profit. Hatcheries that produce chicks for backyard flocks treat chickens and their offspring in much the same way puppy mills treat breeding dogs and their puppies. There are no legal requirements dictating how breeding hens and roosters are housed, meaning they may be crammed into small cages or sheds without outdoor access.

Shipping day-old chicks is cruel: Most chickens purchased are bought from hatcheries or feed stores (these chicks originate from hatcheries). Hatcheries ship day-old birds through the postal service without any legal oversight. Young chickens are deprived of food and water for up to 72 hours and exposed to extremes in temperature. As Dr. Jean Cypher, a veterinarian specializing in avian medicine states, "A day-old chick can no more withstand three days in a dark crowded box than can any other newborn." Other experts in avian medicine and behavior agree that transporting day-old chicks in boxes for the first 24-72 hours of life is cruel and medically detrimental to the birds.

Chicken sexing is more art than science: Using data collected from sanctuaries and rescues that field calls daily about unwanted chickens, we estimate between 20-50% of purchased "hens" are actually roosters. Depending on breed, visually identifying a rooster can take weeks to months.

Roosters may be unwanted and are often illegal: Male chickens are generally unwanted for two reasons: They don't produce eggs and they are rarely legal in urban or suburban settings. Hatcheries may use rooster chicks as packing material, regardless of whether they were ordered. Most incorporated or urban regions that do permit chickens only allow hens, not roosters. Unwanted roosters may be abandoned to the streets,

slaughtered, or end up in a municipal shelter to be killed. Very few find their way into a permanent home or sanctuary.

Chickens attract rodents: Even the cleanest coop is attractive to rats and mice who enjoy the free bedding (straw and shavings) and food. Rodents are generally viewed as pests and their presence is unwanted by chicken owners and neighbors.

Lack of professional medical care: Avian medicine has made progress but there are few vets specialized in the treatment and care of birds. Veterinarians who do treat poultry are often expensive, with the average vet visit starting at a minimum of \$100.

Concerns with new ordinances allowing backyard poultry

Enforcement costs: Municipal shelters run on a tight budget dealing with animal cruelty cases, dangerous dog calls, and the normal day to day operation of their facilities. Adding an extra burden, like enforcing chicken licensing laws and related complaints, is unwise amidst current economic concerns.

Slaughter: The average chicken guardian is ill-equipped to “properly” stun and kill a chicken. Further, slaughtering can be traumatic for neighbors, including impressionable children. If chickens are to be permitted in urban areas, they must be protected from cruel mistreatment as much as “traditional” companion animals like dogs or cats, including a ban on slaughtering them for consumption.

Roosters will be killed: Creating new ordinances permitting chickens creates a market for killing 50% of all chicks born in hatcheries. Urban and suburban areas considering chickens generally ban roosters, yet male chickens comprise half of all chicks born. Hatcheries mail roosters as packing material, and sexing of chickens is more art than science (see above). When residents purchase chicks from hatcheries or feedstores and end up with roosters, they will be put in the position of having to rehome the bird(s). Most roosters are not rehomed and end up abandoned or dumped at shelters, where they are invariably killed.

Suggestions if you are considering a backyard flock

Make sure it's legal: If you live in an unincorporated area, contact your planning department and ask about the zoning requirements regarding poultry. If you live in an incorporated region, contact the city clerk for information on ordinances regarding chickens.

Adopt: Avoid the cruelties of the hatcheries by adopting birds already in existence who need homes. Check out www.petfinder.org for animals available at your local shelter. Visit www.sanctuaries.org or www.farmanimalshelters.org and contact a sanctuary near you about adopting birds. If they do not have birds, do not give up. Sanctuaries and rescues receive inquiries daily regarding animals needing homes – ask that you be contacted if one of these calls occurs.

Do your research: Chickens can be wonderful companions. While they are relatively easy to maintain, they do have special needs. Be sure to research housing, predator proofing, diet, and medical needs. Some things to be aware of:

- Some breeds of chickens are cold-sensitive: Hens and roosters with large single combs are prone to frost-bite in cooler climates. Make sure adequate housing accommodates birds in both cool and hot temperatures.

- Predator protection is vital: **Chickens should be locked up at night in a safe enclosure that prevents access by all predators, including dogs, raccoons, aerial predators, rats, cats, wild canines, weasels, etc. During the day, animals should be housed in a fully-fenced enclosure or yard with proper protection from aerial, daytime predators and neighborhood dogs and, in the case of small bantams, large domestic free-roaming cats.** [bold added]

- Veterinary care is critical: Avian medicine is still considered an “exotic” practice and, as such, is more expensive. A one-time visit may start at \$100. Nevertheless, before considering housing chickens, it is imperative that they have access to veterinary care.

Supporting Organizations

(Updated from http://www.upc-online.org/chickens/backyard_poultry.html)

[Animal Place \(marji@animalplace.org\)](mailto:marji@animalplace.org)

[Chenoa Manor Animal Sanctuary \(ChenoaManor@aol.com\)](mailto:ChenoaManor@aol.com)

[Chicken Run Rescue \(chickenrunrescue@comcast.net\)](mailto:chickenrunrescue@comcast.net)

[The Chocowinity Chicken Sanctuary & Education Center, Inc. \(evanssu@ecu.edu\)](mailto:evanssu@ecu.edu)

[Eastern Shore Sanctuary and Education Center \(sanctuary@bravebirds.org\)](mailto:sanctuary@bravebirds.org)

[Farm Sanctuary \(scoston@farmsanctuary.org\)](mailto:scoston@farmsanctuary.org)

[Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary \(poplarspringanimal@yahoo.com\)](mailto:poplarspringanimal@yahoo.com)

[Sunnyskies Bird and Animal Sanctuary \(sunnyskies@optonline.net\)](mailto:sunnyskies@optonline.net)

[United Poultry Concerns \(karen@upc-online.org\)](mailto:karen@upc-online.org)

[Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary \(jenny@woodstocksanctuary.org\)](mailto:jenny@woodstocksanctuary.org)

(Chicken Care: www.upc-online.org/chickens/)

