

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Hope Claar, my husband and I reside in Grass Valley next to the Squirrel Creek Ranch. For several years my family, and the other families in our neighborhood, have suffered through numerous loud and life-disrupting wedding parties hosted on the Squirrel Creek Ranch property. The Ranch had twenty-nine events scheduled in 2014, of which none had the required use permits.

In mid-2014, the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance limiting these types of events to four per year. Squirrel Creek Ranch was allowed to fulfill their existing contracts and held their last unpermitted wedding on November 1, 2014. It's my understanding that the Ranch decided not to apply for the required use permits since they would only be allowed to have four events per year. Things have been quiet at the Squirrel Creek Ranch and our neighborhood's peacefulness has been restored.

My concern, and the concern of my fellow neighbors, is if the ordinance is changed to allow eight venues per year, Squirrel Creek Ranch may start up the wedding business again. If this happens it would cause great emotional stress to those of us neighboring the Squirrel Creek Ranch. It will also lower our home value and deter potential home buyers from purchasing in our area. It would also increase the traffic on Squirrel Creek Road, and possibly increase the fire danger that all of Nevada County fears.

You, the Board of Supervisors, agreed in 2014 that four events per year was reasonable and you supported and passed the ordinance. Nothing has changed. We are still hard-working people in the community we love, who built our homes in this neighborhood that offered a dream of serenity and tranquility. If the Squirrel Creek Ranch starts up business as a wedding venue again, this will all be gone.

We humbly ask that you stay committed to the ordinance passed in 2014.

Thank you,

Steve & Hope Claar

**From:** [michael Bringolf](#)  
**To:** [BOS Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Hearing for Amendments to Outdoor Events Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020 8:46:38 PM

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To: Clerk of the Board

From: Michael Bringolf, Squirrel Creek Homeowner

The event holders throughout Nev. County and concerned neighbors met and discussed all angles of the Outdoor Events Ordinance for weeks at several Nevada County board meetings in 2014. Following weeks of public comment a small group including event planners, neighborhood representatives, the Sheriff, the County Attorney, members of Planning, and other officials met for further discussion over a four week period and ultimately arrived at a compromise for all concerned. I was a neighborhood representative at those meetings.

For six years neighbors near event locations have been able to enjoy quiet weekends and normalcy in their yards with the exception of four allowed events. For those four weekends each year we planned ahead to avoid spending those days in our yard because we knew the traffic and noise would be invading. In our neighborhood we often had to shut our windows to keep the commotion out. Four events per year seemed a reasonable compromise.

Now it's unsettling to see the event planners asking to double the number of events. In an eleven week period, almost three months, it's conceivable there could be eight events. Events often start early with setting up and finish late with cleaning up, so much of the weekend can be involved. In eleven weeks time neighbors would have to avoid their own yards for all but three of those weekends. Only three quiet weekends assured for home owners out of eleven weeks, or one week short of three months, is clearly no longer a compromise. The eight events might possibly be stretched out over several months but the fact remains each event is a major disturbance. The quiet enjoyment of our homes in the neighborhood would be taking a back seat to business in our neighborhoods.

There is also an amendment to remove residential zoning allowance. While that sounds encouraging few events take place within residential zoning compared to residential/agriculture zoning where so many events do take place. In our area a several acre ranch still has twenty homes within shouting distance and that's often the case throughout the county. If residential/agriculture zoning allowances were removed that would be a real concession.

The primary issue for neighborhood residents and homeowners is the number of events allowed within a year's time. I'm respectfully recommending the number of allowed events not be amended. Only three quiet weekends out of eleven weeks, almost three months, is not a compromise. Neighborhood residents need to be assured their home will be a sanctuary for peace and quiet the majority of the time.