

Hill Ranch Estates
WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

NAME	RETURN ADDRESS	DATE
Henry's Fork Ground Water District	350 N 6th W PO Box 15 Saint Anthony ID 83445	4/21/21
Jim & Lori Muir	6580 S 3100 W Rexburg ID 83440	4/20/21

Jeff Raybould, Chairman

Aaron Dalling, Secretary

Board Members

Nick Ricks, Vice Chairman

Cade Crapo

Randy Hillman

HENRY'S FORK GROUND WATER DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 15

ST. ANTHONY, IDAHO 83445

PHONE: 208-624-3381 FAX: 208-624-3990

April 21, 2021

RECEIVED

Madison County Planning and Zoning Department
134 E Main Suite 208
Rexburg, ID 83440

APR 21 2021

RE: Hill Ranch Estates

**Madison County
P&Z and Building**

Dear Madison County Planning and Zoning Department:

The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) has been in decline since the 1950's. The ESPA supports nearly 2 million acres of irrigated cropland in southeast Idaho including over 60,000 acres in Madison County. These farms fuel our local economy contributing over 157 million dollars per year of total product in Madison County (2017 Census of Agriculture). The declining aquifer continues to threaten the long-term sustainability of these farms that serve as our economic lifeblood. Recently, groundwater irrigators within the ESPA have been required to significantly reduce groundwater diversion and/or provide water for aquifer recharge to mitigate for our groundwater use. This has proven to be expensive and difficult to accomplish, but we have pulled together and done it.

In short, because of the significant efforts irrigators have undertaken to reduce groundwater use, it is disturbing to see subdivisions with 1 acre lots without a surface water irrigation system in place. This will only increase reliance on our declining aquifer. We also wish to draw your attention to Idaho Statute 42-111 which in summary states that the domestic exemption only covers the irrigation of up to ½ acres of land per well, if the total use is not in excess of 13,000 gallons per day. We believe irrigation of some sort will exceed the ½ acre legal limitation and it is likely for lots of 1 acre in size to exceed the gallons per day limit if a secondary surface water irrigation system is not in place.

Additionally, we wish to draw your attention to Idaho Statute 31-3805, which in summary states if the subdivision is located within an irrigation district or canal company, an irrigation delivery system must be approved by the board of county commissioners with the advice of the irrigation entity charged with delivery of water to said lands.

We exhort Madison County and the developer to work with surface water entities to establish a surface water irrigation system for lawns and gardens. We believe relying on groundwater for

lots of this size will likely result in violations of Idaho Law and further injure the aquifer that fuels our local economy.

Sincerely,

Aaron Dalling

Aaron Dalling

CC: Sterling Land Holdings, LLC

RECEIVED

April 20, 2021

APR 20 2021

Madison County
P&Z and Building

Madison County Planning & Zoning,

We appreciate being notified of the next zoning meeting in regards to the Hill Ranch Estate in our neighborhood.

This new zoning change is across the street from our home, and we are very much against this change. We moved here outside of the city limits for a reason. To see and enjoy the farm ground, not have a lot of people around, enjoy the wildlife, not much traffic or noise, and it was a safe place to be, years later Planning and Zoning made a change on a near by piece of farm land which several houses have been built since we bought our place over 30 yrs ago. However, because of Planning and Zoning making that zoning change we also lost a young child and we have greatly paid the price for that decision.

At the first meeting we attended quite a few people also attended that were against the first zoning change. Only 2 people were for it that showed up, but the many comments against it that were stated were obviously ignored by the Zoning members and was still changed, why? We wasted our time to be there and none of you listened or cared at all about our concerns so why would we waste our time again? It really doesn't matter to any of you now does it. The zone change has already been made, It's all about the money who's got the biggest wallet or who knows who. Shame on all of you and if crime goes up, car accidents happen, lives lost etc you can rest assured it's because of your decision.

Jim & Lori Muir