

Errors / Corrections / Questions to the Resolution Concerning Blackwater Major Use Permit 06-069 (mailed 7-10-07).

Whereas, at our meeting of October 12, 2006, Blackwater made a presentation to the Community Planning Group concerning its plans for a training academy for small arms, emergency driving, and first responder training for law enforcement, fire departments and military units requiring this same training at the Round Potrero Ranch, and

1. It is not the Blackwater Training Academy. The project name is The Blackwater West Training Facility.

Whereas, the meeting was well attended and the overwhelming majority of those present indicated support for the project, And,

2. The October 2006 Planning Group meeting had 12 members of the public attend. Those present indicated initial support for the project without appropriate documentation to make a discerned decision.

Whereas, Blackwater subsequently submitted an application for a Major Use permit for the academy and we received our copy of this application in time to review it at our December 14 meeting. And,

3. The Blackwater Major Use Permit application was not provided as correspondence at the December 2006 meeting. There was no review provided to the community.

Whereas the Blackwater Academy was well advertised in the October, November and December Hotline and the December 14 meeting was well attended by historical standards with over 20 residents in attendance, and

4. The Blackwater facility was advertised as an agenda item in the Potrero Hotline and on the Post Office bulletin board. There was no meeting in November. The December 14, 2006 Planning Group meeting had 21 members of the public attend.

Whereas, the local residents in attendance showed overwhelming support for the project, but expressed concerns about the noise and traffic, the planning group voted limited support for the project and indicated on the Form 534 its concern and asked for a live fire noise test to verify the consultant's predictions that noise would not be heard in the community. And,

5. There was no project description given to the public, either verbally or in writing. The fact that this project did not fit into the Potrero Community Character or Community Plan was discussed. There was no overwhelming support for the project by the community when the surprise vote was taken. 15 of the 21 residents in attendance later signed the petition to oppose The Blackwater Training Facility.

Note: The consultant's noise test predictions are not available at the County for review.

Note: Who is going to conduct these studies? Is there a reasonable time limit for these studies? Who is qualified to conduct these studies?

Whereas, a group of community planning group members visited the main Blackwater facility in Moyock, N.C. on April 20 to make a first hand evaluation of the benefits and disadvantages to Potrero and this report at the May 10 meeting was favorable to the project, and

6. The "group" of Potrero Planning Group members that visited Moyock, N.C. were three (3) people... Gordon Hammers, Mary Johnson, and Jerry Johnson. Their report was incomplete as they did not address the shooting ranges, driving track or other aspects of the Moyock facility that concern Potrero residents in their verbal report or video. Community members at the Potrero meeting did not accept the report as valid. These three Planning Group members have been vocal supporters of the Blackwater West Training Facility prior to the visit and continue to lobby for their presence in spite of community sentiment. No one opposing the facility was told when the visit to Moyock would take place, nor was an unbiased representative invited.

Whereas, a group opposed to Blackwater circulated a petition requesting that we reconsider our vote (vote) of December 14 and raised issues, not supported by the facts, concerning, training of mercenaries, helicopter operations and training, environmental issues and others and this petition was presented to this board at our May 10 meeting. And,

7. The petition opposing the Blackwater Training Facility did not mention mercenaries, only mentioning that staff and students would increase traffic, that the facility would include shooting ranges, multiple shooting bays, a helicopter and a driving course. And that it violates our community character.

Whereas, this board agreed to reconsider the December 14 vote at our July 12 meeting. And,

Whereas Blackwater has furnished additional documentation and modification of its application to meet the noise standards and other environmental concerns,

8. No “additional documentation” has been furnished from Blackwater as correspondence at the January, February, March or May 2007 meetings regarding modification to meet the noise and environmental concerns. The consultant’s noise test predictions are not available at the County, nor have they been provided at the Planning Group meetings for review.

Note: On June 21, 2007 Jan Hedlun, a Planning Group member, requested that an updated Blackwater West project description be provided to the Planning Group and the community prior to a vote. Jarrett Ramaiya of the DPLU sent the Planning Group Chair a new Plot Plan on June 28, 2007. There has been no invitation extended to review this documentation prior to the July 12, 2007 meeting and this resolution was created without Ms Hedlun’s input or approval.

Whereas, Economic Impact Models on Community Economic Development indicate that this project would greatly benefit this community. And,

9. Economic impact models have never been discussed or provided to the community for review. What models were used to show great economic benefit? What model was used to show the negative economic impact on our community services, roads, law enforcement, property values, health and schools, etc? Is there a model to show the combined impact of carbine/pistol ranges, a driving track, urban and ship simulators and shooting towers, (noise, traffic, pollution, et al) on a rural community?

Note: There is no guarantee that can be made without potential litigation, that a single job will go to even one Potrero resident.

Whereas, the community planning group has worked very hard to keep large housing developments out of Potrero and the Blackwater Academy would use one of the more desirable locations for its academy and thereby helping to keep housing development out.

10. When has the Potrero Planning Group ever said no to any large development? The only plans for the Round Potrero Ranch were as a cattle ranch with some farming - according to documents on file with the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use. At the original meetings the possibility of twenty 40 acre ranchettes were discussed. At each successive meeting the number of homes expanded to 150 plus homes without proof of a viable developer. No developer name has ever been provided in conjunction with the Round Potrero Ranch Property.