

May 25, 2022

Sandra Spargo
230 Elysian Place
Morgan Ranch

Grass Valley City Council
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Re: Maintenance of the Morgan Ranch landscape easement that parallels Ridge Road

Dear Council Members:

We have entered the red flag season. Fire engines scream down Ridge Road, past my Morgan Ranch home.

The packet given to you on May 10--and my supporting testimony--laid out neglect of the landscape maintenance, resulting in a block-long fire hazard that parallels Ridge Road. The easement is dry and plants are dying due to the drought. How will the City manage climate change?

In the past 6-1/2 years, I've approached the City multiple times regarding maintenance neglect. I've also approached the City Council twice, on June 21, 2021, and May 10, 2022. For reasons unknown to me, neglect has been persistent.

My thought is that if the City is financially unable to maintain the easement according to the guidelines of the Lighting and Landscaping Act, perhaps the City should abandon the easement, returning it to the 19 property owners whose lots comprise the easement. Homeowner care could not be any worse than the current situation.

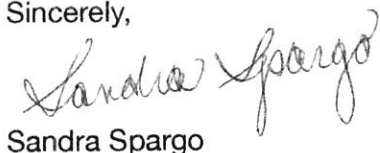
In addition, a prescriptive stormwater ditch is located on the entire easement and dumps directly into Slate Creek. The majority of the ditch is maintained by homeowners or not maintained by homeowners nor the City. The minority of the ditch that the City currently maintains could remain prescriptive--thus releasing the remainder of the ditch to homeowners, saving the City expensive maintenance.

This easement's issues go back to 2001, when the easement was established. It's time to unwind and solve the issues.

Please know that if a fire occurs on the unmaintained easement--made-made or natural causes--I will legally hold the City liable for damages to my home and property. This choice is being forced upon me.

I hope that the City will maintain the easement according to the Lighting and Landscaping Act that you are approving this evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Spargo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sandra Spargo