



A Tradition of Stewardship
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Conservation, Development and Planning

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To All Interested Parties:

You are receiving this letter because you expressed an interest in land use regulations related to animal husbandry on small lots in Napa County. Based on your input and the input of hundreds of other people, the County Planning Commission voted in late 2008 not to proceed with regulations affecting animal keeping on small lots.

Since then, County representatives have been working with members of the newly formed Livestock Council, a volunteer organization, to ensure that procedures are in place to help resolve neighborhood disputes related to animal husbandry. The County's hope is that proactive volunteer efforts can encourage dialog and compromise, eliminating the need for County involvement in neighborhood disputes except where obvious code violations exist.

As a further way to realign code enforcement priorities, the County would like to develop an ordinance that would permit people who live in residential areas of Napa County to raise chickens for household use, at the same time that we prohibit people from raising roosters for cockfighting, an illegal activity. Specifically, the proposed ordinance would:

- Change the rules governing the Residential Single (RS) zoning district, which currently prohibit all forms of agriculture, so that they mirror those applicable within the City of Napa (where up to six hens per parcel are allowed).¹
- Change the zoning ordinance to prohibit large scale facilities that raise roosters, presumably for cockfighting (suggested limit: no more than 25 large fowl roosters per acre or 100 per parcel).
- Make no other changes that would affect or otherwise restrict agriculture or animal husbandry within the County.

Please let us know if you would support these proposed changes to County Code, or whether you have other suggestions by e-mailing us at planning@co.napa.ca.us. We would also appreciate receiving an e-mail from you if you would like to receive a copy of the proposed ordinance when it's drafted, together with notice of the Planning Commission's public hearing, which is expected to occur later this year or early in 2010.

¹ The City of Napa Municipal Code permits all households to raise up to six hens (17.06.030 "Household Pet"), and permits additional agricultural activities on parcels one acre in size or larger subject to administrative approval (17.52.050, Agricultural Cultivation and Animal Keeping). There are currently 2,513 individual parcels zoned Residential Single (RS) in the County; 219 of them are one acre or larger.