

July 3, 2013

To the Monterey County Planning Commission -

RE Short Term Rental Ordinances:

I thank you for your kind attention.

I will attend this meeting as it directly impacts my life.

I live up the Palo Colorado Canyon. My family has lived on this property for 55 years. We are up a private dirt road near the Fire Station. Over the last couple of years we have experienced an influx of strangers passing though our property going to short term rentals, stopping to take pictures, getting stuck and tearing up our portion of the road and causing dust. Fearful people are getting lost in the night trying to find their way back to their short term rentals. I have had people throwing up on my driveway.

We have tried to work things out with our neighbors, but liability issues and road maintenance are not being addressed. I don't think I should have to have other people's paying guests driving on my land. This is a residential neighborhood.

Below is a short story I have written about my life here, how overpopulation and people's greed is making life less about community and more about easy money.

Thank you again! I hope my words will reach the people that are making the decisions.

With respect, Jerri Masten Hansen

WAY OF LIFE: BIG SUR COAST
By Jerri Masten Hansen 6-20-16

The dust on our road felt like talcum powder
as it squeaked through my toes
I can feel the wind as it kissed my cheek and lifted my hair like the seeds of a thistle
This girl was delighted with the bird songs
warm starry nights
the quiet solitude of the mountain tops
singing creek beds
Driftwood houses on deserted beaches were we ran naked and happy as children

I sat at the feet of poets and painters, photographers and cranky old characters
People who left the cities to raise children, live off the land and let their creativity and imaginations
be their guides

I was lucky to be born in a time that is passing too quickly

A few of us raised here are left fighting to save a way of life on our precious Big Sur coast
Even in our small secluded mountain communities
dusty dirt roads disappearing into pavement,
the sounds of blowers and cars,
gardeners and housekeepers

strangers crossing through our private lands
This world is becoming so overpopulated and
so well-informed
that the secrets of the Sur are out
in picture books and poetry, travel ads,
the internet and television
Packed beaches, endless streams of cars, nowhere to park
Point Lobos and foot paths all along Highway One worn away by endless foot traffic
Big Sur was meant to be enjoyed while passing through
not a destination unless visiting our State parks
There are not many accommodations and those needed for local workers are quickly turning from
long-term to short-term rentals leaving many sleeping in their cars
Short-term rentals should never be allowed in Big Sur
We live here for the peace and solitude not to endure endless cars of strangers passing through
our properties.

I don't know how else to say it: something so irreplaceable and beautiful is being lost

When I hear the cry of the hawk
I am reminded to stay awake and pay attention

At 63 years old
my memories are still so clear