



## FRESNO COUNTY HORSE PARK

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FresnoHorsePark@aol.com

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**JUN 25 2018**

**DARM - DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
CITY OF FRESNO**

June 21, 2018

Andreina Aguilar  
Planner II  
Development and Resource Management Department  
Development Services Division  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno Street  
Room 3043  
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: APN 504-050-02, 504-130-12  
Proposed General Plan Amendment  
Proposed Rezone  
Tentative Tract Map # 6195

Dear Andreina;

I am the Managing Member of FCHP LLC dba Fresno County Horse Park (FCHP) and formerly known as Ram Tap. FCHP is located immediately south of the proposed subdivision detailed above.

We are opposed to the proposed General Plan Amendment to change the property from Regional Park to Residential.

We are opposed to the Zoning change application from Open Space to Residential.

We are opposed to the tentative subdivision map application to develop 89 single family homes on the 17 acres next to us on the bluff on what was supposed to be a park site.

The development of this property into homes will have adverse impacts on Fresno County Horse Park. We generate flies, dust, odors, noise and vibration next to the proposed subdivision. We work at keeping these to a minimum but we can't eliminate them. If this subdivision is built we are afraid we will have to pull our operation back from the property line to keep from disturbing the new neighbors. The high speed rail is under construction on the other side of the Horse Park and its construction has taken away land from our use and has taken away from the rural setting. This subdivision will cut off our view to the river and further erode the rural setting. If we have to pull our operation back from the new subdivision we will lose more land for our operation. In order to continue to improve our shows we need more space and not less.

Ram Tap was started in 1957 by Pat and Marian Humphries and has been continuously operating in its current location since then. Ram Tap/Fresno County Horse Park is the second oldest continuously operating 3 Day Eventing facility in the United States and has a national reputation.

3 Day Eventing is an Olympic sport. FCHP primarily holds 3 Day Eventing type of shows on this site 5 times a year. There are only 8 facilities in California that offer sanctioned 3 Day Eventing competitions. Eventing is a triathlon where a rider horse combination perform 3 separate rides during a competition; Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country. A quality cross country course requires a lot of land. For more information about 3 Day Eventing in the United States please consult [www.USEventing.com](http://www.USEventing.com)

In addition to 3 Day Eventing, we hold 2 schooling and 2 triple rated Dressage shows annually. We also rent our facility to the Central Valley Harness Association for them to hold 1 driving show each February.

We rent our facility to the Central Valley Hunter Jumper Miniserries for their 4 shows per year. We also hold clinics where International Olympic riders come to Fresno to teach riders who travel from all of California. Finally we offer our facility to riders who travel from all parts of California to practice their riding on our cross country courses. There are limited facilities available for practicing in the State and even less in the wet winter months.

In offering these shows we attract business to Fresno. Over 90 percent of the riders who compete in our 3 Day Events travel here from other parts of California as well as Arizona, Oregon, Washington and Canada. The Fresno/Clovis Convention and Visitors Bureau reports we are responsible for the rental of hundreds of hotel rooms in Fresno each year.

One of the most important things to Eventers is the footing at a riding facility. Fresno County Horse Park has the best footing of the eight 3 Day Eventing facilities in California. When we talk about footing we are talking about the composition and drainage of the soil. One of the California Eventing facilities is located on Stanford University property in Woodside, California. If it rains at their facility the weekend before one of their competitions they have to cancel the show because their ground is largely clay. When it is wet it becomes slippery and dangerous for the horses and riders. It does not dry out quickly. Woodside does not run 3 Day Events from October until May because of their footing problem. Our ground is mostly sandy soil so if it rains the week before it dries out quickly.

Prior to the 2035 City of Fresno General Plan the proposed subdivision was planned Light Industrial. A previous City Council had the vision to general plan the proposed subdivision as a Regional Park. Fresno has a national reputation as having a shortage of parks. Nothing has changed to warrant a change to a residential subdivision. We ask that you protect and defend the General Plan and work to deny the application to change this to a subdivision.

Respectfully



John F. Marshall  
Fresno County Horse Park  
(559) 221-2509