April 7,2023

Attn: Amador Planning Commission

Concerning zone changes to my property near Eagles Nest Airstrip (formerly known as Wardall Airstrip)

My ranch property is located mostly in the 3 mile range of the airstrip. It is part of the Tonzi Estate, John Tonzi Sr. being my grandfather.

We occupy about 2,000 acres near Irish Hill Rd. Part of the ranch is also in the 2 mile range of the airstrip.

The Tonzi family has owned, operated and paid property taxes on this as well as other land in Amador County since the late 1800’s. We are a 7 generation ranching family. The land is our inheritance, our investment and our future.

I grew up on the ranch, as well as my Mother, Mary Tonzi Cox, her brother Russell Tonzi, and their children and my children and grandchildren. Family heritage is important to us and many in our family have built our homes on this land.

None of us want our property values to decrease and we don’t want an insignificant little airstrip which serves the hobbies and purpose a few wealthy ‘transplants’ telling us what we can or cannot do with our land!!

The original intent of the Wardall Airstrip, and I was there in 1990 when the Use Permit was granted, was merely for a few hobbyist’s to have a place to rebuild WWII aircraft and test flight the planes. It was stated it would take about 5 years to rebuild the planes and they were asking for a potential 700 flights per year. But, as the years went by, they requested more numerous flights, night flights and for guests to also use the airstrip.

It is noisy when the old aircraft start up and fly. I’ve experienced vintage aircraft circle my home and ranch area with nearly 50 circles around and around my home frightening all the livestock. But, it was usually on a Sunday and I put up with it.

The latest power grab, however, is way too much for any of us to accept. They are reaching out in an attempt to usurp power and control over private land owners who have lived here for generations prior to their arrival.

And!! The boldness of the language of the proposal!!?? Outrageous.

“This ordinance is intended to prevent the development of land uses which are not compatible with the operation of Eagle’s Nest Airport” Yes, in the second draft the language softens up a little, but still means the same thing.

When did this ‘airstrip’ become and airport?? It’s not. It’s a private airstrip. A little stretch of pavement which serves no purpose except to those who live in the development on their 14 acre parcels of land.

In the past, our Amador County Planning Commission would speak up for the local land owners and state that certain things ‘were not in the best interest of the landowners’ but now, I’m worried that things are beginning to focus on ‘what’s in the best interest of the airstrip’? This should NOT be the case.

I’m also concerned about bias and special interest, since Mr. Wardall is now a member of this commission. Can the rest of the members still take a stand for the rights of property owners?

If anyone should be complaining and asking for changes, it should be all of us locals who have graciously put up with the noise and inconvenience to our peace and quiet over the years for having to listen to WWII noisy aircraft.

Please do not grant this proposal and do not grant the Wardall Airstrip the power to create zone changes and regulations over our property and future land development.

The country already has many rules, codes and regulations for us to follow if we wish to divide our lands. Or if our grandchildren want to build homes on the land.

But an airstrip?? We do not want the airstrip to grow into a public airport. It is not needed.

Sincerely

Susan Kohler-Anderson

Property owner/cattle rancher

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