

From: [Danielle Connor](#)
To: [Kevin McDonnell](#); [John Shribbs](#); [Barnacle, Brian](#); [Mike Healy](#); [Karen Nau](#); [Dennis Pocekay](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Barn 5400 Annexation
Date: Monday, June 17, 2024 1:14:45 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from danielle@retrograderoaders.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Hi there,

My name is Danielle, my husband Casey and I own/operate a small business called Retrograde Coffee Roasters. We have 1 coffee shop located in downtown Sebastopol that has become a strong community hub for the past 7 years. We are currently waiting to see what happens with the vote this evening to annex Barn 5400, in hopes we can open our 2nd coffee shop location at Barn 5400 with your yes vote to annex the Barn to the city of Petaluma. I'm writing to you today to urge you to approve the annexation of Barn 5400, as it would help many small businesses thrive and add more value to the community of Petaluma.

I am one of many makers at the Barn, in addition to the first farmer owned produce co-op in CA called FEED Sonoma; Harmony Farm & Garden supply, Kickwheel Sonoma Ceramic School/Studio, and several artists working in various mediums who operate inside of the maker's space. A yes vote to annex the property would create additional revenue for the city in the form of business tax licenses and sales tax payments.

I signed a lease to open up a small coffee shop at Barn 5400 in 2021 and after signing the lease, was unfortunately informed by Environmental Health that they would not approve our health permit without a public water source being used (we tried to re-classify the well through the state of CA but were denied due to the number of public wells already reclassified in Sonoma County).

It would also add value to the community by allowing us to create another community space that can be enjoyed by many people. Our coffee shop in downtown Sebastopol has been successful enough to expand and double our square footage in 2020. We have regular customers who drive from all over the county (including Petaluma) to enjoy the drinks, food and the ambiance we provide. We've done several events over the years at Barn 5400 with our mobile coffee cart and have had sooo many people ask us when we'll be able to open there. We are eager to join the community!

In addition to being a community living room, we also hope that our business would continue to be successful in Petaluma and allow us to support more schools, organizations and nonprofits with donations and dine & donate events like we do at our shop in Sebastopol. I'm confident that with a yes vote to annex, this can be a successful 2nd location for our business and allow us to further our connection in Petaluma.

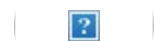
Lastly, I just want to share that Cornerstone (landlord/prop owner) has been an amazing landlord for us to work with over the years. Despite our situation with EH they have been incredibly supportive, they are responsive to any needs of tenants on the property and truly people who want to engage and work with the city to make for a better community overall for

everyone. I've had many landlords and cannot say that for most of them.

Thank you for your time,

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photo



Danielle Connor, she/her

Co-Founder, Head of Operations,
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From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Council
Cc: -- City Clerk
Subject: No on Item #8: please don't condone illegal fill and compromise our Denman Flood efforts
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 8:50:57 PM

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear City Council:

Please vote no on Item #8. Please do not amend our GP/zoning to condone illegal behavior that puts at risk citizen property and safety by increasing flood risk.

Approving this will put the City at increased flood risk and, to be sure, set a dangerous precedent. It is not worth the potential for bodily harm, property damage, and expensive liability to taxpayers. The City (taxpayers) will carry unacceptable liability.

Our City has worked very hard and spent much money to plan and build the Denman Reach Flood protections we are proud of. **Why would we negate that? Why, when public safety is our priority #1?**

Why violate our General Plan? Our General Plan mandates "no fill." This fill is illegal! **Why would we condone illegal + dangerous behavior that puts citizens at any amount of increased risk?**

The Consultant's Memo admits that removing the fill is the most prudent thing to do, as it will result in "less flow breaking out upstream" and protect multiple buildings ("building adjacent to the fill removal" + "others"). **This is critical information. I urge you to vote to protect Petalumans.**

Those of us who live adjacent (not even within!) the Payran Flood Zone have seen our flood insurance premium skyrocket: from less than \$1K to \$5,000 since Sid Commons was approved, which fills flood-protection wetlands, which violated our General Plan / River Access & Enhancement Plan. **\$5,000!**

Please don't vote to approve illegal behavior that costs downstream residents more stress plus potential expense and risk to life and property.

Thank you for putting citizen safety and wellbeing first!

Sincerely,
Taryn