

To: San Mateo County Planning Commission

From: William Laven

Re: Permit application for Jered Lawson and Nancy Vail residence at Pie Ranch

I am writing in full support of Jered & Nancy's application and plan to build a single-family home on the Pie Ranch property for use as their family residence.

They founded Pie Ranch and have taken it from a small farm to a large operation with many employees, a thriving business and educational program and a vital piece of the San Mateo Coast. For many, it is a destination point that brings them to see, enjoy, appreciate and value the rural community of Coastal San Mateo.

To run their farm and programs effectively, as any County farmer and rancher will tell the Commission, residence on the land is critical. Good stewardship of land requires constant presence and so a home on their land is critical for both Jered and Nancy and their family and for the entire Coast as it will guarantee that they will be able to protect Pie Ranch in ways that will benefit the entire community, ways in which they could not if denied a permit and forced to live elsewhere.

The San Mateo coastal, rural community needs affordable, permanent housing. While there are many people who believe in minimizing any coastal development, I would hope that those same people would find tremendous value in recognizing and honoring the agricultural history of the coast and would also hope that they would see that providing farmers a way to live on their land will guarantee good land stewardship and benefit the entire community and Coast.

My wife and I own Potrero Nuevo Farm in Half Moon Bay and live on the property so know first-hand how important that is. In our 7 years here and through our association with all of the County organic farmers, we have learned that affordable, on-site housing for farmers is the most important issue we face in terms of our survival here. Without on-site affordable homes, vibrant young farmers may be forced to leave the area and that seems, to me, not only an insult to the history of farming in San Mateo County, but a blow to the future of farming here as well.

To protect the Coast, the Commission must let Coastal farmers live on their land. To insure a healthy future for farming on the Coast, the Commission must grant permits for on-site farm housing. Please grant Jered and Nancy their permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Laven". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William Laven

1045 Tunitas Creek Road, Half Moon Bay

*David R. Lee*  
*2050 Green Oaks Creek Way*  
*Pescadero, CA 94060*

October 26, 2015

To the San Mateo Planning Commission

**Re: County File Number: PLN 2015-00267 (Lawson) – Pie Ranch Parcel**

To Members of the Planning Commission and Staff,

I am writing this letter of support for the Pie Ranch project referenced above (the “Pie Ranch Project”) as I will be unable to attend the Planning Commission Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2015.

We have lived here in Pescadero for the past 10 years and our property abuts the Pie Ranch property line for approximately one-half of a mile. We have been neighbors of Jered Lawson, Nancy Vail and their family during that time.

We have seen the Pie Ranch organization grow from an idea to a robust agricultural organic farm and educational program under a non-profit structure. We have been enthusiastic supporters of their mission and activities and continue to support these programs.

My wife and I have reviewed the San Mateo County Planning and Building Department Report dated October 28, 2015. We note the extensive requirements associated with the Pie Ranch Project and the many conditions and protections associated with the project. We appreciate that the Pie Ranch Project appears to be compliant with the general plan and the LCP. We fully and enthusiastically support the Pie Ranch Project as outlined the Staff’s Report. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



David R. Lee



Farm Fatales  
on  
Irish Ridge Ranch

Erin Tormey  
2500 Lobitos Creek Road  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
650 726 3027

Eggs with Legs & Fruits with Roots  
aka  
Heritage Hens, Pioneer Apples

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
C/O President Carole Groom  
San Mateo County Hall of Justice  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

**Re: Approve Housing Plans for Jered Lawson & Nancy Vail of Pie Ranch, Pescadero**

Dear President Groom and Board,

I am writing today in support of Nancy Vail and Jered Lawson of Pie Ranch, and urge you to approve their plans for the single family home they would like to build on their farm.

Like Jered and Nancy, I believe that a vibrant and economically viable agricultural community that is environmentally responsible and economically viable - and therefore sustainable in San Mateo County - requires access to affordable, permanent housing for farmers and farmworkers alike.

The lack of affordable, available housing in the Agricultural sector is currently recognized as a pressing need in our community. As a 1st generation farmer who, like most of my colleagues on the Coast, faces housing challenges of my own, I applaud the affirmative approach this board has demonstrated, such as the farmer and farmworker housing study currently underway. It is clear and reassuring that there is a growing awareness of the multitude of challenges all farmers in our County face, and a true desire to address the housing issue from a humane perspective that takes into account the environmental, civic, educational and economic benefit that a sustainable agricultural sector in general, and Pie Ranch in particular, provides to the broader community.

I urge you to approve their plans so they may build their home as soon as is reasonable and possible.

Looking Forward,

Erin Tormey,  
Irish Ridge Ranch

cc: Nancy Vail  
Jered Lawson  
Fred Crowder