



RESOLUTION NO. 757

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE OPPOSITION TO THE DESIGNATION OF PROPERTY WITH THE SURFACE MINING OVERLAY WITHIN ANY REASONABLE DISTANCE FROM THE CITY OF WOODLAND, WITHOUT A FULL AND THOROUGH EVALUATION OF THE IMPACTS OF SUCH A DESIGNATION.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that there already exists approximately 210 acres of property with the Surface Mining Overlay designation within a half-mile of the city limits for the City of Woodland; and

WHEREAS, the County is considering designating more property with the Surface Mining Overlay as part of its annual review process; and

WHEREAS, the site of the request is within approximately 1,500 feet from the city limits and in line-of-site of approximately 1,400 homes within the City of Woodland, all of which are likely to be directly affected by the requested designation; and

WHEREAS, the subject property was previously under consideration for the designation and county staff found there was a concern about significant adverse environmental impacts that warranted an Environmental Impact Statement, prior to it receiving the Surface Mining Overlay; and

WHEREAS, Clark County appears to have improperly changed their siting and review criteria for the Surface Mining Overlay to make it easier to attain such a designation regardless of the significant adverse impacts that are likely to result from the designation; and

WHEREAS, the City finds it unacceptable that such policy changes made it possible for County staff to ignore previous concerns about significant adverse environmental impacts and to determine that the uses allowed under the Surface Mining Overlay will not result in proposals that have significant adverse impacts, and

WHEREAS, the city objects to Clark County making a SEPA Determination of Non-Significance without adequate information about the impacts of such a designation; and

WHEREAS, the City objects to the County considering such a designation without considering the impacts to the thousands of citizens who will be affected by the designation, while accepting that consideration of, and mitigation for those impacts should be postponed till a later time; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that avoidance of impacts is a more effective policy model for siting surface mines, than relying on the minimization or mitigation for impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF WOODLAND as follows:


The Woodland City Council and Mayor are firmly and steadfastly in opposition to the approval of any surface mining overlay designations that will have a direct and detrimental impact to the City of Woodland without due consideration of those impacts prior to approval of the designation.

The Woodland City Council and Mayor are resolved in their desire for the Clark County Council to deny new surface mining overlays without a concurrent review of a development proposal to ensure that there is a full understanding of the impacts of such a decision, before it is made.

The Woodland City Council and Mayor strongly encourage the Clark County Council to avoid policy decisions that are likely to cause avoidable impacts.


ADOPTED this 6th day of February, 2023.

CITY OF WOODLAND:




~~William A. Finn, Mayor~~
Montgomery W. Smith, Mayor Pro Temp

Attest:



Georgina D. Anderson, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as to form:



Frank F. Randolph, City Attorney