

***Nancy, please send this to the Yachats Planning Commission Board as an FYI item.
Thank you.
Jerome***

Yachats and Yachats-area residents:

A number of property owners have recently tried to pressure Yachats Planning Commission members into granting them waivers allowing them to ignore mandated stream-and-river setbacks protecting riparian areas. These waivers would affect the temperature, purity, and general quality of water flowing on or near their property.

The Commission sensibly and responsibly denied these exemptions. There is concern, however, that if one of these property owners appeals the decision to the state Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) only his or her lengthy, detailed testimony would comprise the official record. The official appeals process would, as a result, reflect a skewed and false impression of our community's values.

You can help to remedy this misrepresentation in one of two ways: 1) By attending the next Planning Commission Meeting on Tuesday, April 21 at 3:00 at the Commons in the Civic Meeting Room and making a statement to the committee that environmental values including water quality protections are important and that there should be no weakening of these protections. 2) By submitting your ideas through e-mail to the Planning Commission by e-mailing Nancy Batchelder (nancy@ci.yachats.or.us) with Yachats Planning Commission as your subject. Either method will become part of the official record.

Be as brief or as detailed as you wish. In case of an appeal to LUBA, the result of your putting in your two cents worth will be that there will be a more balanced, more complete record of the values and issues involved.

"Alone we can do so little. Together," wrote Helen Keller, "we can do so much." You have until April 21, but I urge you to act on this while it is fresh in your mind. And please consider sharing this with supportive friends and neighbors in the area. Thank you for your consideration.

Jerome Garger