

October 1, 2015

To: Honorable Judge Paul M. Haakenson
From: Jean Berensmeier, Lagunitas, California
Re: The People of the State of California, et al. V. David Hoffman, et al
Marin County Superior Court case # DIV1502647

Dear Honorable Judge Haakenson,

This case is not about me but in many ways it is all about me and you. I am 83 years old and have lived in Lagunitas, 4 houses away from my good friend David Hoffman, for over 40 years.

I am proud that my 53 years of community activism resulted in acquiring from zero to 2600 acres of public open space; saved an old school building from being demolished that now serves as a thriving Community Center for the entire San Geronimo Valley and founded the SGV Planning Group which helped foil a plan, adopted in 1961, that would have created a Valley of 25, 000 people and 5000 homes rather than the modest population of 4000 people that we have today. I believe and abide by the law and work to change it when needed to help my community or the environment.

But I don't have the vision, the genius, foresight, fortitude or courage to do what David Hoffman has done and so he represents me. His ongoing efforts over the past 40 years have been to show how we must work in harmony with the earth to meet our needs – sustainably – now, and in the future. He has broken the law in order to explore how best to use the "tools" (old, new and invented) needed to meet the challenges of these perilous times. We need to make room in our lives and laws for this kind of creativity and caring.

And so, I hope that you, in your wisdom, can see your way to support these unique efforts and urge the county to find a resolution that will preserve as much of the property as possible as an historical landmark and allow David to live on the land.

Sincerely,
Jean Berensmeier
Lagunitas, California

cc: Supervisor Steve Kinsey and The Last Resort