

## For public comment - Agenda item VI.A.1: Wild Pig Hunt

Bruce Brugler <bbrugler@comcast.net>

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To: Virtual Host <virtualhost@cityoflakeport.com>;

City Council Members:

I am the owner of the land that is adjacent to the Municipal Sewer District property to the west and am very concerned about the proposal for unsupervised hunting of wild pigs. I am unaware of any prior discussions about allowing such hunts or any alternatives that have been considered. I would suggest that the City delay such a decision for additional consideration rather than approve the proposal.

Superintendent Harris' report cites the increase in pig issues "over the past several months". I would note that wild pig activity is highly seasonal, and as the wet season passes it is highly likely that there will be far less damage due to the pigs. I am somewhat surprised at Mr. Harris' comments that complaints from neighboring properties are a factor in his recommendation - I am the major neighbor and yet have not ever heard from Mr. Harris or anyone associated with this proposal. I for one am NOT in favor of having unescorted and well armed people (most of whom are not Lake County residents) running around with likely little regard for property lines or the trajectory of their bullets.

While I applaud the SHARE program's goals of providing public access to hunting opportunities, this property simply is unsuitable for such a program. It is NOT a rural property where errant bullets are likely to fall safely, but is instead ringed by residences, a college, businesses, private property, and highways, all of which are well within range of errant bullets that can easily travel over a mile. Why sacrifice public money safety when the city receives no compensation for opening it's land to non-residents?

To the best of my understanding, no alternatives have been considered to the SHARE program, a program that appears to offer little to the city from a financial standpoint. Why not partner with a licensed hunting guide who could escort a limited number of hunters in a controlled manner? Such an approach would both abate the pigs, ensure that hunters are obeying the rules, and provide the City with substantial payments.

I would note that it is highly likely that very few pigs would need to be shot for the problem to be solved. Pigs are very intelligent animals and would rapidly learn that the City's property is not safe forage. A limited number of controlled and guide-supervised hunts could easily accomplish this and is a far better solution than throwing open the gates for a flood of outside hunters. Thx

Respectfully,

Bruce Brugler