

From: [Sillydog Farms](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Subject: Bandon Biota Golf Course Application Testimony
Date: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:57:54 AM

This Message originated outside your organization.

Dear Planning Commission members,

I am writing to you today to append my testimony of 1 December with additional information about the groundwater supply that the Golf Course is proposing to use and related issues of ecological significance to the local Agricultural community who have been all but left out of this discussion that is literally life or death to them. I am writing, in part, on their behalf, whether it "counts" according to your legal team or not. Common sense would suggest that these people's opinions should matter the most.

Nonetheless, I present to you the points we have discussed as being relevant to the land-use decisions at hand.

1) The water in the semi-deep marine layer aquifer is NOT recharged by seasonal rains - the water is much older and more widespread than the developers are willing to admit to. This is evidenced by the pH of said water, which remains a constant ph 6.8 throughout the season, and I have documented proof of this as well as witnesses. Water in the upper table ranges from ph 5.4 to ph 5.8, with seasonal variation: a demonstrable fact. They are NOT the same. This resource is NOT renewable and is the only backup water that local farmers have. The proposed pumping rate WILL most certainly drain that water supply in a few short years and, I have more recent (than 2005) hydrological evidence to support that.

I submit to the council that Bandon Biota has cherry-picked old evidence because the current evidence doesn't support their ask. Nor, is it reasonable to assume that they'd only irrigate for 100 days in the future. There were over 200 functionally dry days here in 2020 and 2021.

2) Local growers who use surface and surface-layer groundwater have no other options to continue growing without drilling into the deeper layer. If the surface water fails, that is their only hope to stay alive. We have been within 10 feet of those wells failing the last two years on the Leff property. I have evidence of this, too.

3) The area is populated by snowy plovers, among other endangered species. I have video evidence of this and at least 48 witnesses who can testify to this fact, in the form of my horticultural students who I routinely take on video field trips to the Southern boundary of the proposed course.

4) The lawyer for the golf course blatantly lied to the board in testimony that only gorse was removed. I have a wealth of video evidence documenting this, too.

5) I have walked the property in question many times over the years, often with witnesses, and have documented several endangered and rare species of plants in that area including terrestrial orchids that grow nowhere else in the world. There is video evidence of this, too.

6) I have since spoken to the neighbouring farms and have found that they are ALL in opposition to the water usage proposed by the golf course. They were NOT alerted to the

proposed hearings until I virtually knocked on their doors and told them. This is a MASSIVE GAP in relevant testimony.

7) It was understood by said farmers that they would have until 22 December to make their concerns known. I only found out today at 11am that I only had one hour to consolidate my thoughts and send them. I have called as many as I can, but they're all out working today, as is common. I would encourage the board to please reach out to these people who would be the MOST impacted by this decision.

8) Planned farm lands were taken out of commission by the purchase of these properties over the years when the landowners had personal troubles and needed money. They were then let to grow back in gorse. Bandon Biota has been a IRRESPONSIBLE, BAD LANDOWNER of these parcels, presumably for the purpose of making them appear as if they are NOT high value farmland. They *were* and could be again. The fire hazard around the Leff and Krannick properties that has been allowed to happen is also real and documented.

9) Golf is not a growing sport, despite what its enthusiasts might tell you. A casual look at the state of the sport in North America is that it has been in decline for many years and is not, as a general rule, attracting new or young players. Bandon, like many South Coast towns, has a long history of throwing itself after anyone who flashes cash. What will happen when people no longer play golf like they used to? Will they start plugging houses onto their properties? What is this place going to look like in 50 years? I don't need to tell you that's what planning is all about.

10) The existing golf course in the area (Bandon Crossing) has NOT been a good neighbour to the farmers in the area. They have taken no measures to stop the traffic ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES that continue to occur on their doorstep. They refuse to do anything about the salmon spawning creek that their operations have already dried up, despite multiple complaints to DEQ. They refuse to compensate David Leff for his road that is now flooded every time it rains more than an inch because of their negligence with the water supply. David is supposed to be able to cut them off, too, and has yet to have ANYONE do anything about his concerns. With one bad and unresponsive neighbour with a wall of lawyers to deal with, NOBODY who actually farms here wants another one.

11) On the off-chance the course is ever shut down due to water issues, all those people would lose their jobs. If it doesn't go in, no one has to worry.

12) Perhaps most importantly, were the golf course to tap into ONLY surface-water wells and agreed to be shut down when they went dry, that would be acceptable to the local growers. At no time should they be allowed to tap into the deeper layer (below 45 ft). This could be accomplished by planting native grasses and using a non-irrigation approach, as has been successfully done in other Western States. There is actually NO REASON for them to water non-native grasses non-stop until everything is destroyed for everyone else.

There is a way to make this work, but NOT with the current water plan. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE deny this application as is. To approve it, as is, would be the death of us all here. This is not hyperbole: water is life.

Most sincerely,

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