

Karen Alexander
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Agricultural Land Commission
Regarding file: 58291

To all whom are concerned:

Hello, I am writing on behalf of the RDEK Electoral A Advisory Commission. We are a volunteer citizen advisory board. We are tasked to make recommendations on local land planning matters. The ALC has refused the proposal of Application 58291 to subdivide land in the Agricultural Land Reserve. Our Advisory Commission is feeling disappointed about this decision. We recommended the proposal be accepted based on the following reasons.
The proposal...

- IS consistent with the property's zoning designation
- impacts the agricultural utility of the property by INCREASING it
- encourages, enables and accommodates farm use of the land
- is needed as there is very little local agriculture in our valley and a need to increase it
- is a generational family operation
 - (90% of the worlds farms are run by individuals and families on small acreages using family labor producing 80% of the worlds food)
- long term impact would increase local agricultural production

The ALC panel stated *"subdivision for the purpose of financing improvements to the farm is not appropriate rationale to justify subdivision of agricultural land."* Our Advisory Board is confused by this statement and wishes to have the ALC give us a detailed explanation as to WHY the panel feels this is "not appropriate rationale to justify the subdivision. The owners explained to our Advisory Board they needed land ownership to satisfy the bank's requirements to obtain a loan to increase infrastructure and their farming operations. A local family wants to invest in their farm to increase its production and can only do this by sub diving and owing the farm land. This seems like a rationale justification to support local agriculture to our Advisory Board. Our Advisory Board bases its recommendations on our land, people and community that we have intimate knowledge of. It is the reason we volunteer our time on this Board. It is also noted that the RDEK Board recommended this proposal as well on February 8, 2019. There is a need to recognize our recommendation as it increases local agricultural production in our valley. We would like to request that the ALC reconsiders its decision on this file. If you would like more information you can contact me by email or better yet we welcome you all to attend one of our monthly meetings (3rd Tuesday, Fernie Information Center, 7:30pm).

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,
Yours in farming,

Karen Alexander
RDEK Electoral A Advisory Planning Commission Chair