

James Feenan - Fwd: Re:: Case #: UR_2009-0003; Owner: Dharma Realm Buddhist Association(DRBA)

From: PBS PBS
To: pbscommissions; James Feenan
Date: 6/25/2021 11:37 AM
Subject: Fwd: Re:: Case #: UR_2009-0003; Owner: Dharma Realm Buddhist Association(DRBA)

Mendocino County

JUN 25 2021

Planning & Building Services

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>>> "Ron Epstein" <dharmapeace@att.net> 6/25/2021 11:17 AM >>>

From: Ron Epstein [dharmapeace@att.net]

Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2021

To: pbs@mendocinocounty.org

Cc: 'Ron Epstein'

Subject: Case #: UM_2009-0003 / V_2019-0005; Owner: Dharma Realm Buddhist Association(DRBA)

To: The Department of Planning and Building Services Commission Staff

County of Mendocino Planning & Building Services

860 N Bush Street

Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Case #: [UM_2009-0003](#)

Height Variance of the International Institute for Philosophy and Ethics (IIPE)

Subject: Addendum to Height Variance Application of Use Permit [UM_2009-0003](#): the International Institute for Philosophy and Ethics (IIPE).

This letter is in support of the Addendum to Height Variance Application.

For the last 33 years my wife and I have lived on Mill Creek Road in Talmage on a property adjoining the East Campus of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, the location of the building for which a minor height variance is being requested.

The change, though minor, means the difference between a striking architectural landmark that the entire Ukiah valley community can be proud of and a much less impressive and more ordinary structure. The minor fifteen foot change will not negatively affect the neighbors' viewscape. In the conversations I have had with our neighbors on the subject, the overwhelming majority of them either support the project or have no

objection to it. Furthermore, some non-Buddhist neighbors have expressed their excitement about the project and are eagerly awaiting its completion.

The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas is also a well-known international spiritual center that hosts both Buddhist and interfaith activities. In addition, it has a long track record of contributing to the greater Ukiah community in many other ways, including jobs, tourist dollars, investment dollars, education (both Dharma Realm Buddhist University and excellent primary and secondary schools which are attended by many local children), cultural activities including speakers and exhibitions.

Recently Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA), the parent organization of CTTB, established a PPE donation project. According to the Ukiah Daily Journal of April 30, the project purchased and donated ten Thousand KN95 masks and 50,000 medical face masks for Adventist Health Ukiah Valley (AHUV). The project also purchased and donated to Mendocino County another 60,000 PPE items, including surgical face masks, medical face masks, and medical use gloves for fire departments, paramedics, and other county first responders. A shipment of protective garments and laser thermometers is also on its way.

The CTTB has shown itself to be a responsible member of the community and the county government's approval of the variance would constitute a win/win situation for the neighborhood, the county and the Buddhist association. Therefore, my wife and I both approve of both the overall project and the request for variance.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Epstein, Ph.D.

2800 Mill Creek Road
Ukiah, CA 95482