

JUNE 21, 2021

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
860 NORTH BUSH STREET
UKIAH, CA 95482

Mendocino County

JUN 29 2021

Planning & Building Services

Email – pbs@mendocinocounty.org

REFERENCE: Height Variance, Case #UM2019-0003
DRBA 4951 Bodhi Way, Ukiah, CA 95482

Susan H. Summerford, Planner III

As a former Horticulture Instructor at the Mendocino College and the Dharma Realm Buddhist University, I have been working with the religious community at CTTB for more than twenty years, mostly to beautify their landscape areas of responsibility. In 2016-17, I worked closely with Landscape Architect Jonathan Plant as he created design concepts and scaled drawings for their new East Campus buildings.

In the Summer of 2020, I was asked to design landscape drawings for a "Buffer-Zone" area (600ft x 1,200ft) between Guidiville Road and their new building project. This "Buffer-Zone" Landscape Design specifies the installation of more than one thousand native plants, mostly deciduous and evergreen oak species. The purpose of this new landscape project is three-fold: 1) To create new beauty; 2) To return the landscape of this area to an Oak woodland; 3) And, to shield the new buildings from eastern dwellings and Guidiville Road. As you are aware, the new "Buffer-Zone" Landscape Design was submitted to the County and subsequently approved by the County for installation.

With the landscape designs of Jonathan Plant surrounding the new structures and the new "Buffer-Zone" landscape design recently approved by the County, the Buddhist's are responsibly creating an exceptionally, pleasing environment for all concerned. Because of all the landscape planning, I support the height variance application and feel it will have no impact on the views and vistas of others.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale D Higgins
Horticulture Consultant
Landscape Designer