

Rancher appeals decision legalizing Salmon Creek Farm

By CHARLES RAPPLEYE
Journal Staff Writer

A coast rancher has filed an appeal of the county planning commission's Dec. 2 decision legalizing 14 illegal structures that make up the Salmon Creek Farm, an alternative community on the southerly shoulder of Albion Ridge.

The appeal, filed by Frank Creasy, owner of a 90-acre ranch bordering

the commune, will be heard by county supervisors next week.

Creasy questioned "the legitimization of zoning violations" by the commission, and has started a petition drive to galvanize support for his appeal.

Commissioners cited wording in the general plan calling for recognition of "historic" land uses in finding for the 10-year-old commune.

The plan section allows such uses to be legalized through the end of next year. After that, all zoning, building and health code violations will have to be abated.

The Salmon Creek Farm consists of 21 structures on 28 acres, including nine residences, four detached bedrooms, and such communally-held buildings as a central kitchen, a sauna and a print shop.

There are no roads on the property, and residents reach their homes by paths cut into the hillside.

Residents and friends of the commune testified before the commission that the settlement carefully tends to the land, and that it has benefitted from their husbandry.

Creasy bought and moved on to his property after the Salmon Creek Farm was established.

Ukiah Daily Journal

Ukiah, Mendocino County, California