



As the elected Sheriff of Amador County I am writing on behalf of our community to oppose the placement of a dangerous sexually violent predator (SVP), with no nexus to Amador County, in our jurisdiction. Through this letter it is my hope the court will realize that the decision to place this criminal in Amador County was hastily reached, poorly researched, and places an unfair burden upon the fine families in this community.

Upon receiving notification from the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) regarding the potential placement of William Stephenson, I tasked my Investigations staff with conducting a risk assessment and evaluation. A brief neighborhood canvas was all that was needed to determine that the DSH and Liberty Healthcare (LHC) put insufficient effort into determining the appropriateness of placing the offender at 18901 Shake Ridge Road.

The proposed residence sits at the end of a shared driveway utilized by two additional single-family homes. Upon speaking with the occupants of these residences we learned that no representative from the State or LHC contacted them regarding the placement of the SVP in their neighborhood, no effort was made to determine the makeup of their families, and no vulnerability determination was made. One of the homes along this rural shared driveway is occupied by a retired couple that has frequent visits from their ten grandchildren. Adjacent to this home is another family with three children, ranging in age from nine to fourteen years old. These children, along with their friends, frequent the home next to the proposed residence to visit and interact with the horse on the property. The aforementioned homes are visible from the proposed placement location, including one with a swimming pool which is utilized by the teenage girls at the property throughout the summer months. The property in question is adjacent to BLM land that is frequented by families for outdoor recreation. The residents in the immediate area contacted by my staff were all shocked, dismayed, and angered that this proposed placement by the State and LHC could occur without their notification, input, or any concern for the children and grandchildren.

In addition to the risk posed to the families in the immediate vicinity of the proposed residence, the placement of this SVP in this area would negatively impact families in a larger area as Shake Ridge Road has numerous school bus stops. A call to the Amador County School District's Transportation Department resulted in more disappointment and outrage over this proposed placement. No inquiries were made to officials at the Transportation Department who would have happily relayed that they make approximately eighteen stops along Shake Ridge Road. The most meaningful stop along this route, for this specific situation, is located adjacent to 18905 Shake Ridge Road. This school bus stop sits at the base of the shared driveway the SVP would be using for ingress and egress from his proposed residence.

While I understand the need to house individuals upon their release from a state treatment facility, I plead with the court to reconsider sending this SVP to Amador County. This offender

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has no support base in Amador County, we offer limited social programs and services, and his presence places an undeserved burden on the people and law enforcement in our small county. As the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over this offender, our hands are tied as there are not mechanisms in place that allow us to properly monitor Mr. Stephenson, i.e. parole, probation.

The State has displayed negligence in its inquiry into the suitability of this placement location and I urge the court to consider an alternate residence within the County of Commitment or the listed County of Domicile. The hardworking families in the area of the proposed residence deserve to feel safe and secure in their homes, and the placement of an out of county SVP would only serve to undermine that fundamental right.

Amador County District Attorney Todd Riebe has reviewed the package sent by DSH and our risk assessment. DA Riebe concurs with our arguments and stands in solidarity with me to stop the placement of Mr. Stephenson in Amador County.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary W. Redman
Sheriff-Coroner

Todd Riebe
District Attorney