

May 30, 2011

SWARM
PO Box 869
Willits, CA 95490

Dear SWARM Member,

We are writing you today to let you know of a developing situation in our community that could potentially affect us all.

In January of this year, we were contacted by a local representative of the State Water Resource Control Board regarding a complaint from a member of our community. On this property owner's direction, they inspected all roads in our community (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Gates). The SWRCB representative determined that our roads were a source of "non-point-source pollution" (run off), and need to be immediately brought up to "county standards." He also noted many issues on private property, ranging from driveways to ponds. In response to the SWRCB letter, the SWARM board contacted Supervisor John Pinches and Assemblyman Wes Chesbro, asking that they intervene on our behalf, as these demands are financially impractical and unreasonable. Many county roads, and most private roads in Mendocino County are not up to "county standards." It appears that this threat has, at least for the moment, been backed off.

In February, one of the SWARM board members was served with a restraining order intended to stop any maintenance on the stretch of road bordering their property. The property owner has also indicated their intention to file a Small Claims suit for defamation of character, as well as a larger suit to follow. The restraining order is now under appeal.

Earlier this month, we received a letter from this property owner, requesting every member's information and member status, (whether you're paid up or not) under the basis that they are going to petition for a special meeting of the community. Out of respect for your privacy, we are hesitant to give out this information. Because this request was made in accordance with laws that govern how communities such as ours function, we need to hear from you on whether to oblige.

Thank you for your support, and we welcome your comments.
The SWARM Board of Directors
www.sherwoodgates.org

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Name: _____

___ I DO give SWARM permission to release my personal information to other members of our community for this purpose.

___ I DO NOT give SWARM permission to release my personal information to other members of our community for this purpose.

PLEASE RETURN ASAP TO ADDRESS ABOVE WITHIN 2 WEEKS – THANK YOU!