

## Hedge, Emily

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**From:** 719gmaj@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 12:21 PM  
**To:** Hedge, Emily  
**Subject:** I Balloons above the valley permit

[External Email - Use Caution]

Emily Hedge  
Planner III  
Planning, Building, & Environmental Services  
County of Napa | [1195 Third Street, Room 210 | Napa, CA 94559](#)  
[\(707\) 259-8226](tel:(707)259-8226) | [emily.hedge@countyofnapa.org](mailto:emily.hedge@countyofnapa.org)

Dear Ms. Hedge,

I am writing to you again, regarding the above listed permit. I would like to propose an option. Many, many people have talked to me about the balloon situation in the Napa Valley. They are not comfortable writing a letter regarding this issue. The suggestion is to assess the owners of the balloon company's a penalty of some kind, if it can be documented that they flew below the 500 foot level. The owners of the companies will tell you that they do not fly below 500 feet. They will say that "this happens only when lifting off and landing". You have documentation, pictures, that proves that this is not accurate. A good many of us do not have an issue with the flying of the balloons other than their low flying. The noise and the intrusion into our private space is very offensive.

Based on my perception of the last public meeting, regarding this issue, it seems as though the staff has bonded very favorably with the owner of Balloons above the Valley. You are all on a first name basis This DOES NOT represent an impartial staff.

If it is documented that's a balloon is flying below the 500 foot level, the further launching of balloons should be suspended for a designated period of time or a legitimate fine issued. This penalty should not be a problem. The 500 feet minimum is one half of what the FAA has stated to be permissible. Please consider this option and be fair to both sides It is not right to grant a blanket approval when there is legitimate, documented opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Lindsey,  
1214 Carrell Lane, Napa, CA  
(707)252-2477

Sent from my iPhone

## Hedge, Emily

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**From:** Bordona, Brian  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 9:29 AM  
**To:** Hedge, Emily; Gallina, Charlene  
**Subject:** FW: Use Permit P19-00303 Balloons Above the Valley

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**From:** Morrison, David <David.Morrison@countyofnapa.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 1:51 PM  
**To:** Bordona, Brian <Brian.Bordona@countyofnapa.org>  
**Cc:** Anderson, Laura <Laura.Anderson@countyofnapa.org>; Apallas, Chris <CHRIS.APALLAS@countyofnapa.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Use Permit P19-00303 Balloons Above the Valley

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**From:** Gary Margadant <[gsmargadant@gmail.com](mailto:gsmargadant@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 1:49 PM  
**To:** Andrew J Mazotti <[andrewmazotti@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmazotti@gmail.com)>; Ann Cottrell <[anne.l.cottrell@gmail.com](mailto:anne.l.cottrell@gmail.com)>; Whitmer, David <[Dave.Whitmer@countyofnapa.org](mailto:Dave.Whitmer@countyofnapa.org)>; Gallina, Charlene <[Charlene.Gallina@countyofnapa.org](mailto:Charlene.Gallina@countyofnapa.org)>; Joelle Gallagher <[joellegPC@gmail.com](mailto:joellegPC@gmail.com)>; Morrison, David <[David.Morrison@countyofnapa.org](mailto:David.Morrison@countyofnapa.org)>  
**Subject:** Use Permit P19-00303 Balloons Above the Valley

[External Email - Use Caution]

re: Hot Air Balloon Launching Site, 5360 Washington Street, Napa APN 036-130-029 - PC 9/2/2020  
To: David Morrison & the Napa Valley Planning Commissioners

I understand that with the current conditions resulting from the Fires, that Balloon Launching has not been viable and may continue and to be dp through September 2, 2020. This will prevent the Planning Commission from on site evaluation of actual Balloon launching activity.

If the PC is unable to adequately evaluate the proposal with a proper review of the operation and the issues affecting the neighbors, then the PC should continue the item to a distant date of clear skies and resumption of launches from the current launch site.

Perhaps a continuance to November 11?

Gary

Gary Margadant

4042 Mount Veeder Road

H [707 200 7905](tel:7072007905)

C [707.291.0361](tel:7072910361)

“It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it.” Warren Buffett

RECEIVED

AUG 30 2020

Napa County Planning, Building  
& Environmental Services

August 26, 2020

Ms. Emily Hedge  
Planner III  
Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services  
1195 Third Street, Ste. 210  
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Ms. Hedge:

Our names Jim and Denise Campbell and we live at 5296 Washington Street, Napa, in a peaceful neighborhood where we raise our children and I (Jim) grew up. We are concerned neighbors, citizens, parents and retirees. We are asking you to consider the serious impact of the proposed launch site for hot air balloons at the 5360 Washington Street site. For years we have been documenting the damage and anxiety caused by these mammoth and flammable balloons flying low over our homes and invading our privacy on many levels without regard to FAA rules. Since this operator was given his 50 day permit we had several severe low flights over our home well below the FAA MINIMUM requirements.

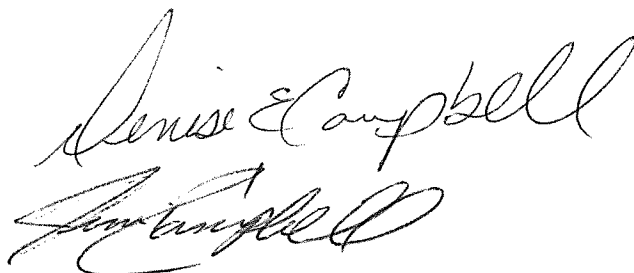
We are in fear every time we hear and see the balloons flying low over our roofs. To us, they present genuine and compelling public safety issues. We have seen them clip tree limbs, come dangerously close to our homes, and fly barely above the vineyards with no regard for home owners and personal privacy or safety.

We would like to sleep in peace and enjoy our property. These are our simple rights. And the County has no right to take that away from us to support an industry in the Ag Preserve that is completely unrelated to agriculture.

Napa has grown significantly since the beginning of hot air balloon launches 40 years ago. There are many, many more homes, wineries, businesses, and density in the Ag Preserve. The landing sites have become few and far between causing them to land in streets, neighborhoods, local parks and even school grounds endangering those around them.

Please do NOT approve this use permit for launching at this site.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'Denise Campbell' and the bottom signature is 'Jim Campbell'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

August 26, 2020

Ms. Emily Hedge  
Planner III  
Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services  
1195 Third Street, Ste. 210  
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Ms. Hedge:

My name is Russ Campbell and I live at 5298 Washington Street, Napa, in a peaceful neighborhood where we raise our children and grandchildren. We are concerned neighbors, citizens, parents and retirees. We are asking you to consider the serious impact of the proposed launch site for hot air balloons at the 5360 Washington Street site. For years we have been documenting the damage and anxiety caused by these mammoth and flammable balloons flying low over our homes and invading our privacy on many levels without regard to FAA rules. Since this operator was given his 50 day permit we had several severe low flights over our home well below the FAA MINIMUM requirements.

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Sincerely,

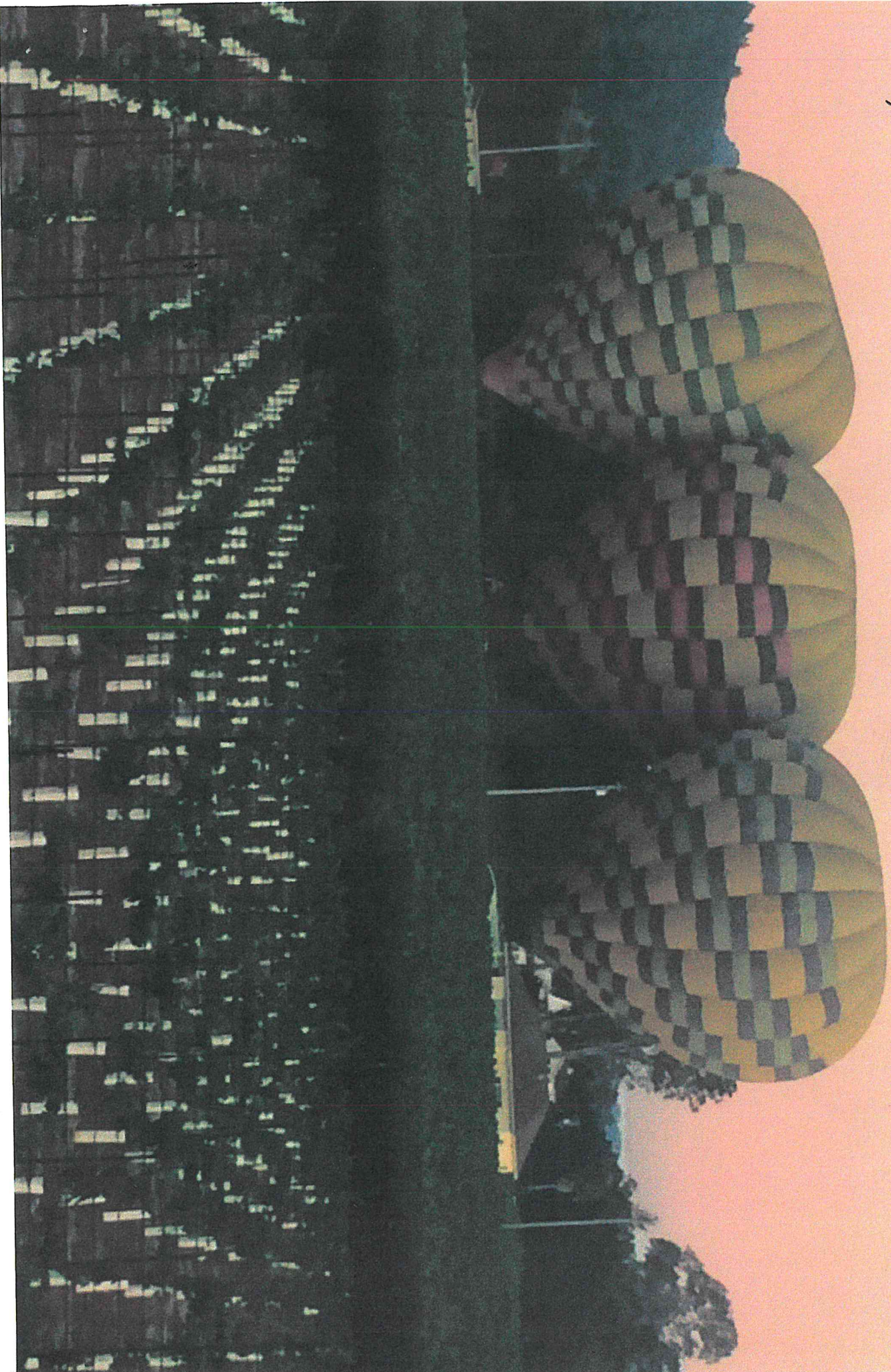
*Russ Campbell*

NEVER DREAMED OF THIS!

FOR 75 YEARS

5360 WASHINGTON ST.  
11/12/19

THE VIEW FROM 5298 WASHINGTON ST.  
R. CAMPBELL'S PROP.



August 29, 2020

RECEIVED

AUG 30 2020

Napa County Planning, Building  
& Environmental Services

Ms. Emily Hedge  
Planner III  
Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services  
1195 Third Street, Ste. 210  
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Ms. Hedge:

My Name is Jane Vianello. My husband and I built our home at 2040 West Oak Knoll Avenue, Napa. We loved the area and felt fortunate to have good neighbors. We raised our children here and retired here.

Forty years ago we were awakened by strangers looking in our bedroom window early one morning. We could see and hear them clearly. The strangers in the balloon gondola could see us clearly. This was our introduction to balloons.

Since then, we have had damage to the corner of our roof and we have witnessed a large balloon being removed from our fish pond.

One of our elderly neighbors came to me in tears. She said a balloon was so low the people looked in her bathroom window and saw her on the toilet.

The balloons are beautiful up in the sky but not hovering over private property intruding on the lives of people who do not enjoy seeing and hearing strangers in their yards.

Several balloon companies travel over my property just west of Highway 29. At times it is a balloon freeway. These invaders, these disruptors are a reoccurring irritation.

The county has done nothing to curb this low flying behavior. I have sent in dated, time stamped photos and there has been no change. I have met with county people and they have been cordial and there has been no change.

Evidently the people who pay to look into our private spaces have more importance to the county than the resident taxpayers who support their jobs.

I am against frequent invasions from low flying balloons. Please do not approve Permit P19-00303.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

AUG 30 2020

Napa County Planning, Building  
& Environmental Services

August 26, 2020

Ms. Emily Hedge  
Planner III  
Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services  
1195 Third Street, Ste. 210  
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Ms. Hedge:

Our names Jim and Denise Campbell and we live at 5296 Washington Street, Napa, in a peaceful neighborhood where we raise our children and I ( Jim) grew up. We are concerned neighbors, citizens, parents and retirees. We are asking you to consider the serious impact of the proposed launch site for hot air balloons at the 5360 Washington Street site. For years we have been documenting the damage and anxiety caused by these mammoth and flammable balloons flying low over our homes and invading our privacy on many levels without regard to FAA rules. Since this operator was given his 50 day permit we had several severe low flights over our home well below the FAA MINIMUM requirements.

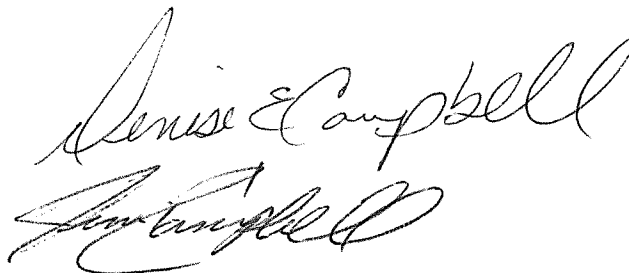
We are in fear every time we hear and see the balloons flying low over our roofs. To us, they present genuine and compelling public safety issues. We have seen them clip tree limbs, come dangerously close to our homes, and fly barely above the vineyards with no regard for home owners and personal privacy or safety.

We would like to sleep in peace and enjoy our property. These are our simple rights. And the County has no right to take that away from us to support an industry in the Ag Preserve that is completely unrelated to agriculture.

Napa has grown significantly since the beginning of hot air balloon launches 40 years ago. There are many, many more homes, wineries, businesses, and density in the Ag Preserve. The landing sites have become few and far between causing them to land in streets, neighborhoods, local parks and even school grounds endangering those around them.

Please do NOT approve this use permit for launching at this site.

Sincerely,



Denise Campbell  
Jim Campbell

August 31, 2020

Emily Hedge  
Planner 111  
Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services  
1195 Third Street Ste 210  
Napa, Ca 94558

RE: Use Permit Request- Napa Valley Balloons

Our names are Donna and Allan Gordon, and we live in North Napa in a peaceful subdivision, cross streets Verona Way and Haven, on the west side of Highway 29. We are concerned neighbors, citizens, parents and retired educators. We are asking you to consider the impact of the proposed launching pad for hot air balloons at 5360 Washington Street will have on our lovely neighborhood as they continue to present a public safety issue in our community. For over 7 years we have been documenting the damage and anxiety caused by these mammoth and flammable balloons. We have contacted the County, city of Napa, and the FAA as well as the balloon company directly as to alert them to the public safety menace they cause to our neighborhood on numerous occasions. From our front door, we have photographed the Napa Balloon Company using our yards, streets, and nearby small grassy field ( Abruzzini Park,) as a frequent landing site, disingenuously citing chronic “ emergency” conditions. This creates a frightening spectacle of large balloons, gondolas full of frightened passengers, chasers, vans, and general chaos in the early morning hours all too frequently. We have seen 3 balloons land simultaneously in our small grassy field where children were playing moments before. We have seen limbs shorn off trees as the gondolas lurch and bump to the ground, narrowly missing cars of families headed to school and work, as well as joggers and cyclists on the Vine Trail. We have heard the frightened voices of passengers of a balloon that landed directly on the railroad tracks behind our house. One ballon landed in the intersection adjacent to our home and employees of Napa Balloon Company, without seeking my permission, scaled our fence to enter our yard to retrieve yards of silk, frightening our dog, and trampling our landscaping in the process. On another occasion, a balloon narrowly missed hitting our roof and landed in our driveway, which measures a mere 22 feet. We would like you to understand that the proposed launch pad will continue the pattern of extremely dangerous conditions these balloons will have on the serenity and quality of life we too would like to enjoy in this beautiful Valley. The Napa Balloon Company has, to this date, expressed no concern to us over these horrific events in our community.

We are in fear every time we hear and see them flying low over our roofs; to us, they present a genuine and compelling public safety issue. The balloons are a disaster in waiting to people or property in our neighborhood. And it is also the loss of privacy that concerns us. The balloons fly at a low altitude over our home. We can see them, and they can see us. Passengers flying over our home at low altitude in the gondolas have waved, called to our dog, disturbed our breakfasts, complimented our landscaping, and caused us to retreat inside to avoid their cameras. It is invasive and prevents us from enjoying the serenity of our homes. Our family and guests resent



the gawking, the noise, the intrusion into our privacy and yard. We would like to sleep in peace and enjoy our surroundings. Please consider the quality of life that we should be able to enjoy as you discuss the impact of granting permission for the Napa Balloon Company for a launch site, and we urge you to study the environmental impact of these intrusive and dangerous balloons upon our community. Please consider the ramifications your decision will make on your neighbors, such as Allan and I, as a direct result of permitting the proposed launch pad.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Donna and Allan Gordon  
Napa, California  
200 Verona Way  
Napa, CA 94558  
707-363-6071

## Hedge, Emily

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**From:** Karen Gatton <kgat59@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 3:59 PM  
**To:** Hedge, Emily  
**Subject:** Hot air balloons

[External Email - Use Caution]

Emily Hedge  
Napa count Planning, Building and Environmental Services  
1195 Third Street Ste 210  
Napa ,Ca  
94558

GOOD AFTERNOON, MY NAME IS KAREN GATTON, AND I LIVE IN NORTH NAPA , IN A VERY QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD, ON HAVEN WAY AND HIGHWAY 29. I BOUGHT MY HOME IN 2001 AND I AM THE FIRST OWNER. I HAVE ENJOYED THE BALLOONS WAY BACK WHEN THEY WOULD JUST FLY OVER AND DRIFT AWAY. FOR QUITE A FEW YEARS NOW IT APPEARS THEY HAVE TAKEN LIBERTY'S WITH FLYING LOW AND LANDING IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD. I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES I WOULD BE HAVING MY MORNING COFFEE OR MAYBE A MORNING SWIM AND I CAN LOOK UP AND SEE THE PEOPLE IN THE BASKET. THE SOUND IS SO LOUD IT IS ALMOST FRIGHTENING. I HAVE SEEN THEM BUMP INTO OUR STREET TREES, HIT OUR NEIGHBORS TREES AND HOMES. IF I CAN SEE THE FACES OF THE CUSTOMERS IN THE BASKET, THEY CAN SEE ME. MY PRIVACY IS INVADED ON THE DAYS NAPA VALLEY BALLOONS DECIDE TO USE OUR PROPERTY AS A LANDING POINT. I CANNOT COUNT THE TIMES I OPEN MY GARAGE TO LEAVE FOR THE MORNING AND SEE THE BASKET FULL OF PEOPLE IN MY DRIVEWAY, NOT TO MENTION THE VANS AND THE ACTUAL BALLOON IN MY STREET. THIS MUST BE SCARY FOR THE CUSTOMERS AS IT APPEARS THERE IS NO LANDING PLAN. IT USE TO BE VERY PLEASANT TO HAVE THEM FLY OVER BUT AS OF LATE MY PRIVACY AND MY PROPERTY HAS BEEN INVADED. I BOUGHT THIS PARTICULAR HOME BECAUSE OF ITS PRIVATE YARD, I.E. NO NEIGHBORS LOOKING DOWN INTO MY YARD, BUT THESE BALLOONS TAKE MY PRIVACY AWAY. IF PERMISSION IS GRANTED FOR THIS NEW LANDING/TAKEOFF MY PRIVACY WILL BECOME LESS AND LESS AND I GUARANTEE SOMEONE WILL GET HURT. I AS A HOMEOWNER AND TAX PAYER WOULD LIKE THE BALLOONS TO STAY AWAY FROM MY HOME. I HAVE BEEN PATIENT AND FORGIVING FOR YEARS AND NO MORE.

THANKYOU FOR YOUR TIME ON THIS MATTER

SINCERELY,

KAREN GATTON  
NAPA , CA