

ORDINANCE MAY KEEP PEACE AT VACATION HUB

HOMEOWNERS IN LAKE TULLOCH AREA WILL NEED SPECIAL PERMIT FOR RENTERS

By ***Dana M. Nichols***

March 27, 2013

Record Staff Writer

March 27, 2013 12:00 AM

SAN ANDREAS - After years of discussion and months of revisions, Calaveras County has a new ordinance regulating the popular waterfront vacation rental houses on the shores of Lake Tulloch near Copperopolis.

The county Board of Supervisors adopted the rules on a 3-2 vote with board Chairwoman Merita Callaway and Supervisor Cliff Edson opposed.

The ordinance will, for the first time, require the owners of vacation rentals around Tulloch to obtain a county permit and to risk losing the permit if renters overcrowd the homes or cause other problems, such as late-night noise or blocking streets with parked vehicles.

The new ordinance does not apply to vacation rental houses elsewhere in the county.

For years, some neighbors of the rentals have complained that they face constant noise, profanity and drunken crowds during the summer party season. Rental owners have defended the practice as a business that helps support the local economy.

Some of the rentals go for \$650 a night or more, making it possible for owners to clear tens of thousands of dollars in profits each season.

The supervisors who favored the measure described it as a compromise that will allow the vacation rental business to continue by reining in its worst excesses.

"Overall, I think this ordinance does not take away the right to rent property," said Supervisor Debbie Ponte, whose district includes Lake Tulloch.

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 607-1361 or dnichols@recordnet.com. Visit his blog at recordnet.com/calaverasblog.

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