

# Public Comment- Group 3

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Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Jessie Condit <jessie@santaynezvalley.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 7:23 PM  
**To:** Board Letters  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna Letter of Support  
**Attachments:** attachment 1.pdf



Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Jessie Bengoa

Dear Supervisors:

After reviewing the proposed Rancho La Laguna project I felt it necessary to lend my support in writing. I appreciate you taking the time to consider these points.

I think we'd all agree that the Santa Ynez Valley is, without question, an exceptionally special place to both live and visit. We enjoy a charming atmosphere created by the marriage of agriculture, a rich history and the lively environment of small businesses serving our many weekend guests and local residents. There are few places like this valley anywhere on earth.

My family was amongst the first to settle in this beautiful place, start businesses, own a home, attend school and contribute to the slow and purposeful growth of the area. My young children are now in the 6th generation of our family to call this valley home. We have been ranchers, farmers and business owners for the length of our history here. Our cattle and small farming operations were run on leased parcels never larger than 200 acres and as small as 5 acres. We made a living on these modest parcels of land, built a family and were able to grow up with the valuable lessons afforded by the ranching lifestyle. What a privilege that was.

The parcels of Rancho La Laguna would be such an incredible addition to the landscape of this valley. I know, I grew up on several just like them. Those parcels would be purchased by invested and engaged land owners, then very often leased to small farmers to produce the specialty crops that we all shop for locally. I can't think of a more appropriate and worthwhile use of the land. Not many people can afford to purchase several thousand acres and make a farming operation "pencil out," whether that land is then leased or not. That amount of land is both difficult to manage and a strain to afford. However, when more manageable acreage is leased to small farmers, it is mutually beneficial and financially feasible.

Aside from the agricultural viability of these smaller parcels is the contribution to the charm and stunning landscape of our valley. We enjoy significant revenue from wine tasters and weekend visitors looking to take in our serene views and quiet way of life. Rancho La Laguna is located off of Foxen Canyon Road, part of our famed "Wine Trail." What better view to take in for visitors and locals alike than to look out on carefully maintained small farms? Though I doubt any homes would even be visible from the road, would a carefully constructed artisan home not add to the view? Absolutely.

Projects such as this should be a welcome addition to our valley. My family is deeply rooted here and through generations of experience we have seen projects such as this add so positively to the area. This is "growth with purpose," and a respectful way to use the land for the benefit of local farmers, families and those of us that have called this valley home and will continue to do so.

Please support the project at Rancho La Laguna, what an exceptional addition to our valley.

Sincerely,

Jessie Bengoa  
5th Generation from Solvang  
Local Property Owner  
Local Business Owner

## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Renee Condit <renee@santaynezvalley.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 6:54 PM  
**To:** Board Letters  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna Letter of Support  
**Attachments:** la\_laguna\_letter.pdf

Thank you for you time in reading this letter.

- Renee Appel

8/23/17

Dear Supervisors:

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. This topic of lot splits on large parcels and the proposed Rancho La Laguna project are both very important to me for many reasons.

First and foremost, we lack farmable acreage in this area for the average farmer. The smallest parcel in this proposed split is 160 acres. I grew up in the Santa Ynez Valley. My great grandparents, grandparents, parents, myself and our children all had the opportunity to ranch and farm on leased ground. Few people have the means to own a piece of ground for the purpose of ranching and farming. By having owners that had no interest in that, but enjoyed the income creates a win/win situation. We farmed parcels as small as 5 acres and as large as 100. Depending on the crop, you don't need much acreage to make a living. We ran cattle as well on 20-250 acre parcels.

It is beyond frustrating when I hear people dictating what can and cannot be accomplished while they themselves are lacking any first hand knowledge of the subject. In this case, that subject being the agricultural viability of parcels ranging from 5 to 200 acres. They quote "what's viable" without really knowing the hard numbers.

I want to keep seeing ground being farmed and ranched in this area. It is a heck of a lot easier to run and maintain "doable" ranches — i.e. 160 acres — versus significantly larger parcels that are only manageable by large agriculture operations, or so-called "big ag." The small farmer is our lifeblood and they need land at a workable size. Rancho La Laguna means more farmable land, more revenue for the county and success for the small farmer. These are without question all positives.

My grandchildren are the 6th generation of my family to live in Solvang. Chip Hanly's grandfather and mine were old friends. Family is of the utmost importance to us. Chip is trying to keep a family tradition going and maintain the face of this valley. This valley is a special place. Isn't that the reason so many "outsiders" move here and call this home? The unique beauty and feel of this area is created by the type of people that live this rural lifestyle. Those people are small landowners, ranchers, farmers and the subsequent generations that have been able to stay and raise their kids here on their family's land.

I heard someone say that they wanted to keep this ranch from being split because they wanted to drive by one big ranch and enjoy it's beauty. Really? Real people have to make a living off the land. This is not "The People's Land of Mother Russia." By creating smaller parcels you will create even more beautiful vistas because property owners and small farmers are stewards of the land. They respect the land, and they're looking to maintain its character. Owners of parcels such as those proposed for Rancho La Laguna very frequently lease their land to small farmers. Those farmers supply our local Farmers' Markets, stores and restaurants, and they're pillars of our community.

Please use your heads and vote YES on this project, so we can continue providing this lifestyle and the vistas that so many of us enjoy.

Sincerely Frustrated,  
Renee Appel

## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Bettina Barrett <bettbarr@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna

Dear Members of THE Board of Supervisors:

I have just been notified re the 4,000 acres of Rancho Laguna and what is being proposed re that land -- and I am horrified!

What we do not want is more "development" that eats away the landscape we all love and enjoy. While I'm an elder, seemingly fast approaching the age of 90 ( in four years), I have seen how much already has been done in the Santa Ynez valley, as well as here in Santa Barbara and along the coastline.

It is high time we stop and take a good long look at what is around us -- besides people.

Already our children are being squeezed out of what we call Nature, having less and less experience of open lands and hillsides to climb and explore, even being limited to the fresh air that the earth and all its growing trees, grasses, etc. provide.

Is this really what we want to turn into concrete and cement? along with roads plus more traffic?

PLEASE think hard and slowly about "development" and what all that word itself holds -- and let this ranch land be what it is right now. Take a deep breath, please .... and do not make a mistake that will turn backwards all the beauty and wildness we humans value along with all the creatures who so depend on staying alive as well.

Thank you.

Bettina T. Barrett  
128 W. Arrellaga, #D  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101  
(805)966-0906

## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Justin Swabash <JimmyJazz332@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 9:52 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna

I urge you, as a Santa Ynez Valley resident, to reject the owners appeal to rezone and redevelop the Rancho La Laguna property.

Thank you, Justin

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

**Lenzi, Chelsea**

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**From:** Mo El <naim11@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 9:58 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna

**Please I urge the Board to deny this protect and protect this amazing landscape for wildlife and local agriculture.**

**Thank you.**

**Naim Elwafai**

Sent from my iPad

## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Tana Sommer <tana@tanasommer.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 10:40 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna

Please add my voice to those residents of Santa Barbara County requesting that you **deny** the residential development project proposed for Rancho La Laguna. This vast land is home to so many species of animals and birds and needs to stay natural and agricultural. Bringing in construction, buildings, people, and traffic and pollution will be at a great price to the county. The inherent beauty of this particular land is also well worth preserving for generations to come. Water resources are already scarce. Why menace this pristine landscape? Please vote to deny the appeal.

Thank you,  
Tana Sommer-Belin  
162 Euclayptus Hill Circle  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

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Visit [www.tanasommer.com](http://www.tanasommer.com)



## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Lynette Johnson <brilyn@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 2:08 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna

Dear SB Board of Supervisors, and in particular Grant House, whom I know  
RE RANCHO LA LAGUNA—PLEASE SAY NO!

**Please SAY NO to the proposed La Laguna development that threatens our nature resource.** I grew up in Santa Ynez, have been a 40 yr SB resident/tax payer and still visit family & in Santa Ynez. This development defies reason, given the current severe, ongoing drought in the SB County. Also, **the HWY 154 corridor** has become an increasing menace to life and nature, and this will only add more congestion & pollution. In a few short years, SB County, CA State, and we the taxpayer, would be asked to fund a jillion dollars for a decades-long widening of HWY 154, WHICH IN TURN, would be a **FURTHER DEGRADATION** to the once-beautiful Santa Ynez Valley *and* quality of life in SB. The required added infrastructures & resources **would tax the state budget as well, WHICH IN TURN WILL REDUCE REVENUES TO SB COUNTY.** We're **already threatened enough** by the ever-expanding Native American lands in that area.

PLEASE, PLEASE DENY THIS PROJECT, in the interest of “ordinary” shrinking-middle-class residents who will be so negatively impacted.

Sincerely, Lynette & Brian Johnson, 748 Litchfield Lane, SB 93109

## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Judy Orias <judy.orias@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 6:33 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna

County of Santa Barbara  
Clerk of the Board

Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara:

Please vote to deny the establishment of estates in the Rancho de Laguna area. As a long time resident of the county I urge you to preserve the agricultural and natural lands in our county for future generations. Thank you Judith Dodge Orias 3788 Torino Dr, Santa Barbara, Calif, 93105

## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Ron Griffin <manzanitanursery@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 8:09 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna

Dear SB board of supervisors ,

I urge you to deny the appeal of the planning commission's decision regarding Rancho La Laguna. Opening up the rural agricultural lands to down sizing development should not be allowed. Please do not lead our beautiful county in that direction!

Ron & Diane Griffin  
880 Chalk Hill Rd.  
Solvang Ca 93463

Sent from my iPhone

## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Hoffman, Tom <Tom.Hoffman@flir.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** re. Aug 25 discussion of Rancho La Laguna

To SB County Board of Supervisors:

On Tuesday, August 29, please deny the appeal to develop Rancho La Laguna, and protect the agricultural and natural lands in Santa Barbara County. Shut down this project, and protect this amazing landscape for wildlife and local agriculture.

Regards,

Tom Hoffman

5404 Agana Drive

Santa Barbara, CA 93111

805-570-3498

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## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** Louise Roberts <conejocreek@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna

To the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

We in Ventura County urge you to help us save our state and our nation's critical farmland resources. Southern California farmland is unique in that our mild coastal weather optimizes the growing capacity of our agricultural lands. Less than 1/5 of the U.S. land is high quality, and we are losing this finest land to development at an accelerating rate.

Our agricultural land provides the nation, and the world, with an unparalleled abundance of food. But farmland means much more than food. Well-managed farmland shelters wildlife and provides them with migratory corridors, supplies scenic open space, filters impurities from our air and water, and battles climate change through carbon sequestration.

These working lands keep our taxes down and maintains the legacy of our agricultural heritage. It makes no sense to build "estates" on our best farmland...instead, we have a responsibility to protect this most valuable resource for future generations.

We urge you to deny the Rancho La Laguna appeal.

Thank-you,  
Merrill Berge  
Louise Roberts  
Save Conejo Creek. org  
Dedicated to preserving the fertile farmland at the bottom of the Conejo Grade

## Lenzi, Chelsea

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**From:** francesca Hunter <cesca.hunter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 2:02 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Rancho La Laguna

To whom it may concern,

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this meeting in regard to the development of Rancho La Laguna. This ranch is so rich in old California history. There are very very few such places left in Santa Ynez, much less anywhere in California. It is extremely precious land as any who know of it realize. Please consider the benefits of the preservation of La Laguna, as opposed to the short sighted, devastating effects of the lack of consciousness which perpetuates this continues mass development. Soon our grandchildren will never understand the preciousness of nature. This is IRREVERSIBLE. Clearly people are absolutely unaware of there naive actions. It would be a foolish mistake to develop. This is horrendous and shameful and very very sad.

Thank you very much for considering.

Francesca Castagnola Hunter  
(Sedgwick Ranch family member, daughter of Francis Sedgwick former owner of Rancho La Laguna)

Please see link

<http://www.sedgwick.org/na/families/robert1613/B/4/7/4/2/3/RanchoLaLagunaHistory.html>