

Group 2 Public Comment

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A-16

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Sarah Trigueiro <sarah.trigueiro@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 11:16 PM
To: Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob
Subject: Comment Letter Re Item A-16

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I was disappointed to see that the Board Letter (for agenda item Quarterly Update on Cannabis Taxation, Licensing & Enforcement) does not make any mention of or give a timeline for completing its evaluation of what the Board directed to the Planning Commission 2 months ago - to come up with recommendations and strategies to mitigate odor and other impacts of cannabis operations along the urban rural boundary and conflicts with existing agriculture (eg, considering potential bans, buffers, etc). We residents of Carpinteria are wondering why this is not being prioritized, since our lives are deeply, negatively affected by marijuana growing impacts. The air quality and odors have not improved. In fact, they have worsened, particularly along Foothill Rd near La Mirada EDRN and around our high school. There are also significant impacts in Casitas Pass and Shepherd Mesa areas. We are suffering greatly and seeing no meaningful actions that alleviate the situation. Government can and should act to end this crisis - the regulatory framework and enforcement are clearly flawed.

I continue to find it deeply troubling that the Board adopted a ban on marijuana cultivation in Ag1 inland (parcels 20 acres or under) without even considering a parallel treatment for Ag1 coastal zone (parcels 20 acres or under). The fact that we have dilapidated open-air-venting greenhouses in Carpinteria Valley is not a germane basis for differential zoning treatment. Zoning relates to allowable uses for land itself, not the happenstance of existing infrastructure.

The sad reality is that Carpinteria Valley has become a grand, shameful experiment for open-venting greenhouse pot grows in close proximity to schools, children, and other residents. The air quality is awful - particularly on account of our inversion weather patterns that often trap air in the valley. Despite cannabis industry claims to contrary, there are real air quality impacts borne out by a growing body of research on ozone formation due to marijuana growing. Many residents are experiencing respiratory issues - this is deeply troubling and I would posit not something the County wants on its conscience.

The noxious air and odors keep us from enjoying our own homes, endanger our community's children as guinea pigs, and have rendered our town an oft-cited cautionary tale for other counties.

It's fascinating really: We are watching as history repeats itself. We are seeing the PR efforts of big cannabis (much like big tobacco and oil) trying to prove it is good for the community while minimizing valid concerns that will - if history is any guide - ultimately be borne out years later when the damage is already done.

Interestingly (and ironically), the powerful legal cannabis industry acts in some of the same ways the drug cartels did in Columbia during the reign of Pablo Escobar - we have seen the marijuana industry slowly but surely infiltrate our centers of local power and influence - from our Rotary Club to our School Board. And what of it? Our School Board has now accepted a donation from the cannabis growers - in contravention of its own policies.

<https://www.independent.com/2019/09/19/the-carpinteria-school-board-debacle/>

Consider this the canary in the coal mine. With money, the cannabis growers buy up power and - importantly - silence from the very local representatives and leaders we have entrusted to protect us. The stranglehold grows to the point where it seems normal - even celebrated to receive such funds. Such short term considerations, however, are dwarfed by the long term spectre of becoming another Medellin, where Escobar's cartel consolidated so much political capital (largely through community donations to hospitals, schools, and housing for the poor) that he ended up elected into Colombia's Congress, a hero of the people despite ultimately horrific human impacts.

I believe there is a very real threat to the future of Santa Barbara County and it comes proferring tax revenue and political donations. It wants to give to our schools. It wants to step in to fund what the government cannot. *Or at least that is the narrative (our libraries - often cited as feeble pawns in this discourse - are entirely fundable from the ordinary course County budget).* Let us remember the lessons of big tobacco, big oil, and Medellin and establish better boundaries. I fear that we will otherwise wake up one day to 5 cannabis growers sitting on the dais and a community no one wants to live in anymore.

Sincerely,
Sarah Trigueiro

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Sandy Nargi <sandynargi@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 6:38 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Carpinterians Against Cannabis

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Please save Carpinteria. We know mistakes have been made. Please repair what the County Supervisors have allowed to happen to our once welcoming and charming area.

We need your help. We are deeply disappointed.

Sincerely
Sandra Nargi
Concerned Carpinterians

Sent from my iPhone