

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - Group 3

#6



From: Shelby Hodge <shelbykh28@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2026 4:38 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

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Shelby Hodge
Asheville, NC / USA
shelbykh28@gmail.com
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Shelby Hodge, and I am writing from Asheville, NC / USA to express my strong support for Dare 2 Dream Farms in their appeal before your Board. I participated in the WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) agricultural work-exchange program at Dare 2 Dream Farms in Summer 2014, and the experience has had a lasting impact on me.

The WWOOF program is a non-commercial, educational work-exchange: participants contribute their labor to the farm and receive housing, meals, and immersive hands-on agricultural education in return. It is not a commercial lodging arrangement. Dare 2 Dream Farms has welcomed over 500 WWOOF participants from across the United States and internationally — sharing California's Central Coast agricultural traditions, sustainable farming practices, and genuine rural community with people from around the world. I was grateful to be one of them.

[Add your personal experience here — what you learned at the farm, what stood out about Jeremy and Megan's hospitality and values, how the experience affected your perspective on food, farming, or sustainable living.]

The kind of authentic agricultural education and cultural exchange that Dare 2 Dream Farms provides cannot be replicated by a commercial operation. The farm has always kept its gates open sunup to sundown to anyone who wants to visit — to see the animals, walk the garden, and connect with where their food comes from. It is a farm that has chosen openness as a core value, not a business model. I urge this Board to recognize the extraordinary value this farm represents — locally, nationally, and internationally — and to grant full relief from the retroactive TOT assessment. At minimum, I ask that you waive the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County not only provided no legal pathway forward, but

actively ruled against creating one — despite good-faith efforts by Jeremy and others, who in 2019 joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — whose recommendations became the foundation of the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance, finally passed in December 2024.

Thank you for considering this perspective from someone whose life was enriched by this farm.

Sincerely,

Shelby Hodge
Asheville, NC / USA

Katherine Douglas

From: Christen Hilton <ranmacmh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2026 5:19 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Christen Phillips
Escondido, CA/United States
RanmaCMH@yahoo.com
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Christen Phillips (Visitor), and I am writing as a community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been a visitor to Dare 2 Dream Farms and a close friend of Jeremy and Megan Raff for many years. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

Having grown up in Lompoc and seen the slow decay of all business in the town over the last twenty years, the one thing that I have seen grow and thrive has been Dare 2 Dream Farms. We have always been welcomed to visit, walk the farm, and even play with the chicks when we stay in Lompoc. Jeremy and Megan themselves are one of the hardest working and most hospitable couples I have ever met, and it's always a treat to see the newest ideas they have implemented and how they want to use their farm to better the community they live in. They are constantly working towards making things better and providing working opportunities to others. This is a rare thing to find in Lompoc these days. I would hope that the county they live in would strive to support families and small businesses like Dare 2 Dream Farms.

Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a

farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christen Phillips
Visitor
Escondido, CA/United States

Katherine Douglas

From: Zuri Catalan <zcatalan27@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2026 5:45 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Zuri Catalan
Lompoc, CA United States
zcatalan27@gmail.com
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Zuri Catalan , and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms through the Route One Farmers Market. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zuri Catalan
Lompoc
Lompoc, CA United States

Katherine Douglas

From: Michelle Ball <michelle@bottlebranding.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2026 9:17 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Michelle Lee Ball
Lompoc, CA
michelle@bottlebranding.com
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

As a small business owner in Lompoc, CA, I am writing in strong support of Dare 2 Dream Farms. I respectfully urge this Board to grant full relief—or, at a minimum, a complete waiver of all penalties and interest—on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) assessment currently before you.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Jeremy and Megan Raff for over a decade. When we first met in 2013, they were a young couple with big dreams of transforming their grandfather's property into something meaningful. Back then, they were simply selling backyard chickens, but their vision inspired us. Over the last decade, they have grown Dare 2 Dream Farms into a vital community hub. They are consistently the first to step up for a local fundraiser, support a neighbor in need, or back a community initiative. They are two of the hardest-working individuals I have ever met, with hearts to match.

In my experience, Dare 2 Dream Farms stands apart as one of the most genuinely committed contributors to the economic and social vitality of the Lompoc Valley. Their community involvement is exceptionally broad, spanning active leadership in reviving the Lompoc Grange Hall as a nonprofit venue, and extensive board participation, including Megan Raff's role as Board Chair for the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network (SBCFAN) and their board membership with the Route One Farmers Market. They are active members of the Santa Barbara County Chamber of Commerce, provide free farm tours for schools and underserved youth, and have hosted over 500 agricultural education participants through the WWOOF program. Furthermore, they sustain our local economy by operating a thriving CSA program, hosting complimentary fundraising dinners for local nonprofits, and providing stable, full-time employment for local residents.

This is not the profile of an absentee short-term rental investor. This is a working family farm that keeps its gates open to the entire community—from sunup to sundown, every single day—welcoming anyone who

wants to visit the animals, walk the gardens, or connect with where their food comes from. The farm-stay accommodations now subject to this retroactive assessment were always secondary to that open, community-rooted mission.

I am deeply concerned about the fundamental fairness of this assessment. In 2019, Santa Barbara County actively chose not to draft a clear legal framework for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. This left operators like Dare 2 Dream Farms with no viable path to compliance and no regulatory clarity.

Crucially, Jeremy did not just sit back. In 2019, he joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee—a group led by Planning Commissioner John Parke—bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help craft a common-sense solution. Those very recommendations ultimately became the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance. However, the County did not pass that ordinance until December 2024, years behind its own projected timeline

Penalizing a small business for a lack of regulatory framework during a period when they were actively volunteering to help the County write those very rules is fundamentally unfair. Retroactively assessing penalties and interest for this period sends a deeply chilling message to every small farm in Santa Barbara County attempting to responsibly diversify their revenue through agritourism.

I respectfully ask this Board to act with equity and fairness. Please grant full forgiveness of the \$65,000 assessment, or at the very least, waive all penalties and interest that accrued during these years of regulatory uncertainty.

Thank you for your continued service to our community and for your thoughtful consideration of this appeal.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lee Ball
Small Business Owner
Lompoc, CA

Michelle Ball
Designer & Freelance Writer, WSET Level III
805.245.9359 | BottleBranding.com
P.O. Box 2905, Lompoc CA 93438

Katherine Douglas

From: Myron Peczek <peczek.myron@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2026 9:45 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Myron Peczek
Lompoc, California / USA
peczek.myron@yahoo.com
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Myron Peczek, and I currently work at Dare 2 Dream Farms. I am writing as someone who is actively part of this farm community and respectfully ask you to consider granting full relief—or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest—on the Transient Occupancy Tax assessment under appeal.

This farm is not just my workplace. It is where my family lives and grows together.

My wife and I live here on the farm with our daughter, Lila. While my wife used to work here as well, she is still very much part of this place and our daily life here. Our daughter is being raised in this environment—growing up in the garden, around the animals, and alongside the people who make this farm what it is. This is not separate from our life; it is our home and our community.

Working here has given me more than employment. It has given my family stability, purpose, and a place where we can build our life in a meaningful way. I see every day the care and intention that Jeremy and Megan put into this farm—not only as a business, but as a place that feeds people, educates visitors, and welcomes the community.

From my perspective as someone working here now, it is difficult to understand how a family farm that has contributed so much could be facing a retroactive financial burden tied to a period of regulatory uncertainty. My understanding is that clear compliance pathways for farm stays and agricultural lodging were not established for many years while county policy was still evolving. It feels unfair that a small family farm is now being penalized for something that was not clearly defined or consistently enforceable at the time.

What I experience daily is the impact this farm has on the community. It provides local jobs, hosts visitors from around the world, donates food to people in need, and gives children and families the chance to connect with agriculture in a real and meaningful way. It is a working farm, but also a community space.

I am not speaking from a distance. I am here every day, raising my daughter here, and building my life here. I have seen firsthand the effort it takes to keep this place running and the genuine commitment behind everything it does for others.

I respectfully ask the Board to consider the human impact alongside the regulatory history. I ask that you grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum waive the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years of regulatory uncertainty.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Myron Peczek

Katherine Douglas

From: Cynthia Andrade <syndeelu7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2026 11:23 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Cynthia Andrade
Lompoc, Ca
Syndeelu7@gmail.com
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Cynthia Andrade, and I am writing as a current or former employee of Dare 2 Dream Farms in Lompoc. I have worked at the farm as Caregiver (2017-2019), and I am asking the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

Dare 2 Dream Farms is not a corporation or an absentee investor. It is a working family farm owned and operated by Jeremy and Megan Raff on La Salle Canyon Road — land Jeremy's family has owned since 1970, which he returned to in 2008 to care for his grandfather and rebuild into what it is today. The farm has always kept its gates open to anyone in the community who wants to come out and visit the animals, walk the garden, or take a stroll through the property, sunup to sundown. It has provided stable, meaningful employment to full-time local workers like me, as well as part-time and seasonal staff. For many of us, this is not just a job — it is livelihood rooted in a community we care deeply about.

I understand that the farm has operated WWOOF agricultural exchange participants since 2013, farm tours since 2014, and Airbnb farm stay accommodations since 2017, and that in 2019, Santa Barbara County actively ruled against drafting a legal framework for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties, leaving our operation with no path to compliance. In 2019 Jeremy joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — a group led by Planning Commissioner John Parke whose recommendations became the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance — not passed until December 2024, years past its projected timeline. Retroactively penalizing a small family farm for a compliance gap the County itself created — and took five years to resolve — is fundamentally unjust, and I respectfully urge this Board to exercise its discretion accordingly.

The Ruffs have contributed to this community in ways that go far beyond their farm operations — employing local workers, hosting over 500 agricultural exchange visitors from across the country and internationally, supporting the revival of the Lompoc Grange Hall, participating in local food access boards and the Route One Farmers Market, and offering free farm tours to schools and underserved communities. A \$65,000 retroactive assessment threatens all of it.

I ask that you protect this farm, the jobs it provides, and the community programs it sustains — by granting What makes this situation even more striking is the documented community impact of this farm during the very years now subject to retroactive audit. In 2024, Dare 2 Dream became the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — making fresh local produce accessible to food stamp recipients online for the first time. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity as an emergency food access operation. Every month it donates produce to Veggie Rescue. It supplies the Route One Mobile Market serving food-insecure families with EBT/CalFresh. The County's own tourism arm, Explore Lompoc, promotes it as "a highlight of your Lompoc experience." This is a community food institution — and the County is retroactively taxing it for a compliance gap the County created.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum waiving the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years of regulatory uncertainty.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Andrade
Caregiver
Lompoc, Ca

Sent from my iPhone

Katherine Douglas

From: Solveig Marie Norup Damgaard <solmnj@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 2:33 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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 Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Solveig Marie Norup Damgaard, and I am writing from Aalborg, Denmark to express my strong support for Dare 2 Dream Farms in their appeal before your Board. I participated in the WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) agricultural work-exchange program at Dare 2 Dream Farms in Autumn 2014, and the experience has had a lasting impact on me.

The WWOOF program is a non-commercial, educational work-exchange: participants contribute their labor to the farm and receive housing, meals, and immersive hands-on agricultural education in return. It is not a commercial lodging arrangement. Dare 2 Dream Farms has welcomed over 500 WWOOF participants from across the United States and internationally — sharing California's Central Coast agricultural traditions, sustainable farming practices, and genuine rural community with people from around the world. I was grateful to be one of them.

WOOFing at Dare2Dream taught me a valuable lesson in how a smaller farm can provide organic produce for a whole community. I learnt how teamwork can move mountains and how communicating clearly is key to making this happen. Skills I use daily in my daily work as microbiologist in a large pharmaceutical company. Megan and Jeremy opened their home to us WOOFers. We were never short of anything: directions and knowledge about farming, a fully stocked fridge, great talks about life in America vs Europe and countless hugs and laughter.

After returning from dare2dream my husband and I bought our own lot of land and applied the principles we learnt at dare2dream. I am forever grateful for the experience and the skills I gained from my stay at dare2dream.

The kind of authentic agricultural education and cultural exchange that Dare 2 Dream Farms provides cannot be replicated by a commercial operation. The farm has always kept its gates open sunup to sundown to anyone who wants to visit — to see the animals, walk the garden, and connect with where their food comes from. It is a farm that has chosen openness as a core value, not a business model. I urge this Board to recognize the extraordinary value this farm represents — locally, nationally, and internationally — and to grant full relief from the retroactive TOT assessment. At minimum, I ask that you waive the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County not only provided no legal pathway forward, but actively ruled against creating one — despite good-faith efforts by Jeremy and others, who in 2019 joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — whose recommendations became the foundation of the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance, finally passed in December 2024.

Thank you for considering this perspective from someone whose life was enriched by this farm.

Sincerely,

Solveig Marie Norup Damgaard
Microbiologist, cand. techn. al
Novo Nordisk
Aalborg, Denmark
+45 40720177

Katherine Douglas

From: Asger Norup Damgaard <asinasger@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 2:46 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: jraff@dare2dreamfarms.com
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Asger Norup Damgaard
Aalborg, Denmark
asinasger@gmail.com
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Asger Norup Damgaard, and I am writing from Aalborg, Denmark to express my strong support for Dare 2 Dream Farms in their appeal before your Board. I participated in the WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) agricultural work-exchange program at Dare 2 Dream Farms in Fall 2014, and the experience has had a lasting impact on me.

The WWOOF program is a non-commercial, educational work-exchange: participants contribute their labor to the farm and receive housing, meals, and immersive hands-on agricultural education in return. It is not a commercial lodging arrangement. Dare 2 Dream Farms has welcomed over 500 WWOOF participants from across the United States and internationally — sharing California's Central Coast agricultural traditions, sustainable farming practices, and genuine rural community with people from around the world. I was grateful to be one of them.

The visit to Dare2dream farm was such a eye-opening experience for me, when I visited with my girlfriend in 2014. I learned first hand what difference it makes on your life and on your relations to others, to get up and spend your energy on something that matters; producing food in a sustainable way and a way that respects people and animals. My time in Lompoc inspired me to grow my own food and maybe also keep chickens. To build a sustainable life for your family is hard work anywhere, and only achieved with the help of community. I hope that the board of supervisors will acknowledge Megan and Jeramy's hard work to create such a community, centered around farming.

The kind of authentic agricultural education and cultural exchange that Dare 2 Dream Farms provides cannot be replicated by a commercial operation. The farm has always kept its gates open sunup to sundown to

anyone who wants to visit — to see the animals, walk the garden, and connect with where their food comes from. It is a farm that has chosen openness as a core value, not a business model. I urge this Board to recognize the extraordinary value this farm represents — locally, nationally, and internationally — and to grant full relief from the retroactive TOT assessment. At minimum, I ask that you waive the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County not only provided no legal pathway forward, but actively ruled against creating one — despite good-faith efforts by Jeremy and others, who in 2019 joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — whose recommendations became the foundation of the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance, finally passed in December 2024.

Thank you for considering this perspective from someone whose life was enriched by this farm.

Sincerely,

Asger Norup Damgaard
Kindergarten teacher
Aalborg Municipality
Aalborg, Denmark

Katherine Douglas

From: Alexis Adams <lifeisgoodforalexis@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 5:59 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Alexis Adams
Greenville NY
lifeisgoodforalexis@gmail.com
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Alexis Adams (No relation at all), and I am writing as a community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been an onlooker of Dare 2 Dream Farms through social media and through a mutual friend who works and lives there named Homer Snyder. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

Not only is this farm a thriving business with loyal customers and all of the other beautiful reasons you already know of. But dare 2 Dreaming is exactly what its namesake says, it's a place where community and family and sometimes local strays like my friend Homer can go there and dare to dream, they can live and work and contribute to their communities while finding their way in life. There are so few safe places like this left in our country. I believe that is worth protecting.

Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexis Adams
No relation at all
Greenville NY

Sent from my iPhone

Katherine Douglas

From: Nina Martinez <ninamartinez9@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 8:17 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Pete Martinez CA petemartinez4@gmail.com July 3, 2026 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara 105 E. Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors, My name is Pete Martinez (Customer), and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you. I have been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms through [describe your connection — farm stand, CSA produce box subscription, Route One Farmers Market, farm tour, or other]. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community. [Add your personal experience — why locally sourced food matters to you, what the farm's products have meant to your household, what it would mean to lose this resource in our community. If you have visited the farm informally — brought your kids to see the animals, walked the garden, or stopped by the farm stand — mention that too.] Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world. I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it. I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Pete Martinez Customer Santa Barbra CA

Never under estimate the power of shoes. Just ask Cinderella.

Katherine Douglas

From: A Reyes <thatgirlkai5972@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 8:20 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

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Kai Reyes
Sullivan county, new york
thatgirlkai5972@gmail.com
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Kai Reyes , and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms through virtual farm tour. For me and my family as 5th generation farmers, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. Locally sourced food availability is also highly important.

What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel, It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and

hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kai Reyes
Sullivan county, New York

Katherine Douglas

From: Nelson JB <nelsonsinkbottle@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 9:00 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Brian J Nelson
SACRAMENTO
nelsonsinkbottle@gmail.com
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Brian J Nelson , and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms through [describe your connection — farm stand, CSA produce box subscription, Route One Farmers Market, farm tour, or other]. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

[Add your personal experience — why locally sourced food matters to you, what the farm's products have meant to your household, what it would mean to lose this resource in our community. If you have visited the farm informally — brought your kids to see the animals, walked the garden, or stopped by the farm stand — mention that too.]

Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian J Nelson
SACRAMENTO

Sent from my iPhone

Katherine Douglas

From: Courtney King <courtneysking@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 9:43 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Courtney King Oakland, CA courtneysking@gmail.com July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara 105 E. Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Courtney King (My friend lived and worked at Dare 2 Dream Farms for a few years), and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been a supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms since learning about the farm and the family who runs it through my friend who lived and worked there. It helped to turn his life around and support him during a very hard time; I hope others will continue to have this opportunity through Dare 2 Dream Farms.

One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living."

A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it. I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Courtney King

My friend lived and worked at Dare 2 Dream farms for a few years

Oakland, CA

Katherine Douglas

From: Janette Aldape <janette22@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 9:53 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Janette Aldape
Germantown, IL
janette22@gmail.com
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Hello. My name is Janette Aldape, and my husband, Eric and I am writing this letter as intermittent employees of Dare 2 Dream Farms in Lompoc. We have worked at the farm as doing a little bit of everything possible from 2018 to present. We found the farm in 2018 through WWOOF. Our stay there was life changing and we have returned every year to our 'secondary home' partly for the work but mainly for Megan and Jeremy Raff and the community and life they have built in Lompoc. This places means the world to us. The skills we have learned there have ranged from technical skills of successfully gardening to remodeling to welding to customer service. But those skills do not hold a candle to the soft interpersonal skills that Jeremy and Megan exhibit everyday. We have learned to welcome people into our lives, to take care of anyone and everyone and to give them a safe and judgement free space to be safe in. Although on paper it is easy to say these skill are obvious and obtainable, we know this is not true in real life. I have personally seen many WWOOF volunteers come through Megan and Jeremy's farm and leave different people. When you know you have a safe place with a loving and caring family who will teach and support you, life can look a little less lonely and overwhelming. Dare 2 Dream Farms is a SACRED place for me, for my husband, and for hundreds of people who were as lucky as us to stumble upon this little farm and this big hearted family.

I am asking the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

Dare 2 Dream Farms is not a corporation or an absentee investor. It is a working family farm owned and operated by Jeremy and Megan Raff on La Salle Canyon Road — land Jeremy's family has owned since 1970, which he returned to in 2008 to care for his grandfather and rebuild into what it is today. The farm has always kept its gates open to anyone in the community who wants to come out and visit the animals, walk the garden, or take a stroll through the property, sunup to sundown. It has provided stable, meaningful

employment to full-time local workers like me, as well as part-time and seasonal staff. For many of us, this is not just a job — it is livelihood rooted in a community we care deeply about.

I understand that the farm has operated WWOOF agricultural exchange participants since 2013, farm tours since 2014, and Airbnb farm stay accommodations since 2017, and that in 2019, Santa Barbara County actively ruled against drafting a legal framework for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties, leaving our operation with no path to compliance. In 2019 Jeremy joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — a group led by Planning Commissioner John Parke whose recommendations became the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance — not passed until December 2024, years past its projected timeline. Retroactively penalizing a small family farm for a compliance gap the County itself created — and took five years to resolve — is fundamentally unjust, and I respectfully urge this Board to exercise its discretion accordingly.

The Raffs have contributed to this community in ways that go far beyond their farm operations — employing local workers, hosting over 500 agricultural exchange visitors from across the country and internationally, supporting the revival of the Lompoc Grange Hall, participating in local food access boards and the Route One Farmers Market, and offering free farm tours to schools and underserved communities. A \$65,000 retroactive assessment threatens all of it.

I ask that you protect this farm, the jobs it provides, and the community programs it sustains — by granting What makes this situation even more striking is the documented community impact of this farm during the very years now subject to retroactive audit. In 2024, Dare 2 Dream became the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — making fresh local produce accessible to food stamp recipients online for the first time. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity as an emergency food access operation. Every month it donates produce to Veggie Rescue. It supplies the Route One Mobile Market serving food-insecure families with EBT/CalFresh. The County's own tourism arm, Explore Lompoc, promotes it as "a highlight of your Lompoc experience." This is a community food institution — and the County is retroactively taxing it for a compliance gap the County created.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum waiving the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years of regulatory uncertainty.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Janette Aldape
Farm hand
Germantown, IL

Katherine Douglas

From: C Braden <ccbraden@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 11:03 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

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Charles Braden
Simi Valley, CA
ccbraden@msn.com
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Charles Braden (Previous Next Door Neighbor on La Salle Canyon), and I am writing as a community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I grew up at 892 La Salle Canyon, which my parents owned for 55 years. Jeremy, as a young boy, would wave to me as I drove by in my Baja Bug on my way home from my studies at Allen Hancock College, or a shift at Straw Hat Pizza. Visiting my parents throughout the years, I noticed the transformation, one project at a time, which turned into a labor of love for Jeremy, returning to his Grandfather's land, with Megan, transform neglected property into a thriving farm for the community. As Jeremy and Megan's family grew, I would see their children playing, laughing and running with their dogs, and it reminded me of my childhood memories, growing up with my brothers and sisters on the adjacent land.

In addition to the fields, abundant with produce for the community, my young children would look forward to seeing the free range flock of chickens and always excited to visit a baby calf in the springtime.

I have also been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms, driving by their farm stand which I was always very excited to find the freshest eggs imaginable, along with locally grown produce. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

I would notice the AirBNB guests, getting away from it all, in the paradise Jeremy and Megan had created. The AirBNB's have so many personal touches, all done to make sure farm guests have to most enjoyable

experience and stay. Families making smores in their fire pit, enjoying wine, feeding chickens, or just walking along the path enjoying the sights and sounds of a working farm. Smiles and laughter from children, was this their first exposure to a working farm perhaps planting the seed for a future generation farmer? All because of what Jeremy and Megan have shared and given back to the community.

Lompoc and Santa Barbara County are fortunate to have farmers Jeremy and Megan Raff, who took a leap of faith and poured everything - financial, spiritual, mental and physical - into a barren 40 acres, and turned it into a thriving farm for the local community and beyond.

Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Braden
Previous Next Door Neighbor on La Salle Canyon
Lompoc
Simi Valley, CA

Katherine Douglas

From: Heather Kline <HeatherK@heatherkline.org>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 11:06 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: jraff@dare2dreamfarms.com
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Heather Kline
Lompoc
heatherk@heatherkline.org
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Heather Kline, and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

I want to emphasize how much Megan and Jeremy Raff have contributed to the Lompoc community over the years. They have created far more than a working farm—they have built a community resource that provides fresh local food, educational opportunities, agricultural experiences, and a welcoming place where people of all ages can connect with farming. Their commitment to expanding food access, supporting local families, creating jobs, and opening their farm to the public demonstrates a longstanding investment in the well-being of our community.

This case also appears to be unlike any ordinary Transient Occupancy Tax assessment. Dare 2 Dream Farms operated during a period when the County had not yet established a legal framework for farm-based lodging, and rather than ignoring the issue, the Ruffs participated in the County's own advisory process to help develop one. The Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance was ultimately adopted to help working farms stabilize their income, yet applying a substantial retroactive assessment for the years before that framework existed undermines the very purpose of the ordinance. Because of these unique circumstances, I respectfully believe the Board has an opportunity to exercise its discretion in a way that is both fair and consistent with its stated

goal of supporting local agriculture.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

--

Heather Kline, MSW, ASW
Lompoc, CA
805-430-9963

www.heatherkline.org

www.rosetherapypractice.com

www.eastbaytherapy.org

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Katherine Douglas

From: Jeremy Ball <jeremy@bottlebranding.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 11:41 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Jeremy Ball
Lompoc, CA
jeremy4lompoc@gmail.com

July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara 105 E. Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment, TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Jeremy Ball, and I am a proud citizen of Lompoc. While I have the privilege of serving our local community, today I am writing simply as a neighbor and friend to ask for your thoughtful consideration regarding the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment placed on Dare 2 Dream Farms. I have known Jeremy and Megan Raff for over ten years. They are good, hardworking people raising four young kids while running a community-centered family farm. Whether it has been expanding their CSA boxes to bring fresh local produce to local families (especially during uncertain times), helping to grow the Route One Farmers Market, or advocating for healthy families and local food access, the Ruffs have consistently poured their hearts back into Lompoc.

I ask you to put yourselves in their boots for a moment. Imagine you are a small business owner raising four young children, and you suddenly receive a \$65,000 bill tied to years when the rules and expectations were anything but clear. The very system intended to help small working farms become more sustainable is now threatening to pull critical working capital away from one of those farms. If enforced as-is, this assessment will place a massive strain on their business, limit their ability to serve the community, and likely force them to cut services, raise rates, or redirect resources away from the local work that makes Dare 2 Dream Farms so valuable to our region.

I understand that local governments face real financial pressures, and I respect the difficult decisions this Board must make. But this Board also has the jurisdiction, discretion, and responsibility to treat individual cases with fairness and good judgment. From a practical standpoint, it makes far more sense to bring these hardworking local farmers into compliance and keep them in business so they can continue contributing to our community and generating tax revenue naturally over time. The ripple effects of enforcing this full assessment right now will be felt well beyond this one farm.

I respectfully urge this Board to grant full forgiveness of the \$65,000 assessment, or at the absolute minimum, waive all penalties and interest that accrued during years of regulatory uncertainty. Let's get behind the local

farmers who do so much good for our region. Let's keep them in business, keep them serving families, and show that government can still act with common sense, compassion, and fairness.

Thank you for your time, your service to our community, and your thoughtful consideration of this appeal.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ball
Lompoc, CA

Katherine Douglas

From: Vilay Saikeo <vsaikeo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 12:00 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Vilay
Lompoc, Ca
vsaikeo@yahoo.com
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Vilay, and I serve as Business owner of Savory & Sweet Eats in Lompoc, Ca. I am writing in strong support of Dare 2 Dream Farms and respectfully urge this Board to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Jeremy and Megan Raff through [briefly describe your connection — Chamber of Commerce, Route One Farmers Market, Lompoc Grange Hall, SBCFAN, food access boards, CSA, nonprofit events, farm tours, etc.]. In my experience in this community, Dare 2 Dream Farms stands apart as one of the most genuinely committed contributors to the economic and social vitality of the Lompoc Valley.

Consider the breadth of their community involvement: active leadership in the revival of the Lompoc Grange Hall as a nonprofit community venue; board participation in the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network (SBCFAN), where Megan Raff serves as Board Chair; board membership on the Route One Farmers Market; participation in the Santa Barbara County Chamber of Commerce; free farm tours for schools, learning groups, and underserved communities; hosting of fundraiser dinners for local nonprofits at no charge; a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and farm stand serving county residents; 5–6 full-time local employees; and over 500 WWOOF agricultural education participants hosted from across the U.S. and internationally.

This is not a short-term rental investor. This is a working family farm that keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or simply experience where their food comes from. The farm stay accommodations that are now subject to retroactive assessment were always secondary to that open, community-rooted mission.

I am also concerned about the fundamental fairness of this situation. In 2019, Santa Barbara County actively ruled against drafting a legal framework for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties — leaving operators like Dare 2 Dream Farms with no path to compliance and no acknowledgment of how to move forward. Critically, Jeremy did not simply accept the situation: in 2019 Jeremy joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — a group led by Planning Commissioner John Parke whose

recommendations became the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance. The County did not pass that ordinance until December 2024 — years past its own projected timeline. Retroactively assessing penalties and interest for that period sends a deeply troubling message to every small farm in Santa Barbara County that attempts to diversify revenue through agritourism.

I respectfully ask this Board to act with fairness and grant full forgiveness of the \$65,000 assessment, or at the very least waive all penalties and interest that accrued during the years of regulatory uncertainty.

Thank you for your service to our community and for your thoughtful consideration of this appeal.

Sincerely,

Vilay
Business owner
Savory & Sweet Eats
Lompoc, Ca

Kind Regards,
Vilay Saikeo

Katherine Douglas

From: Sheila Espinosa <thatssowsheila@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 3:38 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: mraff@dare2dreamfarms.com
Subject: Dare2Dream

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.

To Whom It May Concern,

My family and I moved to Lompoc back in 2017. It took us some time to feel like we were part of the community given we did not know anyone in Lompoc. I used a lot of Instagram to find local things to do especially on a budget while my family settled in and I gained financial stability, as I had just graduated from UC Irvine. When I came across Dare2Dream Farms it became more than a place where we went for produce and goodies. It became a place where our family got together to do a common activity as we learned our new routine. It became a place that we showed off when we had visitors and a place that was requested by our returning visitors. It also became a place that continued to inspire me and motivate me to strive for my dream of owning a homestead. I now have my own orchard up north, and I continue to be inspired by Dare2Dream as I figure out the next steps for us to help our new local community. Navigating the niche world of homesteading and compliance with laws is something that I can understand can feel like an obstacle. That being said I am hoping you all see how vital this farm is. Not only are they a place that feeds your community, but a place that brings Lompoc to light to people who have no idea that Lompoc exists. They also serve as a place of unity and inspiration for your youth and community. And I hope you all reconsider making them pay back taxes that they never intentionally avoided as this would severely discourage so many of us who are just trying to bring more fresh food, resources, education to better our community. They clearly intend to comply and want to work with you all and continue to give the community a place to lean on.

Thank you,
Sheila Espinosa

Katherine Douglas

From: Mayra Banuelos <mayra@futureforlompocyouth.org>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 3:45 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment - TOT Appeal, dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting
Attachments: TOT Appeal Dare 2 Dream Farms.pdf

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 Chair Nelson and Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Please find attached my public comment letter regarding the Dare 2 Dream Farms Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Appeal scheduled for consideration at the July 7, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Thank you for your time, your service to our community, and your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

--

Mayra Banuelos
Program Director
FUTURE For Lompoc Youth



Mayra Banuelos
Lompoc, California
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Mayra Banuelos, and I am a community member from Lompoc, CA. I am writing in strong support of Dare 2 Dream Farms and respectfully urge this Board to grant full relief—or at minimum waive the penalties and interest—on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I previously worked for the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce, where I had the opportunity to work alongside Jeremy and Megan Raff through Chamber events and other community initiatives. During that time, Megan served as a Chamber Board member, and I saw firsthand her commitment to our community. Even after her Board service ended, she and her family continued to support Chamber events by volunteering their time, donating resources, and showing up whenever they were needed. They also opened Dare 2 Dream Farms by hosting Leadership Lompoc Valley tours, giving participants to learn about local agriculture. Their dedication to serving the Lompoc Valley has always extended far beyond their farm.

This is not a short-term rental investor seeking to maximize profits. This is a working family farm that has made community service, education, and agriculture its mission. The farm welcomes visitors every day to learn about farming, interact with animals, explore the gardens, and better understand where their food comes from. The farm stay accommodations were always secondary to that larger purpose of serving and educating the community.

I respectfully ask the Board to consider Dare 2 Dream Farms' longstanding record of community service and the unique circumstances surrounding this matter. I urge you to grant full forgiveness of the \$65,000 assessment or, at the very least, waive all penalties and interest that accrued during the years of regulatory uncertainty.

Thank you for your service to Santa Barbara County and for your thoughtful consideration of this appeal.

Sincerely,

Mayra Banuelos
Lompoc, California

Katherine Douglas

From: Sterling Garnett <saga49pc@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 7:13 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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 Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief - or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest - on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

You know the history of the farm and the background of the issue, and I won't take up your time repeating it again here. I'll just express my personal opinion that small working farms, CSA programs, farmstays, etc., make an important contribution to our community and society. It's not just about providing good food, though that's certainly important. The fact that such farms exist, and can be profitable even in an economy dominated by industrial agriculture, connects us to our past - the history and heritage of American small farmers - and shows us a possible way to a healthier and more sustainable future. And farmstays - which, if I understand it, are why Dare 2 Dream Farms is being assessed TOT taxes - are especially important because they give people an opportunity to connect to that past and that future through lived experience.

Moreover, farmstays and farms like Dare 2 Dream Farms help teach people what food *is*, which has become increasingly important as people become more and more disconnected from agriculture and nature in general. People need to understand, viscerally, where their food comes from and how the Earth creates it - from living plants and animals, not from plastic wrapped packages in a supermarket - in order to make informed decisions about how their food should be produced and what kinds of production our economy and society should prioritize.

The Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance recognized the value of farmstays when it authorized them with a minor conditional use permit. I think the past value of Dare 2 Dream Farms' farmstays - particularly given the time period, coming out of the pandemic and its attendant distancing and isolation - also deserves consideration, at least so far as in waiving or reducing penalties and interest.

And finally, in the interest of fairness: if I gave a list of all the businesses and corporations that have gotten bigger tax breaks than this from federal, state, and local governments, and are *less* deserving of them, you'd be reading this e-mail all day.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Sterling Garnett

Customer, Dare 2 Dream Farms

Lompoc, CA

Katherine Douglas

From: Shelby Wild <info@routeonefarmersmarket.org>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2026 9:28 AM
To: sbcob; Megan Raff Work cell
Subject: Regarding Dare 2 Dream Farms

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.

To the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Dare 2 Dream Farms represents the true heart of the Lompoc Valley.

A dedicated family, working the land, supporting themselves and building community around local agriculture, education, access to good food and stewardship of the land.

Jeremy and Megan have prioritized community service alongside the hard work of establishing and running a small family farm and raising a young family. They have tirelessly served on multiple community-based boards and committees dedicated to improving the local food system and advocating for the importance of a self reliant and resilient food system.

As the Director of a food access nonprofit working to equitably increase our community's ability to access fresh locally grown quality food, Dare 2 Dream is a trusted partner and often the first I call when there's work to be done to serve our community.

The farm and farm stand is a safe, stable place that brings community together 7 days a week

and is Lompoc's only year round farm-stand.

A welcoming place to shop for fresh, hyper local produce, to connect with the land, and to see how food is grown in real time is a true asset to a community with almost no other public access to such resources.

At the start of the pandemic that farm-stand pivoted to host farmers and food goods that would otherwise have been wasted due to restaurant and school closures, allowing other small food producers to maintain income that would have been lost.

As one of the only truly local CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) in the Lompoc Valley they provide access to local fresh food to folks who may not have access to traditional grocery stores or farmers markets.

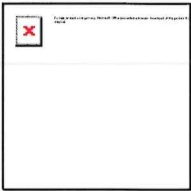
We must value and uphold folks who are doing the right things for the right reasons to build and care for our community. The world would be a truly dark place without them.

Dare 2 Dream Farm is a unique and treasured asset in the Lompoc Valley and if their operations are compromised it will be a true loss to a community that relies on them.

Please consider their appeal and work with them to innovate a solution that doesn't punish a family business for making it work because the regulations hadn't caught up yet.

Sincerely,

Shelby Wild
she/hers
Executive Director
Route One Farmers Market
805-588-9041



Katherine Douglas

From: Gerri French <gerrifrench17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 12:03 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Dare to Dream Farm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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.

Gerri French
Summerland ca/USA
gerrifrench17@gmail.com
July 3, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Gerri French, and I serve as Culinary Nutritiinist of Santa Barbara Food and Farm Adventirea in Summerland ca/USA. I am writing in strong support of Dare 2 Dream Farms and respectfully urge this Board to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Jeremy and Megan Raff through [briefly describe your connection — Chamber of Commerce, Route One Farmers Market, Lompoc Grange Hall, SBCFAN, food access boards, CSA, nonprofit events, farm tours, etc.]. In my experience in this community, Dare 2 Dream Farms stands apart as one of the most genuinely committed contributors to the economic and social vitality of the Lompoc Valley.

Consider the breadth of their community involvement: active leadership in the revival of the Lompoc Grange Hall as a nonprofit community venue; board participation in the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network (SBCFAN), where Megan Raff serves as Board Chair; board membership on the Route One Farmers Market; participation in the Santa Barbara County Chamber of Commerce; free farm tours for schools, learning groups, and underserved communities; hosting of fundraiser dinners for local nonprofits at no charge; a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and farm stand serving county residents; 5–6 full-time local employees; and over 500 WWOOF agricultural education participants hosted from across the U.S. and internationally.

This is not a short-term rental investor. This is a working family farm that keeps its gates open to the entire

community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or simply experience where their food comes from. The farm stay accommodations that are now subject to retroactive assessment were always secondary to that open, community-rooted mission.

I am also concerned about the fundamental fairness of this situation. In 2019, Santa Barbara County actively ruled against drafting a legal framework for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties — leaving operators like Dare 2 Dream Farms with no path to compliance and no acknowledgment of how to move forward. Critically, Jeremy did not simply accept the situation: in 2019 Jeremy joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — a group led by Planning Commissioner John Parke whose recommendations became the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance. The County did not pass that ordinance until December 2024 — years past its own projected timeline. Retroactively assessing penalties and interest for that period sends a deeply troubling message to every small farm in Santa Barbara County that attempts to diversify revenue through agritourism.

I respectfully ask this Board to act with fairness and grant full forgiveness of the \$65,000 assessment, or at the very least waive all penalties and interest that accrued during the years of regulatory uncertainty.

Thank you for your service to our community and for your thoughtful consideration of this appeal.

Sincerely,

Gerri French
Culinary Nutritiivist
Santa Barbara Food and Farm Adventure
Summerland ca/USA
Gerri French, MS, Dietitian
www.gerrifrench.net

Katherine Douglas

From: Bill Babcock <wbbabcock@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2026 6:48 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Bill Babcock
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

William Babcock Lompoc, CA. Santa Barbara County, USA wbbabcock@yahoo.com July 4, 2026 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara 105 E. Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors, My name is William Babcock (Community member & patron to Dare 2 Dream farms since 2010 as a local resident & property owner.) I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you. I have been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms through their farm stand & Route One Farmers Market. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community. Being able to purchase organically grown food from a local trusted source should be supported at all government levels, especially in a world where healthy food supplies can be scarce at best. Dare 2 Dream farm is a great educational effort in Lompoc & should be realized as such in this community, rather than viewed as a potential tax revenue source by an already wealthy County. Families & schools being able to introduce children to the realities of food production can be a step forward to positive individual development in these times of marginalized understanding. Small family farms should be supported however possible, as a positive cultural element & foundational community resource. Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world. I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it. I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the

assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, William Babcock Community member & patron to Dare 2 Dream farms since 2010 as a property owner. Lompoc, Property owner Southside neighborhood. Lompoc, CA. Santa Barbara County, USA

Katherine Douglas

From: Madison Turner <madisonturner@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2026 11:45 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Madison Turner
Delray Beach, FL
madisonturner@gmail.com
July 4, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Madison Turner, and I am writing from Delray Beach, Florida to express my strong support for Dare 2 Dream Farms in their appeal before your Board. I participated in the WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) program at Dare 2 Dream Farms in the Summer of 2021, and the experience changed the course of my life.

The WWOOF program is a non-commercial, educational work-exchange: participants contribute their labor to the farm and receive housing, meals, and immersive hands-on agricultural education in return. It is not a commercial lodging arrangement. Dare 2 Dream Farms has welcomed 500+ WWOOF participants from across the United States and internationally — sharing California's Central Coast agricultural traditions, sustainable farming practices, and genuine rural community with people from around the world. I am grateful to be one of them.

I have worked several WWOOF programs in my life, but none were as impactful as Dare 2 Dream Farms. Dare 2 Dream provided me an educational stepping stone into sustainable agriculture. Megan and Jeremy were very attentive to the farm community, providing their helping hands when they weren't busy running the farm itself. Every program they ran: the farm stand, the farm boxes, the farm stays, the milk deliveries, etc. were all so vital to the Lompoc and nearby communities. The opportunity I got to be a part of these programs, however small, felt like an honor to witness and participate in. The idea that every peach picked, every kale leaf pulled, every chicken egg gathered, all came from someones hands was humbling and provided me with a deeper sense of connection to the food we eat and how we get it. It was a communal effort to learn, educate, and provide. It was authentic hard work, but the work was worth it.

Families came to the farm to see the farm animals and the produce growing. In the process they got to see

agricultural work in real life. With the disconnect from communities to the food they buy in stores, this was vital to bridging that gap in understanding. You could theoretically understand that produce is harvested and transported to grocery stores, but being able to watch workers in the farm do that same harvesting demonstrates something unique.

The kind of authentic agricultural education and cultural exchange that Dare 2 Dream Farms provides cannot be replicated by a commercial operation. The farm has always kept its gates open sunup to sundown to anyone who wants to visit — to see the animals, walk the garden, and connect with where their food comes from. It is a farm that has chosen openness as a core value, not a business model. I urge this Board to recognize the extraordinary value this farm represents — locally, nationally, and internationally — and to grant full relief from the retroactive TOT assessment. At minimum, I ask that you waive the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County not only provided no legal pathway forward, but actively ruled against creating one — despite good-faith efforts by Jeremy and others, who in 2019 joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — whose recommendations became the foundation of the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance, finally passed in December 2024.

Thank you for considering this perspective from someone whose life was changed for the better by this farm.

Sincerely,

Madison Turner
Marketing Manager
Delray Beach, FL

Katherine Douglas

From: Murray Levy <levy.murray@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2026 12:39 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Murray Levy
Newton
levy.murray@gmail.com
July 5, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Murray Levy, and I am writing from my travels in Moldova to express my strong support for Dare 2 Dream Farms in their appeal before your Board. I participated in the WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) agricultural work-exchange program at Dare 2 Dream Farms in Summer 2012, and the experience has had a lasting impact on me.

The WWOOF program is a non-commercial, educational work-exchange: participants contribute their labor to the farm and receive housing, meals, and immersive hands-on agricultural education in return. It is not a commercial lodging arrangement. Dare 2 Dream Farms has welcomed over 500 WWOOF participants from across the United States and internationally — sharing California's Central Coast agricultural traditions, sustainable farming practices, and genuine rural community with people from around the world. I was grateful to be one of them.

Jeremy and Meagan would give me the shirt off their back. I was met with immediate trust and hospitality. I contributed additional time beyond their expectation for the sheer love and educational benefit of what was offered in this meaningful exchange. I had family visit as well, and truly we all operated as a big family there. We have kept contacting checking in now and then over the years. And it has been a stepping stone for me in my agricultural career.

The kind of authentic agricultural education and cultural exchange that Dare 2 Dream Farms provides cannot be replicated by a commercial operation. The farm has always kept its gates open sunup to sundown to anyone who wants to visit — to see the animals, walk the garden, and connect with where their food comes from. It is a farm that has chosen openness as a core value, not a business model. I urge this Board to recognize the extraordinary value this farm represents — locally, nationally, and internationally — and to

grant full relief from the retroactive TOT assessment. At minimum, I ask that you waive the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County not only provided no legal pathway forward, but actively ruled against creating one — despite good-faith efforts by Jeremy and others, who in 2019 joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — whose recommendations became the foundation of the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance, finally passed in December 2024. This is reasonable.

Thank you very much for considering this perspective from someone whose life was enriched and changed by this farm.

Warmly,

Murray Levy
Field Worker (Farmer)
Newton

Katherine Douglas

From: Sharon Cloer <scloer1226@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2026 7:29 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Sharon Cloer
Texas
scloer1226@yahoo.com
July 5, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Sharon Cloer , and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms through [describe your connection — farm stand, CSA produce box subscription, Route One Farmers Market, farm tour, or other]. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

[Add your personal experience — why locally sourced food matters to you, what the farm's products have meant to your household, what it would mean to lose this resource in our community. If you have visited the farm informally — brought your kids to see the animals, walked the garden, or stopped by the farm stand — mention that too.]

Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cloer
Houston
Texas

Respectfully,

Sharon Cloer

Katherine Douglas

From: Joaquín Fernández <joaquin.fernandezleiva1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2026 6:44 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Joaquin Fernandez Leiva
Talca, Chile
joaquin.fernandezleiva1@gmail.com
July 5, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Joaquin Fernandez Leiva, and I am writing from Talca, Chile to express my strong support for Dare 2 Dream Farms in their appeal before your Board. I participated in the WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) agricultural work-exchange program at Dare 2 Dream Farms in January 2013, and the experience has had a lasting impact on me.

The WWOOF program is a non-commercial, educational work-exchange: participants contribute their labor to the farm and receive housing, meals, and immersive hands-on agricultural education in return. It is not a commercial lodging arrangement. Dare 2 Dream Farms has welcomed over 500 WWOOF participants from across the United States and internationally — sharing California's Central Coast agricultural traditions, sustainable farming practices, and genuine rural community with people from around the world. I was grateful to be one of them.

My experience with Jeremy, Megan and other volunteers at Dare to Dream Farms gave me a unique hands on learning experience on running a small local business founded on social responsibility and commitment to its community.

The kind of authentic agricultural education and cultural exchange that Dare 2 Dream Farms provides cannot be replicated by a commercial operation. The farm has always kept its gates open sunup to sundown to anyone who wants to visit — to see the animals, walk the garden, and connect with where their food comes from. It is a farm that has chosen openness as a core value, not a business model. I urge this Board to recognize the extraordinary value this farm represents — locally, nationally, and internationally — and to grant full relief from the retroactive TOT assessment. At minimum, I ask that you waive the penalties and

interest that accumulated during the years when the County not only provided no legal pathway forward, but actively ruled against creating one — despite good-faith efforts by Jeremy and others, who in 2019 joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — whose recommendations became the foundation of the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance, finally passed in December 2024.

Thank you for considering this perspective from someone whose life was enriched by this farm.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Fernandez Leiva
Talca, Chile
+56978876206

Katherine Douglas

From: Vicente Fernández <vicente.f.leiva@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2026 7:07 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Vicente Fernandez
Talca, Chile
vicente.f.leiva@gmail.com
July 5, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Vicente Fernandez, and I am writing from Talca, Chile, to express my strong support for Dare 2 Dream Farms in their appeal before your Board. I first arrived at the farm in 2013 through the WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) agricultural work-exchange program, during a sabbatical year in which I volunteered on five different farms across California. Of those five farms, there is only one I have ever returned to — and I have returned three times: in 2015, for two months, to complete my first professional internship; in 2017, for another two months as a WWOOF participant; and most recently in September 2025 — no longer as a volunteer, but as a friend of the family.

The WWOOF program is a non-commercial, educational work-exchange: participants contribute their labor to the farm and receive housing, meals, and immersive hands-on agricultural education in return. It is not a commercial lodging arrangement. I can attest to this from direct experience. During my stays I fed the animals, planted, harvested, cleaned eggs, worked in the greenhouse, pruned, weeded, irrigated, and helped with construction projects around the farm. Essentially everything I know today about organic agriculture — and about building — I learned at Dare 2 Dream Farms. And I was far from alone: I lived and worked alongside WWOOF participants from at least ten countries, including Australia, Canada, England, Israel, India, Mexico, Germany, France, and many parts of the United States. This farm has welcomed over 500 of us, sharing California's Central Coast agricultural traditions, sustainable farming practices, and genuine rural community with people from around the world. I was grateful to be one of them.

What I value most, however, cannot be listed on a work schedule. Jeremy and Megan opened not only their farm to me, but their home and their family. Over thirteen years, I have watched them pour their whole hearts into everything they do: their enormous generosity, their insistence on always doing the right thing, and their genuine focus on their community and on the quality of life of the people around them. When I returned in

September 2025, what moved me most was seeing how the farm had grown — more visitors than ever walking the grounds, more variety, everything more organized and professional — and a team of workers as happy and united as any group of people I have ever encountered. Building an organic, community-centered farm of this size and diversity represents years of exhausting work and sacrifice. Jeremy and Megan are exemplary people. I trusted them so completely that I later recommended the farm to my brother and to two friends — and each of them was welcomed with the same open arms that received me in 2013.

The kind of authentic agricultural education and cultural exchange that Dare 2 Dream Farms provides cannot be replicated by a commercial operation. The farm has always kept its gates open sunup to sundown to anyone who wants to visit — to see the animals, walk the garden, and connect with where their food comes from. It is a farm that has chosen openness as a core value, not a business model. I urge this Board to recognize the extraordinary value this farm represents — locally, nationally, and internationally — and to grant full relief from the retroactive TOT assessment. At minimum, I ask that you waive the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County not only provided no legal pathway forward, but actively ruled against creating one — despite good-faith efforts by Jeremy and others, who in 2019 joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — whose recommendations became the foundation of the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance, finally passed in December 2024.

Thank you for considering this perspective from someone whose life was enriched by this farm.

Sincerely,

Vicente Fernandez
Talca, Chile

Katherine Douglas

From: Kelly Combs <kelly@studio333.us>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2026 8:41 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: jraff@dare2dreamfarms.com; Amy Combs
Subject: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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 Members of the Board,

I'm writing in support of Jeremy and Megan Raff and Dare 2 Dream Farms ahead of the July 7 hearing on their retroactive TOT assessment.

My son spent time working on that farm, and I can say without question it changed the direction of his life. Living the daily rhythm of farm work — the early mornings, the physical labor, the responsibility of caring for something living — gave him a sense of purpose and discipline that stuck with him. It also opened his eyes to a whole world of thinking about food and land he'd never encountered before. Through that experience, he discovered the writings of Joel Salatin, the well-known holistic farmer at Polyface Farm in Virginia, and became so inspired that he went on to complete a week-long working stay at Polyface itself. None of that happens for a young person who never first sets foot on a working farm like Dare 2 Dream. That farm was the door that opened onto everything after it.

That is what's actually at stake in this appeal. What Jeremy and Megan built has fed this community — including scaling their CSA to five times its normal size during COVID to keep families fed, and donating extra produce to Veggie Rescue every month since. It was the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP online. And through WWOOF and simple hands-on mentorship, it has given young people like my son real, formative experience with what it means to grow something and take care of it.

I also understand the facts of this appeal, and they matter. Dare 2 Dream Farms has hosted guests in good faith since 2013, years before any county framework for farm stays existed. The 2016 Board vote that unintentionally blocked that framework was later acknowledged by the County itself, and it took until December 2024 — more than eight years and multiple missed deadlines later — for the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance to finally pass. That same ordinance, meant to help small farms like theirs, is now being used to retroactively tax them for the very years when no legal pathway to comply existed at all. A \$65,000 assessment for that gap would force real cuts to the CSA, farm stand hours, and seasonal staff, and would likely push the family toward long-term rentals instead of farm stays — ending the exact kind of farm-based hospitality the ordinance was written to protect.

I'm asking the Board to recognize that penalizing this family for a compliance gap the County itself created is not just, and to grant the relief this appeal requests. I've seen firsthand what this farm gives back to the people who pass through it. I hope you'll give them the chance to keep doing that.

Respectfully,

Kelly and Amy Combs

40 year resident of Santa Barbara County now living in Florida.