

Ramirez, Angelica **Group 1 - Public Comment**

---

#2

**From:** PAUL EKSTROM <paulekstrom@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 9:16 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Appeal of S.B. West Coast Farm Cannabis Cultivation project



**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.**

Hello Supervisors, I ask you to support Scott Rudolf's appeal of Santa Barbara West Coast Farms Cannabis Cultivation project. The odor potential is real and we don't need another Carpinteria Valley problem. Highway 246 is a gateway to some of the most beautiful country. Please keep it that way and stop permitting industrial cannabis businesses until there is proven odor control. You can learn from the mistakes being made in Carpinteria Valley. Thank you, Paul & Linda Ekstrom

## Ramirez, Angelica

---

**From:** Renee ONeill <chasingstar2701@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 12:15 PM  
**To:** Lavagnino, Steve; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter; Williams, Das; sbcob  
**Cc:** Melekian, Barney; Laura Bridley; John Parke; Michael Cooney; Larry Ferini; Dan Blough  
**Subject:** Letter for BOS meeting, 3-24-20  
**Attachments:** BOS re EDRN, etc., 3-24-20.docx

**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 Supervisors,

Attached, please find my letter to be submitted for tomorrow's meeting. Although the letter is 3 pages long, the section above the solid line specifically applies to tomorrow's meeting. The other pages show correspondence between Dennis Bozanich and me, last summer. I feel this may enlighten some members of the county, as it was not shared with them.

*Regards,*

*Renée O'Neill*

To: Board of Supervisors  
Re: Illegal Expansion – Non-conforming cannabis operators

March 24, 2020

Although I appreciate the county tech's efforts to provide us with an opportunity to attend these meetings online, what's the point? You continue to approve projects, as indicated with Busy Bee last week, regardless of their illegal expansion. You reward the Bad Actors by allowing them to continue operations, regardless of false affidavits and multiple violations. The consequences and/or fines for disregarding county/state/federal laws are highly insignificant. Cannabis operators that have violated *any* of the ordinances should be prohibited from obtaining *any* License to operate in our county. They have neither been nor will be, "Good Actors."

Re: EDRN's

Prohibit all commercial cannabis cultivation and related cannabis activities in EDRN's, located within SB County.

Growers in these regions take advantage of isolated conditions, getting away with any number of illegal activities, from removing oaks, grading without permits, expanding footprints..., etc., to selling their "products" on our public roads.

Currently, they are bringing a new level of risk to our community, Covid-19. While we are honoring the "Shelter in Place," request, it is extremely unnerving to have no control over the number of cannabis people trafficking through our community and our property, daily. They travel back and forth from town to their farms, exposing us, unnecessarily. In regard to our private property, we have a gate that multiple hands must physically open and close manually (including ours), to gain access through our driveway and for us, our other structures.

The growers and their suppliers (farm workers, JB Dewar, Portable Johns, etc.), increase our level of risk.

You saw my most recent slide show of multiple, pot-related vehicles going through our driveway, in just 12 days.

We have no way of knowing or controlling the level of Corona virus we are being exposed to. As senior citizens, we have chosen to be as proactive in protecting ourselves as possible. This includes restricting our family and friends, who may inadvertently expose themselves, from visiting us. How would you feel if you were suffering these trying circumstances?

"We the People," have no faith in this Board! You have failed to uphold our Constitutional Rights. You put Public Health, Safety and Welfare, *LAST*. You continually fail to listen to your Staff's prudent recommendations and the pleas of your constituents, as you blatantly support the "Pay to Play" Cannabis Industry. You cannot be trusted to protect us.

As I have expressed many times over the years, **"In this town, money not only talks..., it supersedes the law!"**

We have no recourse but to file lawsuits and put our faith in our State/Federal Authorities. We believe it is just a matter of time until they enforce on the corrupt players in this town, as they did two weeks ago and are continuing to do in SLO.

In conclusion, by holding these hearings while the Corona Virus is impacting people's lives, you put your entire Staff and members of the public at risk. The unfortunate folks in the "Well" (Mona Miyasato, Michael Ghizzoni, etc.), cannot possibly maintain a safe distance of six feet at their small desk. This is just one more example of how unconcerned and self-serving you are. The number of people who can attend these meetings, are limited (as noted for Busy Bee Appeal). Of course, I'm sure that's all part of your game plan, same as you did during the Montecito Debris Flows, in 2018.

My heart and prayers go out to our First Responders, Medical Providers and all who are put at risk, during this critical time. Let's hope that the irresponsible decisions this Board continually makes, does not add to your (*or our*) burdens.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renée O'Neill

---

PS regarding Dennis Bozanich Correspondence:

After receiving my letter re Elks Traffic Study, Dennis Responded:

On Sat, Jun 1, 2019 at 10:15 AM Dennis wrote:

“Renee,

Your statement about “one staff person” is completely untrue. If needed, I can provide timekeeping records for the roughly 20 staff countywide working on compliance and enforcement. These staff have been working for months. If you are only thinking of Analise, I can see your concern. However, it is unfair to all the other staff working on compliance and enforcement with her from P&D, Ag, Environmental Health, Sheriff's, DA and community services to not recognize them too.

I want you to have the facts and respect the heck out of you so I thought I would do this fact check in private.

D”

I wrote the following letter to Dennis Bozanich on 6-1-19. He did not provide answers to most of my questions. He did, however, provide me with a PDF, “**Cannabis Program Labor Cost Summary as of 5.31.19.**” One month later, he authorized a one-year extension on Provisional Licenses for one of the Worst Actors in our community:

“Hi Dennis,

Thank you for your reply, *especially considering* it is *Saturday*. I recognize and appreciate your dedication and commitment in serving our county, to the very best of your abilities. As you know, I have been involved in the cannabis regulation process from the outset. I have also waited patiently to see ‘Bad Actors’ removed from Tepusquet, since 2014. As growers continue to proliferate and destroy our beloved communities, our environment and our way of life, I have become more and more disillusioned and lost all faith in our legislators’ desire or ability to control this illicit industry. We did not vote for the problems that commercial cannabis industry is producing throughout our county.

I have spoken with both Sheriff's and P&D on a number of occasions. They continue to verify the statements I made. However, I would be pleased to have the facts re countywide staff that was hired to Enforce and Oversee Cannabis. I do recognize the fact that all our departmental teams are doing an outstanding job, considering the circumstances.

Thank you for offering to help me clarify the facts. I would appreciate receiving the following information:

1. List of 'roughly 20 - countywide staff' and their specific employment titles/positions
2. Timekeeping Records for all 'personnel working on cannabis compliance and enforcement' per P&D and Sheriff's Special Cannabis Forces Team (1 Sgt and 5 Dep Detectives, to the best of my current knowledge).

Re Enforcement: This brings to mind additional inquiries I have, regarding a need for the following information:

1. Number of enforcement cases (Civil and Criminal) that have been filed re Cannabis Industry, in Tepusquet
2. List of County Council's Attorneys that have been assigned to enforce cannabis and the civil or criminal case numbers re cannabis enforcement that has taken place in Santa Barbara County, since Prop 64 passed, 2016.
3. Who, specifically, is investigating the death of the 16-year-old minor that was killed in Tepusquet Canyon, on August 4, 2018? This incident took place at a Cannabis grow site on 'Autumn Road.' What, if anything, was ever done to prosecute the employer of that cannabis operation, under state or federal laws? Please provide all written reports that were made by various law enforcement agencies, regarding that case. Is it still an 'ongoing investigation?' Can the involved parties be required to testify in court, considering they were threatened by cannabis grower/owner, not to say anything to investigators? This has been a grave concern to our community.
4. Re expenditures of Cannabis Tax Revenue. Please provide a current, itemized list of where this money is being spent. Does the Public have any say in where these funds are going or what the 'one-time-tax' is used for?

Sincerely Appreciative for anything you can do to help answer these questions,

Renée O'Neill"