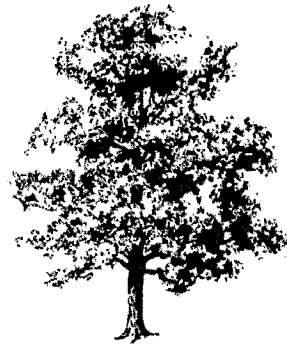


WE Watch, P.O Box 830, Solvang CA93464

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DIST



June 4, 2021

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
FROM: WE Watch, Nancy Emerson, President
RE: Budget Hearing, Long Range Planning & Enforcement Team

1. It is critical to the wellbeing of the Santa Ynez Valley that funding be provided so the Long Range Planning staff can start and quickly complete work on the first of three items you asked for in March:

How to limit the concentration of cannabis cultivation operations in the Santa Rita Hills area.

We need this to provide effective regulation on AG-II and the larger AG-I parcels in the Santa Rita Hills and elsewhere in the Valley. Doing so will greatly reduce the time and money being spent by County staff, Planning Commission, you and Valley residents on frustrating hearings, including constant appeals, and now lawsuits – principally wasted money and time. Private attorneys may not thank you but the rest of us will.

We need it so the cumulative odor impact of new, permitted cannabis outdoor grows west of Buellton do not make life even more unbearable for existing area residents, including those in Buellton and its tourist serving businesses. New large acreage projects will push us even closer to a “tipping point” when harvest begins soon. Other agriculturists now see very clearly that a philosophical aversion to regulation of lands used for cannabis cultivation was a mistake.

2. Include the other two items you requested, which are important for other parts of the County, too: How to deal with applicants left without permits when the 1,575 A inland acreage cap on cannabis cultivation is reached, and How to regulate the emerging hemp industry.

3. We need a **short-term** additional Sheriff’s enforcement team to deal with the backlog of illegal cannabis operations in the County continuing to cause problems for current residents and legal operators. We need to get control of these greedy, criminal firms and individuals so things can settle down in our County.

Cannabis fees should be used for all these projects. It is an appropriate use.