

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - Group 2

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From: Marilyn <maitalysapple@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 2, 2025 9:18 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: public comment department item D3

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,

Yes, please please please address the sidewalk vendors.

1. Mission Street adjacent to the grocery store where they block the ramp, have a cooking source, and the local police buy their food!
2. the flower vendors clogging the mission/modoc T intersection street where there is overcrowded high traffic and it creates a safety concern when people stop mid road to purchase.
3. the 'cooler' containing tamales on the corner of mission/modoc oceanside
4. the various vendors outside La Cumbre Jr. High who sell junk food to the children

There is street safety involved in this as well as food safety.

Marilyn

Katherine Douglas

From: Robin Capalbo <tweegar@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 11:16 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Illegal street vendors/pop ups in Santa Ynez Valley

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.

My husband and I live in Los Olivos and have witnessed the steady growth of the illegal street vendors over the past two years. These vendors operate weekly and primarily in the evenings and more frequently on weekends during late spring and summer. They set up along highway 154 behind Maddie's Tavern and various locations near the new roundabout. I am specifically referring to the vendors operating down the street from my home, but similar set ups can be found daily across the street from Santa Ynez high school and along Highway 246.

According to construction workers, local food catering personnel, and even law enforcement officers who have frequented these vendors, they offer inexpensive food at \$3.00 per taco. Two weeks ago I spoke with a construction worker on Highway 154 near lunchtime, who mentioned that an older woman was setting up a pop-up for lunch behind Maddie's to serve meals to the crew. An hour later, sure enough, there she was.

This problem continues to grow, raising concerns about regulation, safety, and fairness for people who do sell food and follow the law.

There are viable issues that need immediate attention:

These vendors DO NOT PROVIDE RUNNING WATER AND REFRIGERATION TO KEEP THEIR MEATS/PRODUCE SAFE, AND NO BATHROOM FACILITIES. Where and how do they go when nature calls? And once they relieve themselves, they come back and serve up food. How many health violations are they breaking?

THEY COOK ON OPEN GRILLS-ALL GREASE IS DUMPED DIRECTLY INTO THE GROUND- you can see their propane induced flames leaping out driving down 154...

The two (2) California state laws that allow vendors access to sell food in public areas were written to give them the benefit of making a living with PREPACKAGED FOOD ONLY.

I have written to state government officials, including the governor and our senator. I have received back standard form letters with copies of existing laws without any meaningful action or response. These letters were sent in 2024.

The operators of these pop-up establishments fail to adhere to basic health and safety regulations, do not pay income or sales taxes, and neglect essential business obligations such as workers compensation and social security contributions. Meanwhile, legitimate businesses, particularly restaurants, must comply with strict regulations and face closure over (at times) minor infractions. This is unacceptable that these unregulated operations continue unchecked while all abiding businesses struggle to stay open.

It is clear the California state government has turned a blind eye to enforcing law, allowing this issue to grow, but these pop-ups are now expanding into serving lunch— further increasing the risks. Without intervention, it's only a matter of time before a serious incident occurs.

California has just endured the worst wildfires in its history. I am hoping that the Santa Ynez Valley does not become another statistic due to government inaction.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Capalbo
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