

Public Comment - Group 1

#3

From: Anna Carrillo
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve; Hart, Gregg; Nelson, Bob
Subject: #3 Proposed Hemp Cultivation Licensing Ordinance
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:20:55 AM



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: Board of Supervisors
From: Anna Carrillo
January 24, 2022

I'd like to make some comments regarding the Hemp Cultivation Licensing Ordinance.

Please don't approve the ordinance as presented today and direct staff to return with a report on the options for regulating hemp cultivation that ensure that the cultivation of highly odorous CBD strains do not impair our region's air quality through the emissions of odor causing compounds during cultivation, harvesting, and processing.

Hemp cultivation and processing generate the same odor issues as cannabis and until that can be controlled, please don't authorize a new ordinance.

As far as I know, the County still hasn't been able to "fingerprint" which cannabis operation causes the nuisance and health problems experienced by residents, schools, and public spaces. This will be the same problem in the cultivation of hemp. A promise was made that once permitting for cannabis was allowed, the county would be able to confront the cannabis operator to take corrective action, but as far as I know this hasn't occurred in the Carpinteria Valley with one of the only known fully permitted cannabis cultivation sites. **NO ENFORCEMENT IS OCCURRING AS THE ODOR ISN'T BEING CONTAINED TO THE PROERTY LINES BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY TO VERIFY THE SOURCE. Until this can be done, please do not add to the confusion of which operation, legal or illegal, is causing the distress.**

Relying on neighbor complaints does not work. The process is too laborious. The operators need to do their own monitoring in the affected areas.

The stated "intent of this ordinance is to regulate the cultivation of hemp within the unincorporated areas of the county to promote agricultural diversification, while **protecting the environment, public safety, and welfare of the county, but this ordinance has no teeth in which to do this. There can be no proper enforcement till a source can be identified. This ordinance does nothing to protect the quality of life for those residents living nearby. Also there is nothing to protect the schools, child care facilities, pubic spaces.**

Please regulate hemp cultivation through a zoning ordinance, not an "administrative ordinance". Adopt a zoning ordinance. There needs to be a proper permit system established.

Don't license hemp until the state completes its process.

Please authorize an environmental review of hemp ordinances and regulations to avoid and reduce environmental impacts, which has to include air quality concerns. The public needs

to be involved. When the cannabis ordinance EIR was adopted in 2018, the majority of Carpinteria was left out of the process as their immediate concerns were dealing with the aftermath of the Montecito mudslide and the frequent emergency evacuations that had much more life and death consequences. The community of Carpinteria and its surrounding valley is still dealing with those decisions made over 3 years ago.

Hemp uses the male flower which not only causes problems for residents, schools, wineries, but it also causes problems for the female plants used in cannabis, so on the one hand you are authorizing a new industry but ruining an existing one, just like you have done with the wineries and some avocado orchards.

Adopt rules to tax hemp cultivation based on acreage, not on self reporting income. Don't make the same mistake as was done for local taxing of cannabis.

Please protect our quality of life in our communities AND GIVE US BACK OUR CLEAN AIR!

Thank you,
Anna Carrillo

From: [Villalobos, David](#)
To: [sbcob](#); [Martin, Lottie](#)
Subject: FW: 1.25.22 BOS Meeting - Hemp regulations
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:58:34 PM
Attachments: [January 25 BOS Meeting-Hemp legislation.pdf](#)

From: Dianne Pence <diannedpence@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:38 PM
To: Villalobos, David <dvillalo@countyofsb.org>; Hartmann, Joan <jHartmann@countyofsb.org>; Nelson, Bob <bnelson@countyofsb.org>; Williams, Das <DWilliams@countyofsb.org>; Hart, Gregg <gHart@countyofsb.org>; Lavagnino, Steve <slavagnino@countyofsb.org>
Subject: 1.25.22 BOS Meeting - Hemp regulations

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David,

We hope you are doing well. Please see attached comments for tomorrow's meeting.
Thank you.

Wishing you all the best in health!

Dianne Pence

January 24, 2022

Santa Barbara County Supervisors
Regarding 1/25/22 BOS Meeting - Proposed Hemp Ordinances

Honorable Chair Hartmann and Supervisors,

We urge the board to not repeat the mistakes of the existing cannabis legislation in hastily pushing through hemp ordinances without sufficient public notice and prior to State and Federal mandates.

Communities and businesses in both north and south county continue to suffer under the stench and activities of the existing (and newly planted) pot operations. Many of the residents and children have already been severely impacted in the cities of Carpinteria, Buellton and Goleta, and have communicated with the board regarding the level of physical insult they experience in their homes and schools.

In addition to supporting the recommendations submitted by Marc Chytillo, the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis and others regarding noxious hemp odor concerns, we would include the following considerations:

- Hemp is a thirsty crop and like cannabis, will significantly and negatively impact our water supplies.
- Hemp provides ample opportunity for non-compliant, illicit growers to 'hide' cannabis plants amidst hemp plants, due to similarity in appearance, odor, etc.
- Hemp will continue to overburden and our already understaffed Sheriff's Enforcement Team.

In closing, we request that the Board use extreme discretion in developing any type of Hemp growing regulations and ensure public communication and participation. It is vital that strong requirements are defined for establishing appropriate growing locations, limiting hemp acreage per parcel, placing a cap on total hemp acreage, setting reasonable distancing and setbacks from businesses and residents, monitoring of water utilization, in addition to consideration of any other CEQA impacts to our environment and watershed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dianne Pence

From: Gail Herson
To: sbcob; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Williams, Das; sbcob
Subject: BOS hearing January 1-25-22 Item #3
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:46:48 AM

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,

As I write this, my house and garden reek of cannabis stench. My heart sank when I read hemp will now be grown. What is to become of our quality of life? It will be even worse than it is now. Unimaginable! Obviously the County has not yet controlled cannabis odors. It is unconscionable to allow hemp cultivation at all, especially in open grows. It is imperative you:

- 1. Do not license hemp until the state completes its process.**
- 2. Adopt a zoning ordinance regulating hemp cultivation that controls its odors.**
- 3. Adopt effective roles to tax hemp cultivation, not self reported.**
- 4. Conduct an environmental review of hemp ordinances and regulations to avoid environmental impacts and to provide a public notice and comment process**

We already suffer from poorly regulated, taxed and nonenforced cannabis grows. Increasing hemp cultivation will increase odors, making it harder to enforce odor control of cannabis odors. Even now you cannot tell where odors originate- no enforcement!

We know the cannabis regulations don't work. Please take time to carefully craft the hemp regulations. Smokable hemp is not allowed in CA until the State develops and adopts its tax program for hemp, so you have time to do this properly.

It is vital to **regulate hemp cultivation through zoning ordinances, not an administrative ordinance.** The Board should direct staff to prepare a permit system with teeth for hemp growers. **There must be a public process for review of options for the regulation and management of hemp.**

Thank you,
Gail Herson
Carpinteria

From: TURNER's
To: sbcob
Subject: Hemp Ordinance oposition
Date: Sunday, January 23, 2022 9:08:35 AM

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 SB Board of Supervisors,

Based on the complete disaster that our current cannabis ordinance is, why would we even want to contemplate a Hemp ordinance?

We are one of FIVE Mediterranean climates in the entire world. Is this the best use for this rare and beautiful land?

Our primary source of revenue comes from Property tax and TOT tax. Tax payers and tourists are not coming to our area to see and smell the noxious odor of cannabis and hemp, they are coming for the beautiful beaches, wonderful climate, and award winning wine country.

We have been in a drought situation for years. Why would we want to allocate our much-needed water resources to a non essential industry?

Our electricity grid is in poor condition and the entire state is wholeheartedly advocating more electric vehicles and all electric housing. The huge electricity needs for commercial cannabis and hemp production place huge demands on power grids, and utility companies lack the manpower and capital to perform costly upgrades to the meet the ever-growing need.

This is a non-essential industry with limited revenue potential and a huge downside.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Turner
Carpinteria Resident

From: [Sally Eagle](#)
To: [sbcob](#)
Subject: Hemp ordinance proposal
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:22:06 AM

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As a sensitive receptor in Carpinteria, I ask that your Board *take no action* on the proposed ordinance, and direct staff to return with a report on the options for regulating hemp cultivation that ensure that the cultivation of highly odorous CBD strains do not impair our region's air quality through the emissions of odor causing compounds during cultivation, harvesting and processing.

Let's learn from our mistakes with cannabis grows in this county!

Respectfully,

Sally Eagle
La Mirada
Carpinteria

From: [Leigh Johnson](#)
To: [sbcob](#)
Subject: Hemp
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 1:17:37 AM
Attachments: [hemp.pdf](#)

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Happy New Year

Can you please attach to the hemp hearing on 1-25-22

With the staff report dropping Thursday, this is the quickest I could reply.
Thank you
Leigh

1-23-22

Proposed Hemp cultivation and processing:

Honorable Supervisors,

The unit of measurement for illegal hemp THC levels is based upon a loose determination of dry weight / concentrated weight with a wide range of speculative doubt. The degree of certainty is blurred by these factors: the definition or ambiguity of dry weight vs liquid weight, the determination of pre harvest testing (15 days past ideal harvest could result in higher THC levels), the availability of accredited labs under USDA and DEA qualifications, varieties of hemp seed and the lack of USDA geographical identification with regards to conditions resulting in intensification of the acceptable .03 THC legal levels and the California Department of Public Health's policy of "*discretion of concentration*", and as outlined in the farm bill update of 2021 -*USDA will not consider hemp producers as committing a negligent violation if they produce plants exceeding the acceptable hemp THC level if they use reasonable efforts to grow hemp and the plant does not have a THC concentration of more than 0.5 percent on a dry weight basis.*

These variables and the sheriff's cannabis compliance team requesting an increase of officers based on the 21 suspected illegal operations not investigated in the last fiscal year; lead to a viable conclusion that a prolific hemp industry growing in and amongst the cannabis industry would be a monumental issue to legally and criminally contain.

Also, please take into consideration that Cachuma lake is at 48% with no significant rain forecasted. The population growth is compounding our needs for water and the increasing footprint of growing into non prime land for cannabis and assumably hemp is further stressing the sustainability of our system. More information is needed and environmental studies should be conducted on remote rural areas to determine if it's sustainable and worth the valuable irreplaceable resources. If experimental crops consume the resources in areas where water dependent crops haven't grown before; then it's counterproductive to an appreciation of nature, community and quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration

Leigh and Ronnie Johnson
Cebada Canyon – Lompoc

From: [merrily_peekles](#)
To: [sbcob](#)
Subject: Hemp in Santa Barbara County
Date: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:53:08 PM

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 County Supervisors,

For almost five years we have had to live with substandard Cannabis regulations. Now we are learning that hemp growing in Santa Barbara may be rushed through the regulatory process prior to the state of California completing its licensing process. Hemp also creates odor that will be upsetting for nearby residents and wine crops.

Mistakes were made on cannabis. Please conduct an environmental review of hemp ordinances and regulations to avoid and reduce environmental impacts. Regulate hemp through a zoning ordinance. Please provide public notice and a period of public comment. Odor needs to be controlled. Cannabis taxation is poor in Santa Barbara County. I hope you will do better with hemp taxation.

Proposing a hemp cultivation ordinance without public input after all this county has gone through with cannabis is criminal. Please pause and reflect on the proper actions needed to ensure hemp can be regulated as it should be.

thank you,

Merrily Peebles

From: [S Reimers](#)
To: [sbcob](#)
Subject: New Hemp Ordinance
Date: Sunday, January 23, 2022 1:07:31 PM

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,

I am writing to urge the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to allow a period of public input before approving this ordinance. Currently, the outcry about the process for developing the cannabis ordinance should cause great concern and encourage the supervisors to get better buy-in from county residents.

I am especially concerned about the amount of water these crops consume. The ongoing drought should influence the county's decisions. At my rural residence, a proposed cannabis crop situated on land that's been dry-farmed for generations threatens our fragile water supply. Should we lose our well, our property will become inhabitable and therefore worthless.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Reimers
3226 Jalama Road
Lompoc

From: [Renee O'Neill](#)
To: [sbcob](#); [Hartmann, Joan](#); [Nelson, Bob](#); [Hart, Gregg](#); [Lavagnino, Steve](#); [Williams, Das](#)
Cc: [Villalobos, David](#)
Subject: Public Comment, Item D-3
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:40:39 AM
Attachments: [BOS re Hemp_1-25-2022.docx](#)

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Dear Supervisors,

Attached, please find my very short letter re Hemp to be submitted for public comment.

Best Regards,

Renée O'Neill

January 24, 2022

To: Santa Barbara County Supervisors
Re: Proposed Hemp Ordinances
From: Renée O'Neill

Honorable Chair Hartmann and Supervisors,

This brief letter is to remind the Board of Supervisors that “cart-before-the-horse” mistakes could have been avoided, had the BOS adopted Staff’s prudent cannabis regulations, in 2018. Unfortunately, we continue to be plagued by Significant Negative, Class-I Impacts from non-compliant, illicit growers.

It is extremely concerning to me that the Board of Supervisors may, *once again*, open Pandora’s Box and in their haste, ramrod hemp ordinances through, without sufficient public notice and prior to State and Federal mandates.

In addition to adding my voice in support of recommendations submitted by Marc Chytilo, the Coalition and others, re hemp, I would add the following:

- Hemp is a thirsty crop and like cannabis, will significantly, negatively impact our water supplies.
- Hemp provides ample opportunity for non-compliant, illicit growers to ‘hide’ cannabis plants amidst hemp plants, due to similarity in appearance, odor, etc.
- Hemp will continue to overburden and our already understaffed Sheriff’s Enforcement Team.

In closing, “We the People,” request that the Board use extreme discretion in developing Hemp Ordinances, as indicated in detailed letter from Marc Chytilo, before issuing licenses to growers. As Commissioner Blough advised about Cannabis, years ago, “GO SLOW BEFORE YOU GROW!”

Respectfully Submitted,

Renée O'Neill

From: sjashbrook@gmail.com
To: [sbcob](#)
Subject: Regulate Hemp -
Date: Sunday, January 23, 2022 3:39:03 PM
Attachments: [Hemp.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,

Many residents of the County of Santa Barbara have written and spoken out to ask for transparency regarding cannabis policy and regulation. I write to ask supervisors to apply the same transparency and regulatory policy to industrial hemp.

Your role as a supervisor is to protect Santa Barbara citizens. You don't have to look far to see the disaster poor policy has caused in Oregon. There, cannabis masquerades as industrial hemp cultivation, and comes with all the same issues, odor, stolen water, crime and making enforcement almost impossible. Hemp with no regulations will put more pressure on Santa Barbara's underfunded cannabis enforcement. As we have seen, "voluntary tax payments" are not allowing significant enforcement.

Santa Barbara County has shown the oil industry that it can be strong when using CEQA environmental requirements, slow hemp down. Do the right thing for our beautiful county.

Respectfully,
Susan Ashbrook

Dear Supervisors,

Many residents of the County of Santa Barbara have written and spoken out to ask for transparency regarding cannabis policy and regulation. I write to ask supervisors to apply the same transparency and regulatory policy to industrial hemp.

Your role as a supervisor is to protect Santa Barbara citizens. You don't have to look far to see the disaster poor policy has caused in Oregon. There, cannabis masquerades as industrial hemp cultivation, and comes with all the same issues, odor, stolen water, crime and making enforcement almost impossible. Hemp with no regulations will put more pressure on Santa Barbara's underfunded cannabis enforcement. As we have seen, "voluntary tax payments" are not allowing significant enforcement.

Santa Barbara County has shown the oil industry that it can be strong when using CEQA environmental requirements, slow hemp down. Do the right thing for our beautiful county.

Respectfully,
Susan Ashbrook