

Sarah Mayer Public Comment - Carp Growers

#3



**From:** Whitney Collie <whitney@coastalbloomsnursery.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 11:35 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Supervisor Das Williams; Bob Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann  
**Subject:** CARP Growers Comment Letter D3  
**Attachments:** CARP Growers Comment Letter D3.pdf

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Good Morning,

Please see attached CARP Growers public comment letter for item D3 at tomorrow's hearing.

Thank you,  
Whitney



CARP  
GROWERS

May 13, 2024

Chair Lavagnino and Honorable Supervisors,

Thank you for considering our comments regarding amending Santa Barbara County cannabis taxes to a square-footage or other alternative taxation model. CARP Growers has been an active cannabis farmers group of 5 greenhouse cannabis producers operating at 16 properties in Carpinteria Valley since 2018. As a group of responsible farmers, our association supported the original ballot measure in 2018 to create a robust tax structure in order to support Santa Barbara County's general fund through cannabis taxation. Since then, Santa Barbara County has collected tens of millions of tax dollars from our members.

We have been in discussions regarding a change in taxes to the square-foot model for several months as your board has proposed exploring the idea. **Due to the recent announcement by the federal government to reschedule cannabis, we feel the most responsible decision would be Option B, take no action and maintain the current gross receipts taxation method.** To ensure that Santa Barbara County stays competitive in the years to come we feel that more information is needed to find a sustainable taxation method and that the County should defer to the next election cycle to have the time needed to calculate a fair method for both the North and South County.

We value the continued partnership created between cannabis farm operators and Santa Barbara County and thank you for your continued support of agriculture in Carpinteria Valley.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Whitney Collie".

Whitney Collie