



Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - Group 2 #6*

**From:** homer snyder <himynameishomer@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 2, 2026 8:34 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Homer Snyder  
lomdoc, California / united state  
himynameishomer@live.com  
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Homer Snyder, and I am writing as a current or former employee of Dare 2 Dream Farms in Lompoc. I have worked at the farm as farm hands, shop manager, (2014-2026), and I am asking the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

Dare 2 Dream Farms is not a corporation or an absentee investor. It is a working family farm owned and operated by Jeremy and Megan Raff on La Salle Canyon Road — land Jeremy's family has owned since 1970, which he returned to in 2008 to care for his grandfather and rebuild into what it is today. The farm has always kept its gates open to anyone in the community who wants to come out and visit the animals, walk the garden, or take a stroll through the property, sunup to sundown. It has provided stable, meaningful employment to full-time local workers like me, as well as part-time and seasonal staff. For many of us, this is not just a job — it is livelihood rooted in a community we care deeply about.

I understand that the farm has operated WWOOF agricultural exchange participants since 2013, farm tours since 2014, and Airbnb farm stay accommodations since 2017, and that in 2019, Santa Barbara County actively ruled against drafting a legal framework for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties, leaving our operation with no path to compliance. In 2019 Jeremy joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — a group led by Planning Commissioner John Parke whose recommendations became the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance — not passed until December 2024, years past its projected timeline. Retroactively penalizing a small family farm for a compliance gap the County itself created — and took five years to resolve — is fundamentally unjust, and I respectfully urge this Board to exercise its discretion accordingly.

The Ruffs have contributed to this community in ways that go far beyond their farm operations — employing local workers, hosting over 500 agricultural exchange visitors from across the country and internationally, supporting the revival of the Lompoc Grange Hall, participating in local food access boards and the Route One Farmers Market, and offering free farm tours to schools and underserved communities. A \$65,000 retroactive assessment threatens all of it.

I ask that you protect this farm, the jobs it provides, and the community programs it sustains — by granting What makes this situation even more striking is the documented community impact of this farm during the very years now subject to retroactive audit. In 2024, Dare 2 Dream became the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA’s own federal website — making fresh local produce accessible to food stamp recipients online for the first time. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity as an emergency food access operation. Every month it donates produce to Veggie Rescue. It supplies the Route One Mobile Market serving food-insecure families with EBT/CalFresh. The County’s own tourism arm, Explore Lompoc, promotes it as "a highlight of your Lompoc experience." This is a community food institution — and the County is retroactively taxing it for a compliance gap the County created.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum waiving the penalties and interest that accumulated during the years of regulatory uncertainty.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Homer Snyder  
farm hands, shop manager,  
lompoc, California / united state

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Jasmine <jasminepsundquist7287@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 2, 2026 10:05 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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Jasmine Sundquist  
Oceano, Ca  
[jasminepsundquist@hotmail.com](mailto:jasminepsundquist@hotmail.com)  
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Jasmine Sundquist, and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been a customer and visitor of Dare 2 Dream Farms throughout the last two years, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

During my many visits to the farm I am continuing impressed with not only the food that is grown in the vegetable garden but with the Raffs love for the community. This family and farm is exceptionally special, they are always thinking of others and ways they can be of service. Every visit is greeted with hugs and smiles, and feels like coming home. Whether I am walking the garden or purchasing from the farm stand I can see the love and hard work that is taking place here.

Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk

the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Sundquist  
Customer  
Oceano, Ca

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Lana Charbonneau <charbie21@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 2, 2026 12:41 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Laná Huyck  
Ca  
charbie21@hotmail.com  
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Laná Huyck (Customer), and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms through [describe your connection — farm stand, CSA produce box subscription, Route One Farmers Market, farm tour, or other]. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community.

[Add your personal experience — why locally sourced food matters to you, what the farm's products have meant to your household, what it would mean to lose this resource in our community. If you have visited the farm informally — brought your kids to see the animals, walked the garden, or stopped by the farm stand — mention that too.]

Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world.

I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it.

I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laná Huyck  
Customer  
Lompoc  
Ca

Sent from my iPhone

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Bethelle Cartwright <live4mykids@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 2, 2026 1:12 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting

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.

Beth Gillesby  
Peoria, Arizona  
live4mykids@hotmail.com  
July 2, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Beth Gillesby, and I serve as Family friend in Peoria, Arizona. I was born and raised in Lompoc for 50 years. I am writing in strong support of Dare 2 Dream Farms and respectfully urge this Board to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you.

I have had the privilege of watching Jeremy grow up from a little boy to a great son, man, father, friend and grandson. I was lucky enough to know, Mike and Betty Raff (Jeremy's grandparents )and his mom. I spent many of days and evenings on the Raff farm growing up myself and raising fair pigs behind the Raff house. In my experience in this community, Dare 2 Dream Farms stands apart as one of the most genuinely committed contributors to the economic and social vitality of the Lompoc Valley.

Consider the breadth of their community involvement: active leadership in the revival of the Lompoc Grange Hall as a nonprofit community venue; board participation in the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network (SBCFAN), where Megan Raff serves as Board Chair; board membership on the Route One Farmers Market; participation in the Santa Barbara County Chamber of Commerce; free farm tours for schools, learning groups, and underserved communities; hosting of fundraiser dinners for local nonprofits at no charge; a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and farm stand serving county residents; 5–6 full-time local employees; and over 500 WWOOF agricultural education participants hosted from across the U.S. and internationally.

This is not a short-term rental investor. This is a working family farm that keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or simply experience where their food comes from. The farm stay accommodations that are now subject to retroactive assessment were always secondary to that open, community-rooted mission.

I am also concerned about the fundamental fairness of this situation. In 2019, Santa Barbara County actively ruled against drafting a legal framework for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties — leaving operators like Dare 2 Dream Farms with no path to compliance and no acknowledgment of how to move forward. Critically, Jeremy did not simply accept the situation: in 2019 Jeremy joined the County's Farmstay Advisory Committee — bringing his perspective

as a working farmer to help find a common-sense solution — a group led by Planning Commissioner John Parke whose recommendations became the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance. The County did not pass that ordinance until December 2024 — years past its own projected timeline. Retroactively assessing penalties and interest for that period sends a deeply troubling message to every small farm in Santa Barbara County that attempts to diversify revenue through agritourism.

I respectfully ask this Board to act with fairness and grant full forgiveness of the \$65,000 assessment, or at the very least waive all penalties and interest that accrued during the years of regulatory uncertainty.

Thank you for your service to our community and for your thoughtful consideration of this appeal.

Sincerely,

Beth Gillesby  
Family friend  
Peoria, Arizona

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tamara Pierce](mailto:Tamara.Pierce)  
**To:** [sbcob](mailto:sbcob)  
**Subject:** Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7 Board Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, July 2, 2026 4:07:05 PM

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**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.**

Tamara Pieve Lompoc, Ca [tastingroomtamara@yahoo.com](mailto:tastingroomtamara@yahoo.com) July 2, 2026 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara 105 E. Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Re: Public Comment — TOT Appeal, Dare 2 Dream Farms, July 7, 2026 Board Meeting Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board of Supervisors, My name is Tamara Pieve (Customer), and I am writing as a customer and community supporter of Dare 2 Dream Farms to respectfully ask the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to grant full relief — or at minimum a waiver of penalties and interest — on the retroactive Transient Occupancy Tax assessment currently before you. I have been a customer of Dare 2 Dream Farms through [describe your connection — farm stand, CSA produce box subscription, Route One Farmers Market, farm tour, or other]. For me and my family, this farm represents something increasingly rare: a local, working agricultural operation that makes fresh, honestly grown food genuinely accessible to our community. [Add your personal experience — why locally sourced food matters to you, what the farm's products have meant to your household, what it would mean to lose this resource in our community. If you have visited the farm informally — brought your kids to see the animals, walked the garden, or stopped by the farm stand — mention that too.] Dare 2 Dream Farms has been serving customers like me since 2013, when they first opened their farm to the community through agricultural exchange programs and tours. What makes this even more extraordinary is that Dare 2 Dream Farms is the first CSA in Santa Barbara County to accept SNAP Online payments — listed on the USDA's own federal website — so that food stamp recipients can order fresh local produce online for delivery or pickup. During COVID-19, the farm grew its CSA to 500% of previous capacity to serve as a community food emergency operation. Every month it donates excess vegetables to Veggie Rescue to feed families in need. One of the things that has always set this farm apart is that it keeps its gates open to the entire community — sunup to sundown, every day — welcoming anyone who wants to visit the animals, walk the garden, or see firsthand where their food comes from. This is not a hotel. It is a working farm that has chosen to be genuinely accessible to the people it serves. Over the years they have grown their impact considerably — operating a CSA produce box subscription service, a farm stand, and participating in the Route One Farmers Market, all while employing 5–6 full-time local workers and hosting hundreds of agricultural exchange visitors from around the world. I understand that Santa Barbara County is now retroactively assessing approximately \$65,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax, penalties, and interest against this farm for a period when the County itself had no legal framework in place for farm-based lodging on agricultural properties. The County's own Supervisor Joan Hartmann stated at the December 2024 hearing that passed the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance that the goal was to help working farms "stabilize their income during the ups and downs of what is a very difficult way to make a living." A \$65,000 retroactive penalty does the opposite — and ultimately affects not just the farm, but the customers and community members who depend on it. I respectfully ask this Board to grant full forgiveness of the assessed amount, or at minimum to waive all penalties and interest that accumulated during the years when the County provided no legal compliance pathway. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Tamara Pieve Customer Lompoc Lompoc, Ca