

Sarah Mayer Public Comment - Group 3



3

From: Villalobos, David
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 4:15 PM
To: osberg11@gmail.com
Cc: sbcob
Subject: FW: Rooster Ordinance
Attachments: Rooster Ordinance Ltr to SB Co Board.pdf

Good Afternoon Mr. Osberg,


I have copied Clerk of the Board staff here, which is where the letter needs to go for the BOS. As for your request for your name to be confidential, I can't really speak to what Clerk of the Board's policy is for that and will let them weigh in on that.



David Villalobos, MPA
Hearing Support Supervisor

Planning & Development
County of Santa Barbara
123 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-568-2058

<https://www.countyofsb.org/plndev/home.sbc>

From:  <osberg11@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 3:58 PM
To: Villalobos, David <dvillalo@countyofsb.org>
Subject: Rooster Ordinance

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.

David, please find attached, my letter in support of the Rooster Ordinance currently being considered by the Board of Supervisors. I believe the ordinance should go further in limiting the number of roosters allowed to no more than 5 regardless of the parcel size. Please pass this on to the Board for me. Although it's not critical, I would appreciate the Board keeping my name confidential for fear of retribution. Thank you.



[REDACTED]

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
RE: Proposed AS Rooster Ordinance Chapter 7 Article I and IX

To Whom it May Concern,

I write this letter with regard to the Proposed AS Rooster Ordinance currently being considered by the Board. I am in full support of limiting populations and activities involving roosters within Santa Barbara County. I believe the proposed ordinance is a positive move but does not go far enough in limiting the populations to be allowed without commercial licenses or governmental oversight. No possible purpose can exist for having more than 5 roosters on any size property other than to support illegal cock fighting. There is no viable commercial use, nor any personal activity that would support having more roosters than that. We live in an Existing, Developed, Residential Neighborhood and parcel sizes can slightly exceed 20 acres. Rooster keeping operations in our EDRN currently house hundreds of birds, cause a general nuisance and are certainly not conducive to the comfort, welfare, health and safety of our neighborhood. Please consider the following points:

- Roosters crow constantly, not just in the morning and the sound carries throughout our canyon not just to neighboring parcels.
- Roosters are kept in small cages to increase aggression, not left to move around as in a coop or yard.
- Roosters are not viable meat animals, even if they were, such operations should require a commercial license and be monitored by food regulators.
- Recently property sales in our neighborhood have been negatively impacted by the existing rooster operations with purchases being cancelled and values being significantly reduced when those operations were disclosed to buyers.

I thank you for your consideration and hope that you will see your way clear to further limit the keeping of roosters within Santa Barbara County to 5 birds or less for any size property.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sarah Mayer

From: Paula Kislak <PK99@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 7:47 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Gina Fischer; 'Lee Heller'
Subject: Request to limit rooster numbers in Santa Barbara County
Attachments: 1stSanta Barbara Co Supervisors - Anti-Cockfighting.pdf

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Dear Clerk of the Board,
Would you please include the 2 letters here (one attached and one in the body), and 2 more to follow, in a package for consideration of a rooster ordinance by the Supervisors at the next meeting? (Jan. 9)
Thank you very much,
Paula Kislak

*Paula Kislak, DVM
Partner, KM Veterinary Services
Board Member, Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association*

*Phone: 805-705-5530
E mail: PK99@Cox.net*



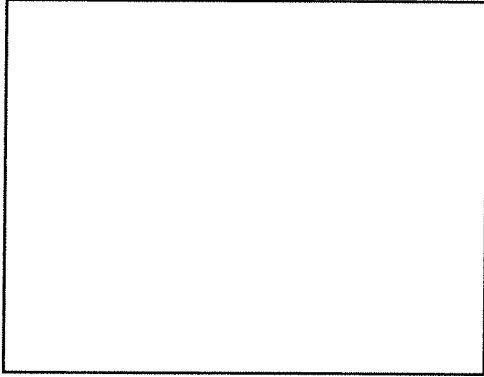
From: Jim Keen <Jim.Keen@animalwellnessaction.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 12:09 AM
To: SupervisorWilliams@countyofsb.org
Subject: Request to limit rooster numbers in Santa Barbara County to control illegal cockfighting

Dear Chairman Supervisor Williams,

My name is Jim Keen. I am an agricultural veterinarian with a Ph.D. in infectious disease epidemiology. I have worked as a food animal clinician, a veterinary infectious disease researcher at the USDA's Meat Animal Research Center in Nebraska for two decades, and as faculty at the University of Nebraska School of Veterinary Medicine for 13 years.

I am currently Director of Veterinary Science for Animal Wellness Action and the Center for a Humane Economy, two animal protection non-profits. I currently live on my family's 140-year-old grain and livestock farm in eastern South Dakota. In the 2000s I did dairy veterinary Salmonella control work on several large operations in Southern California, so I completely understand the importance of agriculture to your beautiful County and State.

*I am writing to urge your Board of Supervisors to adopt and enforce a strong ordinance to restrict private ownership of large numbers of roosters to help control the plague of illegal cockfighting. A proper ordinance would exempt legitimate poultry operations that need more roosters. But as you well know, cockfighting operations are not legitimate poultry operations. This July 2023 article from *The Santa Barbara Independent* (<https://www.independent.com/2023/07/12/why-are-so-many-roosters-living-in-santa-barbara-county/>)*



Why Are So Many Roosters Living in Santa Barbara County?

Supervisors worry it could be for cock-fighting.

www.independent.com

describes "rooster hot spots" and "unusually high rooster-to-hen ratios" by the Sheriff's Office and members of your Board of Supervisors. Cockfighting breeding and training operations are not hard to spot, and rooster hot spots are a prime marker of these illegal and dangerous operations.

In my 35-year-long veterinary career, I have had a great deal of disease outbreak experience as a field veterinarian and epidemiologist, including Foot and Mouth Disease eradication in the United Kingdom in 2001, the diagnosis and euthanasia of backyard poultry during the enormous Southern California virulent Newcastle Disease outbreak in 2003, and African Swine fever control in central Asia between 2007 and 2014.

Virulent Newcastle disease (vND), along with Avian Influenza ("Bird Flu") are the two worst avian diseases on the planet. The US is normally free of vND but California has seen several introductions of this virus from our southern border. For six weeks in Spring 2003, I was deployed with a large team based out of Orange County to control the enormous vND outbreak in Southern California. I primarily worked in South Central Los Angeles and peri-urban LA County where there were many small-scale mixed poultry and livestock operations and rancheros. Many of these small farms raised fighting cocks. It was easy to identify cockfighting farms by the large number of roosters of cockfighting breeds and the caging arrangement of one rooster with two hens for breeding ("trios"). Some of the cockfighting operations I came across held up to a few hundred birds.

It is well documented that the 2002-2003 vND outbreak started from smuggled cockfighting birds from Mexico. The vND virus is endemic in Mexico, and virus fingerprinting, as well as epidemiologic investigations, pinpointed the 2002-2003 California outbreak strain to illegal cockfighting bird smuggling. Cockfighting was also a major means of virus spread, as many persons involved in cockfighting activity also worked in commercial poultry operations.

Cockfighters received large reimbursements for their fighting birds that were euthanized as part of the 2002-2003 California vND control efforts. This was done to help prevent the cockfighters from going even further underground and spreading the virus even more.

Of even greater concern than vND is the ongoing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 virus pandemic. This bird flu virus has killed almost 60 million US poultry in the past 1.5 years and many more million globally. This virus is also zoonotic (spreads from infected birds to people), and a few simple mutations could enable

the virus to spread rapidly and infect and kill many people as a pandemic human virus. Unfortunately, the USDA does not report cockfighting operations among the 514 “backyard flocks” so far infected with H5N1 bird flu, but I am certain there have been many infected cockfighting farms.

In closing, for the health and welfare of the people and poultry in Santa Barbara County, please adopt and enforce a strict ordinance to restrict rooster ownership in Tulare County. Cockfighting is a brutal blood sport with no place in our civilized and civil society. I also invite you to review a detailed report on the role of cockfighting as a vector of virulent Newcastle disease and bird flu H5N1 that I co-wrote with my veterinary colleague Dr. Tom Pool.

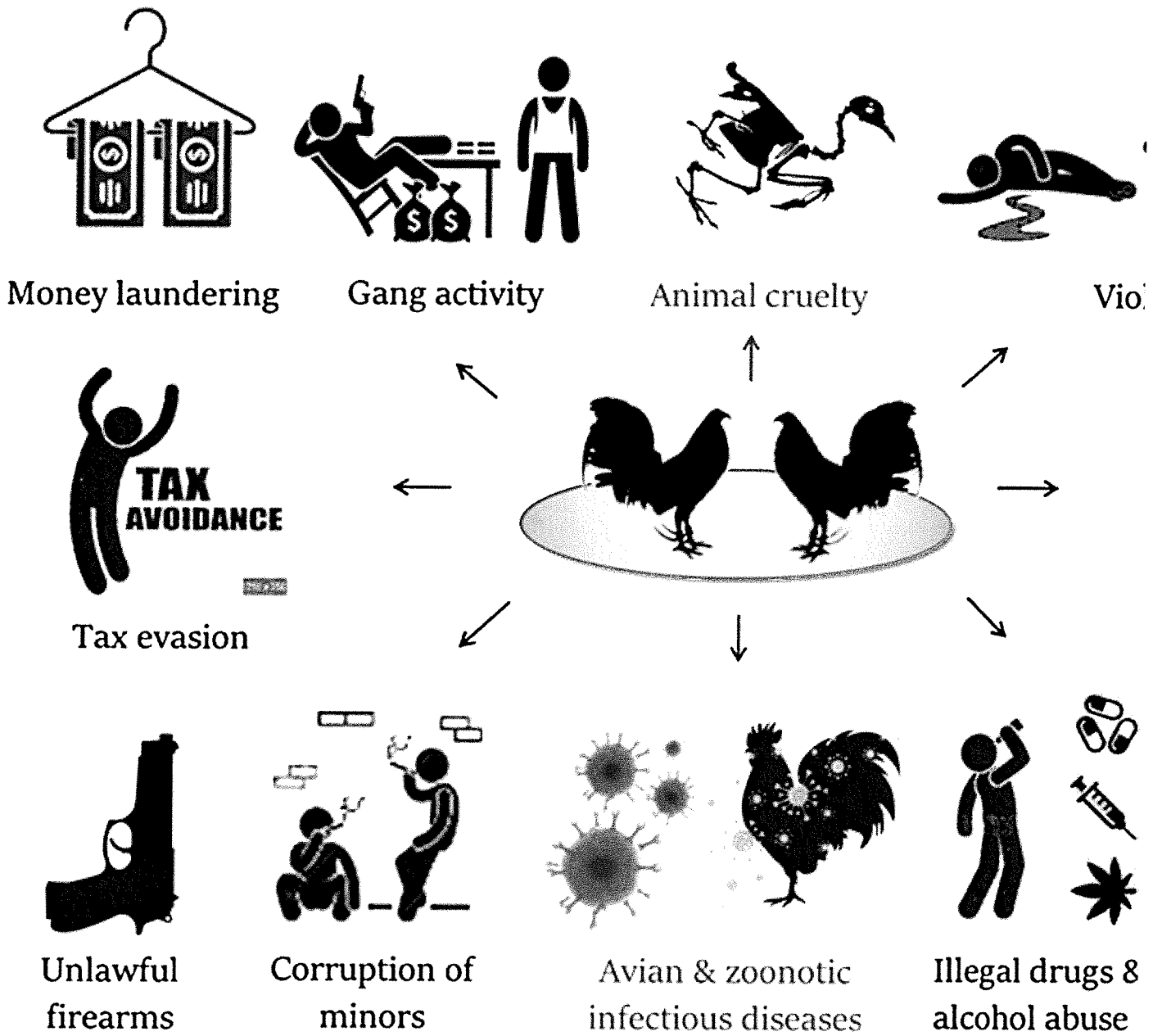
Thank you.

Jim Keen, DVM, PhD

Director of Veterinary Sciences

Animal Wellness Action

Email: jim.keen@animalwellnesaction.org



Cockfighting is both a serious crime and a disease threat. Human cruelty to animals is the root of cockfighting but several other harmful socio-pathological sequelae follow from this blood sport including very serious avian and zoonotic infectious disease risks (vND and bird flu H5N1) that arise and spread from cockfighting.

Sarah Mayer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 10:21 PM
To: Villalobos, David
Subject: Rooster Ordinance

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.

Good evening, David Villalobos,

I am writing this letter because I have been very concerned about the increased *Rooster* noise 24 hours a day coming from a property directly across from mine in Cebada Canyon. Also, the grossly increase in traffic going into and out of the property in this once quite rural area. Now I do believe there must be over 100 birds (confirmed by Animal services), because I used to have some birds and the noise coming from that property is unbelievable. Cebada Canyon and Tepusquet Canyons are EDRNs, so ***breeding roosters is a business (fighting cocks)*** and should require a CUP in an EDRN "Existing, Developed, Residential, Neighborhood". An EDRN project should not be "detrimental to the comfort, convenience, general welfare, health, and safety of the neighborhood and is compatible with the surrounding area" The Roosters crow 24 hours a day and night waking me up at all hours. The number of birds should be reduced to 5 for a "reasonable family use" as in all of the other properties in the Canyon area. The birds are also not roaming, and I have been told they are kept in small cages, close together to encourage aggression. In the conditions of how they are sheltered, may also be considered animal cruelty.

This type of business in and around the homes in Cebada Canyon is in violation of EDRN, a noise nuisance, curl to animals, and an increase in nonresident traffic on a privet road, making the residence feel unsafe. I have already seen realtor signs going up at the entrance to Cebada Canyon, as the property values are feared to drop due to this type of activity binging allowed to occur.

I'm strongly voicing my concern for myself and my neighbors because many have noticed that they are not happy with what is going on. Many will not come forward because of relation fears. So please keep my name confidential.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sarah Mayer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 11:12 PM
To: Villalobos, David
Subject: Rooster Ordinance

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 Chairperson Williams and Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Santa Barbara County on the subject of the proposed Rooster Ordinance. I live in Cebada Canyon on Avena Road and am all too familiar with neighbors that are housing many roosters. I have included my name and address below but would prefer (if possible) to keep my personal information confidential.

Sometime last year our closet neighbor started allowing folks to build out areas raising/housing multiple Roosters. I have attached several pictures so you can get an idea of the scope to the issue. The constant noise of Roosters from well before sunrise to well after sunset is very annoying. We used to enjoy sleeping with the windows open in our bedroom during the summer months, but that is unfortunately no longer possible. Everyone who visits us at our home has the same comment "wow there are a lot of Roosters around here". We spent quite a bit of money fixing up our home this summer to maintain/improve its value and every contractor who worked on the house also mentioned the Roosters, I fear we probably wasted the money as I heard several neighbors had issues when selling their house due to neighboring Rooster farms. Our neighbor is not the only one with large Rooster operations in the canyon. I know some were moved from another property to our neighbors property. I know if we wanted to sell our home, it would be a very hard sell, as anyone who came out to see the place would not be able to ignore the constant crowing of Roosters.

My concern with the current proposed ordinance is it does not go far enough to reduce the number of Roosters that will be living next door.

The current proposed ordinance would put 20 roosters next door as all parcels in the area are greater than 20 acres. In reality the parcel size does not matter that much as the placement of the cages relative to your neighbor. My home happens to be near the edge of my property line and the neighbor placed the cages away from their home toward our adjoining property line. They don't want to hear the Roosters.

The 150 foot setback also does not help much depending on the acoustics of the area. We are in a canyon where my home is against one hill and the Rooster farms are against another. All their crowing bounces around and is reflecting back to our home.

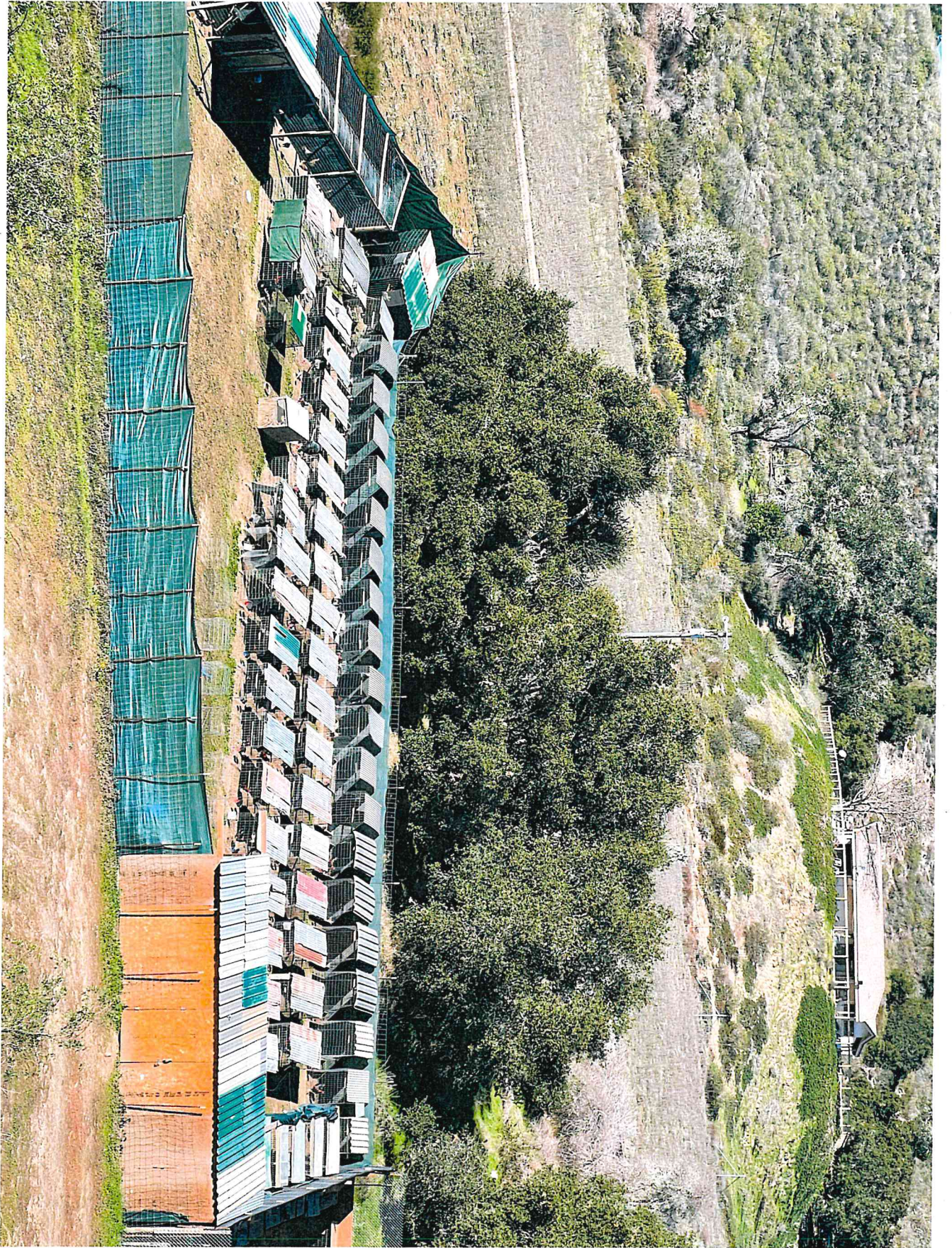
I think an upper limit of all property should be 5. I can see if someone had a legitimate reason for raising Roosters, for example a large chicken production facility on a

large ag parcel (100 Acre) well away from residential properties there could be a need for more than 5 Roosters. But in our EDRN I can't see allowing 20 Roosters as necessary.

If more than 5 are allowed, I would think a CUP should be a requirement so the noise can be considered/controlled as part to the permitting process.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Sarah Mayer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 11:54 PM
To: Villalobos, David
Subject: Rooster Ordinance

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>
>
>
> Subject: Rooster Ordinance
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> Attention : Board of Supervisors
>
> Cebada Canyon is a beautiful and tranquil community that is a very
> special place to live.
> My Sister and brother in law have lived there for many years and I
> have always enjoyed visiting them. They chose this location for its
> beautiful setting and peacefulness.
> This peaceful and idyllic setting has changed dramatically with the
> intrusion of Roosters on a large scale.
> The quiet days are replaced by loud squawking and crowing for many hours.
> This is very concerning. I am also most concerned about the Roosters well being.
> I understand they are in tiny cages. This is very cruel and negligent.
> Birds and any Animals, for that matter, should not be kept in small
> cages. It is unhealthy and certainly contributes to them being very
> vocal. Their shelter conditions should be addressed right away and a
> limit of five Roosters maximum.
> I live in Santa Barbara and a recent property had a difficult time
> selling because the neighbor had Roosters and was also raising them.
> It attracted problems to the neighborhood, parents were concerned
> about the individuals, and it seriously affected The Real Estate values of the neighborhood.
>
> I must have my name and contact information strictly remain anonymous.
> I am very concerned And I fear retribution with these parties.
>
> I hope there is resolution very soon with this important matter.
>
> [REDACTED]
>
>
>
>
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>
>

Sarah Mayer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 7:46 AM
To: Villalobos, David
Subject: Rooster Ordinance

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keep my name confidential for fear of retribution.

I would like to come tot he zoom meeting, if you could send me info.

I can not see why anyone would want more then a few roosters, unless they are raising them for fighting, and that is HORRIBLE. the noise is Horrible. the smell is bad.

If anyone is saying they raise to show, ect. I sure would like to see proof of past shows, Entry fees cancelled checks, booklets with names in it. ect. As for is saying 4_H. I would like proof of that also. hate to see people saying showing, when being raised for fighting or other things. and if a bunch of these animals are being keep, what type of heath certificate are keep.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

Sarah Mayer

From: Joe Miller <mrAtlas@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Villalobos, David
Subject: Proposed Rooster Ordinance comments

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 appreciate the county supervisors tackling this growing public nuisance issue. I have 2 comments on the proposed ordinance.

#1 - Reduce the allowed number of roosters without a permit to one.

You do not need a rooster to get eggs, you only need a rooster to get chicks. Unless it's a permitted commercial operation no one needs more than one rooster. Neighbors have an absolute right to peace and quiet in their homes and large numbers of crowing roosters infringe on this right. Roosters do not just crow in the morning for a few times. They can crow all day and night, habitually disturbing the peace and quiet of neighbors.

#2 - Setbacks from property lines or other residences on more than 20-acre parcels should be at least 500 feet.

A parcel of 20 acres or larger certainly has room to locate rooster enclosures additional distances from neighbors which will provide more noise buffering.

Thanks,
Joe Miller

Sarah Mayer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 1:25 PM
To: Villalobos, David
Subject: "Rooster ordinance"
Attachments: BOS roosters 1-4-24.doc

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Rooster letter

Thank you

[REDACTED]

January 4, 2024

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

The ever-increasing population of roosters housed in Cebada Canyon has raised concerns among the residents. The roosters' loud crowing at all hours of the day and night has become a nuisance and is disrupting the peaceful environment of the area. The roosters are kept in crowded conditions, which can lead to aggression and disease.

Residents have called on local authorities to address the issue and enforce regulations around the housing and care of these roosters but their hands are tied.

We now have range free eggs and chicken through Proposition 12 effect in 2022. If this is a commercial operation then let them run loose. A CUP is required in any residential area that is conducting a business. Caging them for fighting or raising them to be sold should not be under these conditions. And it appalls me that there is cock fighting even going on in our canyon. This must be stopped before it grows any further.

We now have 3 properties that have excessive numbers of Roosters. The noise can be heard through out the canyon.

To address to these concerns, a county ordinance must be enforced to limit the number of roosters one can keep on their property. The ordinance needs to set a limit to this number. This regulation aims to maintain the peace, tranquility and safety of the community and prevent animal welfare issues by ensuring that the number of roosters is safe and that this is not a commercial operation.

I would suspect that other parts of the county may have this issue and parts of California.

“Please keep my name and address confidential for fear of retribution.”

[REDACTED]

Sarah Mayer

From: RICHARD MORGAN <rikoshay53@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:03 PM
To: Villalobos, David
Subject: Rooster Ordinance
Attachments: Poultry Ordinance letter.pdf

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 Mr. Villalobos:

Please accept this letter with an opinion on the pending Rooster Ordinance.
Would you please distribute to the other Supervisors as well.
Thank you.

Richard H. Morgan, DVM

January 5, 2024

RE: Rooster/Poultry Ordinance
ATTN: David Villalobos- Zoning Supervisor

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that there has been an unaddressed issue concerning the number of birds (Roosters/Hens) allowed on a property for the purpose of meat and egg production. Currently it seems that there is a property housing a very large number of birds (estimated at over 160 birds with hens and a significant number of roosters in that number).

I have serious concerns that proper environment/space needs/protection will be maintained in a humane fashion with this number of birds...

In general, EACH chicken would need about 3-4 square feet of indoor coop space and about 8-10 square feet of outdoor space if free roaming, foraging. Also to be considered is the number of roosters that should be allowed in a backyard program....one rooster is usually servicing anywhere from 10-12 hens and larger number of males can lead to issues with inter-male fighting, injuries to the hens, increased noise (all roosters will crow, with subordinates following the alpha successively), and then there is the concern for the prevention of contagious disease in large or overcrowded flocks. In this case of the AG-1 property the number of roosters is inappropriate and concerning.

Truly those persons in the supervisory position assessing and deciding the revamping of the Poultry Ordinance need to consider all the above issues (animal health, welfare, disease prevention/control and possible noise pollution) and the true purpose and intended use of the flock in coming to a decision on a reasonable solution.



Dr. Richard H. Morgan, DVM

Sarah Mayer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:57 PM
To: Villalobos, David
Subject: Rooster Ordinance

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 Mr. Villalobos,

I am writing to you in hopes of amending the upcoming Rooster ordinance to include:

A maximum of 5 roosters for "reasonable family use"

A change in the shelter conditions to ensure hygienic and cruelty free enclosures. Roosters are territorial and therefore need extra room to roost in order to avoid aggression between roosters. Often, one rooster per hen house is enough to fertilize eggs for breeding a reasonable family use.

Roosters crow 24/7 and affect adjacent properties. The noise from one rooster coming from a neighbor can be enough to cause some people to sell their home because of the auditory pollution and detrimental health effects from the persistent noise.

A minimum distance from property lines - 500 feet - a rooster can be housed.

Cebada Canyon and Tepusquet Canyons are EDRNs. Breeding roosters is a business and should require a CUP in an EDRN "Existing , Developed, Residential, Neighborhood". An EDNR project should not be "detrimental to the comfort, convenience, general welfare, health, and safety of the neighborhood and is compatible with the surrounding area."

NOTE: Two parcels were recently sold because of roosters. Realtors asked them to disclose about the roosters and their property values have declined as a direct result.

I wish to remain anonymous while seeking representation because I fear further retribution from neighbors who violate this and other ordinances.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]