

de la Guerra, Sheila

Public Comment

From: Steinfeld, Amy <ASteinfeld@bhfs.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:34 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Heaton, Brittany; Klemann, Daniel
Subject: NCFG Letter to BOS-Cannabis Ordinance (005).docx
Attachments: NCFG Letter to BOS-Cannabis Ordinance (005).docx



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Dear Honorable Supervisors,

Please accept this one page letter from the North County Farmer's Guild in advance of tomorrow's hearing.

Best regards, Amy Steinfeld

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November 1, 2021

VIA EMAIL TO sbcob@santabarbara.ca.us

SUBJECT: Public Comment re Proposed Cannabis Ordinance Amendments

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

The North County Farmers Guild appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed ordinance amendments. First, we support future amendments, including the County removing **processing** from the cultivation cap. The lack of local processing has hobbled the industry and has resulted in farmers shipping their product hundreds of miles to out-of-county processing facilities, leading to loss of County tax-income and increased vehicle miles traveled. Second, we support amendments that will allow Business Licenses to be **freely transferred**. A cannabis farmer should be able to change ownership or accept new investment, and continue operating while the new application is pending if they are compliant with their land use entitlement and Business License. Likewise, the new operator(s)/owner(s) should be assured that they are not at risk of losing their spot, and associated investment, if they comply with the land use entitlement and meet the County's and State's stringent notification requirements and background checks.

Proposed Additions to Chapter 50-25(11) (Harvest Noticing to properties within 1000 feet) Must Be Removed

- This language was not underlined in "redline" in the strikethrough version of the Ordinance and therefore was not properly noticed.
- The "Harvest Noticing" provision in the Business License Ordinance is an illegal end-run around the Cannabis Ordinance, PEIR, and associated Land Use Development Code regulating cannabis, which sets forth detailed development standards.
- This new condition, even if rational, would have to be vetted through the Planning Commission before being added to the Zoning Ordinance. However, it's important to note that the Planning Commission has already summarily rejected similar language proposed by the Santa Barbara Coalition for Responsible Cannabis, and by the Board at the September 14, 2021 Board of Supervisors hearing, where the Board voted 4/5 to not process or study this same proposed amendment to the Cannabis Zoning Ordinance. Thus, this addition can be construed as an "underground" regulation.
- The "Harvest Noticing" provision discriminates against outdoor farmers.
- There is no rationale or explanation in any of the Board materials as to why this new regulation is needed, or why the staff arbitrarily chose 1000 feet.
- Lastly, this condition is unnecessary as outdoor cannabis is seasonal, grown primarily on large, AG-II parcels, and there have been de minimis complaints. This onerous condition will only set up farmers to experience undue harassment.

We respectfully request that you omit this harvesting addition (Section 50-25(11)) from the Business License Ordinance. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work on the County on these important matters, and supporting jobs and new opportunities in our County.

Respectfully Submitted,

North County Farmer's Guild
Co-founders: John DeFriel & Sara Rotman