

**Ramirez, Angelica**

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**From:** headfiddle@fiddleheadcellars.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:54 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Westcoast Farms Appeal



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**Please read my statement below into the record at the hearing.**

I am the owner/winemaker of Fiddlehead Cellars and Fiddlestix Vineyard. There is a large, expanding cannabis grow operating on leased land next door. In spite of our best efforts, our relationship has not been amiable or pleasant.

Last year while spraying, a representative of the grow trespassed and accosted one of our tractor drivers. They then filed a complaint with the Agriculture Commissioner which resulted in a costly investigation and administrative hearing. This unpleasant experience is ongoing. After threats of a lawsuit, we were forced to switch to a less effective and more expensive spray program to meet their needs and abandon ours. The result was a total loss of 5 acres of grapes—a substantial economic loss given farming costs and lost revenue.

Since last fall we have tried to “work with our neighbor”. A process frequently mentioned by your Board and cannabis farmers as the solution to farming near cannabis. The process has been frustrating and not fruitful, and it is now at a standstill. Why? The grower insisted that we had to agree to publicly support their permit application. We are unable in good conscience to support an inappropriate nonconforming use, a use that had already caused us harm and places us at a significant future financial risk. We are now forced to farm in a different way, at significant additional expense, after 23 years without an incident to avoid being sued or strong-armed into supporting a permit that is incompatible with the Sta. Rita Hills AVA.

Kathy Joseph  
Owner-Winemaker  
Fiddlehead Cellars/Fiddlestix Vineyard  
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