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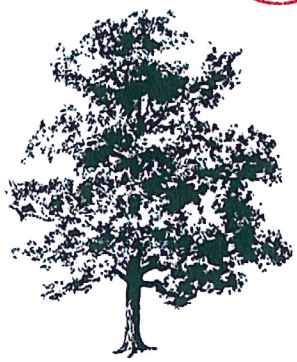
WE Watch, P.O Box 830, Solvang CA93464



November 16, 2020

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
FROM: WE Watch, Nancy Emerson, President
RE: Agricultural Tiered Permitting Ordinance Amendments – Project Scope

As you may remember, WE Watch coordinated two discussion meetings regarding Agricultural Tourism for John Parke, who moderated, where over 50 different individuals with diverse interests participated. Several participants became part of an advisory group formed by him.

When you considered allocating funds to expand the scope of the Farm Stay Ordinance Update to include other agricultural tourism activities, WE Watch supported expansion. However, you decided it was not prudent to do so. Now the question before you is how much the scope of the work on the Agricultural Tiered Permitting Ordinance Amendment should be expanded where agricultural tourism is concerned.

At the Agricultural Tourism discussions, there was a consensus that it was important to think creatively about how agricultural tourism activities could augment agricultural income and help provide economic stability in changing times.

Any new activities should be authentic and subordinated to the agricultural work of farms and ranches. They should promote a deeper understanding of agriculture and be sensitive to the rural atmosphere and neighbors.

Options 1 and 2 are clearly congruent with the above consensus. Can you include AG-I properties, where commercial agriculture is the primary use, in Option 2? During discussion meetings, AG-I farmers said they needed agricultural tourism for economic stability.

It is not clear that Option 3 uses are congruent. Is work on this ordinance the best setting to evaluate whether or not any of the larger and more intensive uses included in Option 3 might be appropriate?