

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment



**From:** Andy Caldwell <andy@colabsbc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 9:45 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Lavagnino, Steve; Nelson, Bob; Hart, Gregg; Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan  
**Subject:** Utility Scale Solar Ordinance COLAB Public Comment  
  
**Importance:** High

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Public Comment  
 County BOS Hearing 7-13-21  
 Item #7

Dear County Supervisors,

As you are all well aware, COLAB was formed 30 years ago primarily to deal with the many problems local businesses encountered trying to do business in this county, not the least of which was planning and zoning machinations.

During that time, we have seen outright prohibitions, restrictions, exorbitant fees, and torturous permit processes having to do with uses such as greenhouses, wineries, hoop houses, coolers, farmworker housing, family member housing, events, alternative uses (e.g. golf) and oil and gas operations (the latter of which helps ranchers pay their bills).

Most all of these activities can be considered essential to staying in business in this state and county.

One of the primary excuses for restricting and/or excluding all of the above?

All lands outside the urban boundary were declared ag and virtually no uses were deemed compatible to ag, nor could ag lands be converted to other uses.

Then there was the not so little problem with endangered species, oak trees, the grading ordinance fiasco, viewshed impacts, and other "resource" protection measures. Are you going to give solar a free pass on these impositions too?

The rationale? We don't want urban sprawl, leap frog development, industrialization, or non-ag intensification of these lands. We want to keep it rural and natural.

But now, all bets are off if somebody wants to build a utility scale solar farm? We are not against solar per se.

However, our request here is that you consider all of the above when you consider rewriting all these land use policies because our farmers and ranchers NEED OPTIONS more than California needs more, read that, redundant solar power.

As you are well aware, there is no way to adequately and affordably to store solar, hence, we have to pay Arizona to take excess solar off our hands during the daylight hours.

Conversely, for example, our grape growers are forced to TRUCK 50% of their harvest out of county to process the same.

Does that make sense to anyone???

Finally, how is it that once again, the Coastal Zone and Montecito, not to mention the SY Valley, gets a pass from this conversion???

Half of the county lives south of the tunnel and the pass. They have more power outages than anyone else. There is no rationale for keeping them off limits while parking these projects, like the Lompoc wind farm, exclusively in the North county.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and requests.

Andy Caldwell  
COLAB