

de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment**

From: Andrew Jeknavorian <info@newcuyamafarms.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 3:24 PM
To: sbcob



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Dear Honorable Supervisors,

My name is Andrew James Jeknavorian (a Santa Barbara County cannabis applicant) and I represent New Cuyama Farms, which is located in New Cuyama (125 Castro Canyon Road). I'm reaching out to you in response to your discussion at the November 2, 2021 Board Hearing in which you discussed cannabis processing and questioned whether processing should be removed from the cap. I'm writing to provide you with some information to support removing processing from the cap.

My mother and I own over 80 acres of land in Cuyama, and have spent a lot of time and resources over the past two years, including a lot of our savings, on the Land Use Permitting process, and unfortunately did not make it on the County's Eligibility List for cultivation. However, our entire property has passed every biological, archeological, hydrological, etc. assessments without any issues.

At this point, I'd like to pivot away from cultivation, and develop a processing and distribution hub. This would be a win-win for the community as it would only use a fraction of the amount of water required for cultivation, would create high paying jobs, would be developed in a sustainable manner, and would service the permitted cultivators in Cuyama, which will avoid them being forced to ship the plant to other counties and cities located hundreds of miles away.

For example, my project proposes to be solar operated and powered (via solar panels), including the carts driven around (John Deere manufactures these) and electric buses for transportation demand management, that will run in the morning. I also would like to use commercial drains, with gable roof structures, to properly catch all the rain water that runs off the distribution and processing facilities. That was all part of my initial plan, but since I failed to omit processing and rush for "only outdoor canopy," this caused delays which led to me not making it within the cap. I love Santa Barbara County and wish to continue my development.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Board remove "processing" from the cap and allow processing/distribution facilities to be developed in Cuyama. Because processing also requires distribution, I also request that distribution be allowed at a stand-alone property where there is no onsite cultivation. This makes sense because there are over 300 acres of cultivation that have been permitted in Cuyama, but no processing/distribution facilities, unlike those found in Lompoc and the City of Grover Beach.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I'd be honored to discuss my plans with you.