

Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: Sharyne Merritt <pinot@sandpointvineyard.com>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 2:16 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: comments on Hoop Structures Ordinance Amendment Project
Attachments: hoop houses merritt comment may 2017.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please distribute the attached to the members of the Board

Thank you,
Sharyne Merritt

May 26, 2017

RE: Comments On Options For Proceeding With The Hoop Structures Ordinance Amendment Project

Dear Chair Hartmann and Honorable Supervisors,

I am a farmer. I recognize the advantages of hoop houses to farming – especially growing berries and cannabis. Growing in hoop houses extends the growing season, reduces pesticide use, and permits installation of lighting to “push” growth.

There is, however, one major disadvantage of hoop structures with local import: they are **ugly**. The impacts of **ugly** are acknowledged by CEQA and the County as Aesthetic and Visual Resources. Santa Barbara County and especially the Santa Ynez Valley, Los Alamos Valley, and Santa Rita Hills attract tourists and residents because of **beauty**. The Draft Winery Ordinance section 3.1.2.1. offers the following descriptions:

The rural, scenic qualities unique to the Santa Ynez Valley are highly valued by the County’s residents and visitors. Visually scenic features include the varying topography of peaks, valleys and ridgelines, the Santa Ynez River and its tributaries traversing east-west across the valley floor, oak woodlands, grassland meadows, rural agricultural landscapes, ranches and vineyards. Nojoqui Falls County Park, Lake Cachuma, Zaca Lake Station, Sedgewick Natural Reserve, and the Santa Ines Mission are some of the prominent scenic resources that attract many visitors to this region. . . . p 3.1-4

The Los Alamos Valley is largely characterized by high quality pastoral, agricultural, and natural landscapes on the narrow Los Alamos Valley floor situated before backdrops of the Solomon and Purisima Hills. p 3.1-4

The Santa Rita Hills AVA is located in the Lompoc Valley. Oak forests, chaparral vegetation, and the topography of the Santa Rita Hills make up the majority of rural landscapes in the region. . . . Designated State Scenic Highway 1 traverses north-south through the Lompoc Valley, with its State Scenic Highway status terminating in the City of Lompoc. Highway 1 in this portion is a scenic corridor winding through low-lying peaks and foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Other scenic roadways include Highway 246, Santa Rosa Road, and Drum Canyon Road; these roads contain moderate to high quality agricultural landscapes and open spaces. P 3.1-5

Hoop houses blight scenic resources by imposing large patches of white plastic onto otherwise prized vistas. Lest you dismiss how important this is, consider economic impacts: attracting visitors translates into TOT and sales taxes and attracting “hobby farmers” translates into property taxes.

You are being asked to make a tradeoff between increased food and cannabis production and preserving scenic qualities for which the County is renowned. I

suggest allowing hoop houses in areas of low scenic quality (the Draft Winery Ordinance characterizes the Santa Maria Valley as having “low scenic value” p 3.1-5 and the lands to the east and west of Lompoc as of “low to moderate scenic value” p 3.1-5). Either ban hoop houses in moderate to high scenic areas or allow them only if they cannot be seen from roads and neighboring properties.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sharyne Merritt
Santa Rosa Road, Buellton, CA

Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: CHRIS FYLLING <rm442@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 2:34 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Hoops

I see where you are considering regulations on agricultural hoops. Certain crops require protection from sun and wind - the hoops also help reduce water usage. To impose such a stupid limitation on our farmers is the height of idiocy. Regards, Chris Fyelling. Orcutt, Ca