



#3



September 14, 2020

County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors
Submitted via sbcob@countyofsb.org

Re: September 15, 2020 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Agenda Item #D3—Consider Recommendations Regarding a Resolution in Support of Proposition 15

Dear Chair Hart and Supervisors:

The Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties represents over 170 growers, shippers, farm labor contractors, and supporting agribusinesses. Our members grow diverse field and nursery crops such as broccoli, strawberries, wine grapes, vegetable transplants, flowers, and tree fruit.

We join our State and Local partners including:

- Western Growers Association
- California Farm Bureau
- Agricultural Council of California
- California Association of Winegrape Growers
- California Women For Agriculture
- California Cattlemen's Association
- California Citrus Mutual
- Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
- Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce

in opposing Proposition 15.

As detailed by our Statewide partners, although there are some limited exemptions for agricultural *land*, Proposition 15 fails to exempt agricultural *fixtures and improvements*, which include a wide range of agricultural property including: irrigation systems, processing facilities, fruit trees, vineyards, barns, fences, and wineries. Additionally, essential support industries and infrastructure, like farm equipment dealers, transportation companies, warehouses, and food processors, would also be impacted.

In these increasingly challenging times, the difference in the tax assessment rates can mean the difference between remaining in business in California or not. Please support continued agricultural viability in Santa Barbara County by rejecting Proposition 15.

For additional information and the diverse, statewide list of organizations and individuals opposing Proposition 15 please visit <https://noonprop15.org/> and <https://cafarmersagainstprop15.com/>.

Sincerely,

Claire Wineman
President