

# Public Comment

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July 13, 2020

Dear Chairman Hart and Supervisors Adam, Hartmann, Lavagino, and Williams,

This morning when I was driving my host son to soccer practice, the smell pouring out from 5601 and 5775 Casitas Pass Road was strong and pungent. It is amazing to me that in July of 2020, almost three years from the time we at Cate School began actively working to create a sensible cannabis ordinance for our region, the negative impact on our community persists.

The Grand Jury report underscores the need for change. The needs of students and residents, including those at Cate, must be prioritized. All along, our primary goals have been to eliminate nuisance odors, reduce the density of grow operations near our school and have the law enforced for the safety and well-being of the students in our care. We know others have similar goals, and we support them, too. It is beyond explanation that no action has been taken to protect residents, schools and other sensitive communities.

There are two major problems which we at Cate School are concerned with and would like to see addressed:

- There are two large scale grows (5601 and 5775 Casitas Pass Road) that regularly emit intense smells, and which prevent the ordinary use of our campus and require extraordinary efforts on the part of faculty and administration to maintain the learning environment .
- There are two new developments (5980 and 6030 Casitas Pass Road) that have construction of such a large scale that they will likely further impact on our learning and residential community on a cumulative and individual basis. Once completed, there will be 6 major grows within a mile of our campus.

If this is perhaps one last opportunity to make some changes to the ordinance through the Board of Supervisors before legal action is required. We at Cate School recommend the following:

- 1) Clarify the ordinance to simply prohibit odors beyond the property lines of a parcel where commercial cannabis is grown and declare such odors a nuisance. This approach has been adopted by other municipalities, and it allows commercial operators to self mitigate to a defined standard.
- 2) Require CUPs for all cannabis developments in the Coastal Zone and inland areas. We still find it staggering that Cate had to follow an expensive and time consuming CUP process to upgrade our waste water treatment system, yet these large-scale, commercial cannabis grow operations can build and repurpose structures of significant scale and impact without analysis of environmental impacts and without meaningful conditions to protect surrounding neighborhoods.
- 3) Authorize and grant the Planning Commission authority to adopt regulations implementing the Cannabis Ordinance.

As always, thank you for listening to our concerns, and we hope that you will make some practical and reasonable accommodations to the ordinance in the name of student health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Brownlee

Assistant Head of School, External Affairs

Cate School