

Katherine Douglas *Public Comment*

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From: Ann Hazard <anapeligrosa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 11:57 AM
To: Roy Lee; sbcob
Cc: Peter Dugre
Subject: Carpinteria Cannabis Farms — A Local's Perspective

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Hello County Supervisors,

I met Peter Dugre when I was researching cannabis farm tours for a committee I co-chaired for Santa Barbara Newcomers Club. I live right off Foothill in Seacoast Village. I moved there in August 2023. The smell has never bothered me. I kind of enjoy it, but then I grew up in the 60s! I applaud what our local cannabis industry is doing to combat the smell, and their intelligent, scientific approach to their entire process.

I am traveling today and hoping to make it to city hall to support them tomorrow. I attended a tour Peter coordinated at Coastal Blooms for local Carpinteria residents last fall. I then arranged a private tour of Coastal Blooms for Newcomers on February 1, 2025. Both tours were very informative, well attended and eye opening.

When I was researching cannabis growing in Carp to do my write up for the Newcomers' tour, I was particularly impacted by the industry's backstory. Going from being on the brink of bankruptcy because Canada grew cheaper fresh cut flowers than Carp is something no one EVER talks about. I never heard it until our tour. I wondered why the good people of our town don't appreciate that the greenhouses not only managed to stay in business, thus benefiting our local economy, but have done such a professional job growing cannabis. They are vital players in our economy. Everyone I know who has taken the tour was impressed.

FYI, this is my description for our cannabis tour on Santa Barbara Newcomers Club which was February 1, 2025:

“Santa Barbara County is currently the largest producer of legal cannabis in California, and the bulk of these greenhouse farms are in Carpinteria. Come join us on a tour of a cannabis farm for a true insider's look into this new and evolving industry.

“Coastal Blooms Nursery was established almost 50 years ago by Dutch American farmers as a cut flower operation. They grew primarily gerbera daisies in their 12 acres of greenhouses. About ten years ago, it became clear that local farmers were being aced out of the flower business by Canadians due to the unfavorable monetary exchange rate between countries. Carpinteria growers needed to find another viable crop, or they faced bankruptcy. It turned out that existing greenhouses were easily converted into hydroponic marijuana farms, which yield year-round harvests.

“Coastal Blooms markets one of the top selling cannabis brands in California. They’re known industry wide for their innovative, efficient and sustainable growing practices. They are pioneers in odor control technology, water recycling and biological pest control. Our tour will be led by a member of the founding family, whose knowledge of the science and the business is outstanding.

“No open toed shoes, food or drink (except water) are allowed in the greenhouse. Photos are allowed. Due to limited parking, please carpool.”

Please feel free to contact me.

Best,

Ann Hazard
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