



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning & Development Department,
(805) 568-2086 

DATE: April 20, 2020

RE: County Board of Supervisors April 21, 2020, Hearing, Departmental Agenda Item No. 4 – Santa Rita Valley Ag., Inc. Cannabis Cultivation Appeal, Case Nos. 18LUP-00000-00351 and 19APL-00000-00032, Third Supervisorial District

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Board of Supervisors of the Applicant's request to proceed with the application for a Land Use Permit (Case No.18LUP-00000-00351) associated with Departmental Agenda Item No. 4 (Santa Rita Valley Ag., Inc. Cannabis Cultivation Appeal) on the Board of Supervisors' hearing agenda for April 21, 2020. On April 17, 2020, the Applicant requested to withdraw the Land Use Permit application for the proposed project. However, on April 19, 2020, the Applicant requested to rescind the withdrawal request and proceed with the application for a Land Use Permit. Please see the attached letter from the Applicant for more information.

The public notice regarding the Board of Supervisors' hearing on April 21, 2020, sets forth recommended actions regarding the Applicant's April 17, 2020, Land Use Permit application withdrawal request; however, the public notice does not include information regarding the Applicant's request to rescind the withdrawal request and proceed with the application for a Land Use Permit. Therefore, in order to comply with noticing requirements regarding the Applicant's current request, Planning and Development Department staff is requesting a continuance of this item to the Board of Supervisors' May 5, 2020, hearing. If the Board agrees and would like to continue the hearing to May 5, 2020, staff recommends the Board take the following actions:

- a) Continue the item to the Departmental Agenda for May 5, 2020; and
- b) Determine that the above action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

Attachment:

1. Letter from the Applicant for the Santa Rita Valley Ag., Inc. Cannabis Cultivation project, dated April 18, 2020
2. CEQA Notice of Exemption

Santa Rita Valley Ag. Inc

*996 South Seaward Ave, Suite 102
Ventura, CA 93001*

April 18, 2020

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Re: Application for LUP 18-00351 granted to Santa Rita Valley Ag., Inc for Cultivation of
Outdoor Cannabis

Dear Chair Hart and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I would like to follow up on the letter sent to you on Friday April 17, 2020 by Santa Rita Valley Ag (Company) withdrawing its Land Use Permit (LUP) 18-00351 application on the ~40-acre parcel on Highway 246 in Buellton.

Though management agreed that this was the correct course of action on Friday morning, over the past 24 hours there was a change in equity of the Company and secured financing. The current view of the Company is that the Cannabis operation on the property would be viable for both for the Company and the County of Santa Barbara. For this reason, our goal would be to continue with the hearing that was planned for Tuesday April 21, 2020.

I know that this is a very late request for the Board, the Planning and Development Department, Clerk of the Board and other County staff and creates unnecessary work and confusion. We sincerely apologize for that and hope your Board understands our situation.

We are requesting the Board to rescind the withdrawal of Land Use Permit (LUP) 18-00351 and hear our application as scheduled on April 21, 2020.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued patience,



Robert Harvey
Santa Rita Valley Ag., Inc.

cc: Rey Harmon, Planning and Development Department
Clerk of the Board

ATTACHMENT 2: ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Nereyda (Rey) Harmon, Planning & Development

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: 099-230-012 **Case Nos.:** 19APL-00000-00032 and 18LUP-00000-00351

Location: 7680 West Highway 246, Buellton, CA

Project Title: Santa Rita Valley Ag., Inc. Cannabis Cultivation Appeal

Project Applicant:

John Harris
1536 Eastman Avenue, Suite D
Ventura, CA 93003

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: John Harris

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Not A Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15378(b)(5)

Reasons to support exemption findings: CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) states that a project does not include “*organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.*” Given the Applicant’s most recent request to rescind their previous Land Use Permit application withdrawal request, Planning and Development Department staff is requesting to continue the hearing to a later date in order to comply with noticing requirements. The Board of Supervisors’ determination is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Nereyda (Rey) Harmon

Phone #: 805-450-7806 Department/Division Representative: _____

Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.