

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 2

From: David Lafond <dl@lafondwinery.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 9:48 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: West Coast Farms, Santa Rita Vally Ag



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Dear Board of Supervisors,

Our Family has been farming and making wine in the Santa Ynez Valley for almost 50 years. We have three generations in the industry working along with many fine families also with multiple generations. Living and working together is what has created Wine country in Santa Barbara. It has taken many years much effort and much cost to craft the reputation that we now enjoy..Wine growing and wine making have created an industry that is the biggest multiplier industry in Santa Barbara. Many hotels and restaurants as well as other tourism industries rely on and benefit from our areas wineries and vineyards . Our customers come from all over to experience a place of beauty , enjoy the out doors and taste the unique wines produced here .

Wine tasting and the smell of cannabis are simply incompatible

Our Winery and Vineyards welcomes and encourages visitors to walk among the vines and taste wines

Cannabis stinks is covered in ugly plastic and is required to have 24 hour guards with impenetrable security fences and security cameras. It is very intimidating and threatens to eliminate all the good will that the wine industry has created.

The fact that these proposed cannabis projects are providing screening along public corridors is self evident that they are ugly and threatening

Wine grapes and many other agricultural practices require inputs. For wine grapes it is mildew that is our most fearsome foe. Wine grapes would simply not exist without the ability to combat this foe with organic or traditional materials

Material migration is real. Even when strictly following protocol and regulations materials are part of the system . When the wind blows these materials in amounts only detected by the cannabis industry can migrate. We are all now living in fear of a lawsuit.

Our vineyards already have congruent property lines with cannabis growers . We share a property line that is congruent with 132 acres of cannabis . The county justifies this by thinking it is 2 or 3 separate entities though it is obviously operated by the same outfit. This outfit also shares a boarder with one of the oldest county parks the beautiful 36 acre Santa Rosa park. I wonder what the good family that donated this land would think of Santa Barbara's planners today. Looking at the proposed projects our vineyards will be soon surrounded. I am not anti cannabis but there needs to be acreage limits per parcel similar to every other county. Lets protect existing agricultural interests until these conflicts can be worked out. The threatening security requirements need to be revised and or if required not allowed in areas with conflicting interests. The counties anticipated revenue is a not reliable. The track and trace program is a joke it is not being

implemented. This leaves revenue subject to black market sales which in turn puts the hole community in jeopardy. Lets figure out how to mitigate these issues before overwhelming our beautiful valley.

Please read into the record

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Ramirez, Angelica

From: Brianna Strange <brianna@briannastrange.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 3:50 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Comment for Items 3 & 4 at 4/21 Hearing
Attachments: BOS 2020-4-17 Ltr RE Pence Appeals.docx

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Please see attached for our comments regarding the subject line.

Best regards,
Brianna Strange
Strange Family Vineyards

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Brianna J. Strange, Esq.
(424) 209-7681

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VIA EMAIL

sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

April 17, 2020

Clerk of the Board
County Santa Barbara, Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**RE: Departmental Agenda Items #3 and #4
Appeals of Santa Barbara West Coast Farms LLC and Santa Rita Valley Ag. Inc.**

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

I, with my family, own two properties on Drum Canyon Road in the Santa Rita Hills, including a home and vineyard. We are in the planning stages of building a winery and tasting room on one of the parcels and now have serious concerns about the viability of our plans given the concentration of large cannabis cultivation projects in the Sta. Rita Valley AVA. I am writing in support of the appeal of Blair Pence of the Santa Rita Valley Ag cannabis project and to support the Planning Commission's denial of the Santa Barbara West Coast Farms Project.

My properties, along with my neighbors, are not a designated EDRN but are a small cluster of homes and tasting rooms that will be impacted by large cultivation projects along Drum Canyon Road. Similar to Mr. Pence, our existing agricultural operations are surrounded on all sides by 6 pending cannabis cultivation operations totaling 240 acres (one project is pending for a massive 147 acres, and another for 70 acres). The cultivation sites occupy the majority of the parcel and are not adequately set back, if at all, from the property lines. These large-scale projects will in the aggregate have serious impacts to existing agriculture and tasting rooms that are immediately adjacent. At least one major cultivation site has already put up hoops, 15-foot-tall fencing, and video cameras along the small road we use to reach our home.

I am specifically concerned with potential liability associated with pesticide drift despite legal applications of such pesticides and terpene contamination of winegrapes. The Board must start denying projects adjacent to existing agriculture to avoid these inherent land use conflicts. There is substantial evidence that this conflict is real, continuing, and there is not yet a viable solution. If the Board does not deny these projects, the Board must at least reduce the acreage of these projects and require significant setbacks from adjacent parcels. These measures are the simplest solution to mitigate the impacts of these projects on existing agriculture.

With what I understand to be 23 pending cannabis projects in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA, I remain extremely concerned about the odor impacts to tasting rooms in this area. The majority of the County's wineries are located in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA, and all wineries are sustained by tasting room visitors. Given our temperate climate, tasting rooms in Santa Barbara County are uniquely situated to be able to serve visitors outdoors during most of the year. Even just one or two weeks of cannabis odors during harvest periods are sufficient to drive away visitors, who we expect would not return. This is lost revenue for our business, the County, and renders the wine industry unviable. I operate in a highly competitive industry and am fighting for the same tourist dollars as wineries in other counties who have ensured tasting rooms will not be inundated with cannabis odors. The Board can simply require odor control for Santa Rita Valley Ag to address this issue – as more projects in this area come before your Board, you cannot continue to ignore the clear need for odor abatement to mitigate the cumulative odor impacts and avoid irreparable harm to our wine industry.

I urge the Board to immediately address these significant impacts as they relate to the Santa Barbara West Coast Farms and Santa Rita Valley Ag projects. These two projects alone total 87 acres of outdoor cultivation and the cumulative odor impacts to adjacent parcels will be significant. My business and my family's future in the wine industry are dependent on what happens now with large-scale grow proposals, and we hope for your help in preventing an end to our future.

Sincerely,
Brian Strange