

# Public Comment

July 29, 2019

Dear Board of Supervisors and Planning Commissioners:

As it stands, the new idea that limits cannabis cultivation to twenty acres or greater parcels leaves the Existing Developed Rural Neighborhoods (EDRN) at considerable risk from illegitimate growers.

EDRN's are neighborhoods first and they happen to have, in general, some slightly larger twenty acre parcels and a few significantly larger parcels within their borders. These larger parcels border smaller five, ten and exactly twenty acre parcels and make them vulnerable to cannabis cultivation that would ruin the residential value of all the residential properties inside the EDRN. In addition it puts the neighborhood at greater risk of criminal cannabis growth (cannabis is still federally illegal) with the all cash cannabis business and its attraction to dangerous black market traders.

The drug cartels and their associates have large webs and deep pockets. They can purchase these properties with cash and they can by-pass the carefully monitored mutual water companies that test the water and limit the use in accordance with state and local policy. The cartels and associates can afford to sink their own wells with deeper straws and use pesticides indiscriminately. The Conditional Use Permits for cannabis growers are vague and provide loopholes until year 2022 and beyond, as most won't bother to become legitimate.

At some point, one must ask oneself why would a tourist mecca like Santa Barbara County engage in the voracious pursuit of cannabis at the expense of what has made this county so attractive? Vineyards, large swaths of legitimate agricultural enterprises, beaches and numerous cultural attractions are big draws with positive long term effects. Cannabis and its drug culture is a steep sliding slope downward with dispensaries now advertising ever increasing and more powerful hallucinogenic concentrations in pretty little crystalized cannabis bites.

EDRN's were created to slow the growth of urban hopscotch invasion into agricultural areas. They have been proved to be effective. It's imperative that EDRN's be protected from the cannabis explosion that now particularly threatens EDRN's, the wine and avocado industries and the big-picture soul of Santa Barbara County.

At the very least, fully protect Existing Developed Rural Neighborhoods from the cannabis craze. Make it illegal to grow cannabis within EDRN borders.

Sincerely,

Catalina

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Resident of Santa Barbara County