

Group 5

#4

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Beth Long <beth@lioneeyefarms.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 11:27 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,



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.

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My name is Beth Long and I'm the owner of Lion Eye Farms in The Lompoc Valley. I am a local farmer not a transplant. I was born at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara in 1972 and have been a resident in Santa Barbara County ever since. I have grown up volunteering my time around the community since my adolescent years starting as a tick tocker for National Charity League. I take great pride in being a local and I love to use the term born and raised.

I feel like I need to speak up for Sara Rotman. Not only is she an amazing person and advocate for this industry, but I also look up to her as an incredible female farmer with her head on straight. There are only a handful us female farmers let alone female cannabis farm owners. Sara has a beautiful farm and keeps it maintained and managed incredibly. I feel that anyone complaining about the Busy Bee Farm is absolutely out of their minds. It's much more aesthetically pleasing to the eye than a lot of other farms in this County whether it's berries, tomatoes, sheep etc. Sara is doing an outstanding job if you ask me.

I'm very concerned about the amount of time and finances wasted on these appeals. Why does it seem like it's the same group or groups appealing everyone? How can this be ok? Sara has followed all the guidelines and walked the process of regulations that were asked of her. Is this group or groups just going to appeal every single license owner? Seems like there should be a legitimate reason for an appeal, not that you just don't want cannabis in your County. We are all exhausted on all sides. I wish we all could find a way to work together especially during a time such as this. The entire planet is in crisis! Seems like a weird time to be complaining about anything.

Thanks for your time!

Congratulations to Supervisors Williams and Hartman!

Sincerely,

Beth Long

Lion Eye Farms

Sent from my iPhone

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Jay Caplan <jay@ljcap.com> on behalf of Jay Caplan <jaycaplan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 11:43 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support for Sara Rottman and Busy Bee



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.

my name is Jay Caplan. I have known Sara and Nate for over a year. The two of them are outstanding farmers and members of the community. They have complied with all of the local and state regulations. I personally think that the county should look for top operators to take over the 1500 acres for cannabis cultivation. I think the claims from the opposition are short sighted and if the community embraced cannabis, this would enhance our entire area and provide meaningful tax revenue.

Regards,

-Jay

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Katie Grassini <katie@grassinifamilyvineyards.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 11:51 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Agenda Item #4: Busy Bee Appeal



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.

I'm unable to attend because I am frantically trying to sell wine and keep my employees working in light of the current serious health threat. While COVID-19 was a threat we never saw coming, we have been screaming about the threats that unchecked cannabis planting presents to our industry for several years now.

PLEASE take a moment to listen to existing agricultural businesses and FIX THE ORDINANCE before you let this project proceed. I'm not anti-cannabis, but I AM concerned that this project could potentially move forward while you know that the ordinance needs massive revisions. This is NOT appropriate for Santa Barbara, and only you can pump the brakes, figure this out before it's too late.

Legacy farmers are afraid to apply safe, legal and even organic materials and pesticides in a responsible manner for fear that unavoidable pesticide drift will subject them to lawsuits. (We've already seen these lawsuits happening.) It's not just vineyards with concerns: Grower associations from strawberries, to vegetable row crops, to citrus and avocado have concluded the current cannabis ordinance is not compatible with legacy agriculture.

Further, Tyler Thomas of Dierberg/Star Lane Vineyards has done initial testing which proved that cannabis terpenes will noticeably alter the flavor of wines at even the smallest level tested.

This project should not go forward - there are millions of acres in Santa Barbara County that are distanced from heritage crops where cannabis could safely grow. These operators want to be next to vineyards to piggyback off the decades of marketing our wine industry has done about AVAs. They are trying to make more money on their product without worrying if they are destroying our existing industry in the process.

THANK YOU!

PS - I apologize for the short, direct tenor of this email, but with a 250 word limit, I didn't have space to "sugarcoat" things, although I do REALLY appreciate the BOS taking time to listen and think clearly about this - do not be afraid to deny this appeal/project and take time to fix the ordinance! ;-)

- Katie Grassini
 (805) 897-3366 – tasting room
 Visit us on [Instagram](#) or at GrassiniFamilyVineyards.com

Grassini Family Vineyards is proud to be voted Best Santa Barbara County Winery AND Best Urban Tasting Room in 2018 and 2019 by readers of the Santa Barbara Independent!

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Renee O'Neill <chasingstar2701@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12:28 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve; Hart, Gregg; Williams, Das; Adam, Peter
Subject: My Phone Speech to the BOS
Attachments: My phone speech to BOS re Busy Bee, 3-17-2020.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.

Dear Clerk of the Board,

Attached, please find the "speech" that I read, when you called me for public comment.
Thanks for the great opportunity to attend the meeting and speak from the safety of my home.

Sincerely,

Renée O'Neill

Renee O'Neill's Phone Speech to BOS re Busy Bee Appeal 3-17-2020

Chair Hart, Supervisors,

My name is Renée O'Neill from Tepusquet Canyon. I want to express my appreciation to the county for their effort in making it possible to attend these meetings online, under the Corona Virus circumstances. Well done!

I have brought Tepusquet community's cannabis concerns to this county since 2014. Countywide teams have been involved for the last two or three years, depending on when their region was impacted. I strongly support the SBCRC's findings, as detailed by Marc Chytilo, Courtney Taylor and letters from all residents that oppose the Busy Bee project.

Please set a precedent by denying this project. A substantial change to PEIR is required because APAC is not reviewing applications for cannabis projects for compatibility with adjacent agriculture. The Uniform Rules are not in compliance.

The Board amended the project to a principled use, which you are not allowed to do, as pointed out by Courtney Taylor. Only the state can mandate which uses are principled. Land Use incompatibility needs further review.

Apply Term limits so cannabis projects do not 'run with the land.'

Considering the problems this county faced by almost approving Herbal Angels, it is imperative that the county closely scrutinize ALLs cannabis projects and approving strict oversight regulations.

Reckless approval of this cannabis application, which illegally expanded after the 2016 deadline, with significant, unavoidable impacts, will send a precedent and let all growers know that they will be rewarded for their illicit operations and non-compliance.

You are punishing "We the People," traditional Ag, our children and our entire way of life, by supporting cannabis over the Public Health, Safety and Welfare of Santa Barbara County.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renée O'Neill

To: **The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors**

RE: **Appellant's and Applicant's appeals of the land use permit authorized to Busy Bee Organics on APN 099-240-072.** Thank you for adding this to Tuesday's 3/17/20 Busy Bee Appeal file for consideration.

Dear Chairman and Honorable Supervisors,

Regarding the upcoming hearing on this parcel, there are multiple threats to our community in approving the Busy Bee permit as currently defined and "conditioned".

Residents, school children and legacy businesses in the Buellton area, continue to suffer from the impact of the existing, over-expanded Busy Bee pot grow. The stench from this operation is notable as far away as the Avenue of the Flags, Buellton's "Main Street USA" and a location for many businesses, restaurants and tourism related activities. Children at the two schools less than a mile from the grow, have reported upper respiratory complaints and headaches to the school medical staff. Additionally, these odors are very discernible and impact tourists visiting the 20+ tasting rooms and wine related businesses along Industrial Way and nearby.

Going forward, a Conditional Use Permit (not a Land Use Permit) **should be required** for all projects with "adjacency" to an EDRN and any existing legacy AG businesses. A PEIR is inadequate to permit these parcels, even with excessive conditioning (evidence that a PEIR is not indicated). In addition to containing odor at the property line, the following considerations need to be addressed :

Visual Impact:

- This parcel sits directly at the **Gateway to both the Santa Ynez Valley as well as to the Sta. Rita Hills Wine Appellation (AVA)**. Highway 246 and the Rural and Inner-Rural Areas west of Buellton on Highway 246 (where the Project is located) are specifically identified as scenic roadways with high aesthetic and visual resources – this project is located **squarely within the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan (SYVCP)**. Tourists visit Santa Barbara County to experience our beautiful landscapes, food and wine experiences, and outdoor activities. The PEIR acknowledged that tourists visiting the County's "outdoor facilities" would be susceptible to physical changes to the surrounding landscape, "where a change in the quality of visual resources can diminish the experience for these users.". *The Santa Ynez Valley depends on those tourism revenues – and again, very important to our County's \$1.8 billion tourism industry .*
- The standard mitigation measure for the visual and aesthetic impacts of this project are inadequate for this special area. They do not account for the various findings and **requirements of the SYVCP for Scenic Gateway parcels**, particularly in light of the pending multiple projects sited for cannabis cultivation along Highway 246. The proliferation of the landscaping required to screen cannabis cultivation clustered along Highway 246 will impair lines of sight of landscapes on this scenic route and significantly change the visual character of this important gateway to the Santa Ynez Valley.
- One-time vegetative screening is not effective or generally accepted to mitigate visual impacts to sensitive visual environments, therefore any reliance on vegetative screening must include a duty to maintain such screening for so long as the project is operational, supported by a performance bond. ***The row of deciduous trees currently planted does nothing to hide the pot growing activities on the parcel.***

Clustering of Parcels, Total Acreage & Ag Compatibility

- Due to the low tolerance thresholds for cannabis, there is a **very serious risk of liability to legacy farmers due to pesticide migration**, even for responsible applicators that apply materials in accordance with State law. This risk significantly interferes with existing agricultural operations and impacts the future viability of existing agricultural crops and economies. Farmers will be fearful to spray even organic materials on their crops, lest they risk being sued by their cannabis neighbor, as has occurred already. **Locating projects away from legacy agriculture reduces the risk to legacy farming operations and cannabis farmers alike.** This project site is located among many acres of legacy agriculture and has already impacted neighbors' ability to continue their farming operations - including both grape and avocado businesses.
- There is new evidence that cannabis terpenes are absorbed by wine grape berries and surrounding tissue, which can taint wine flavor where cannabis is grown adjacent to vineyards. The specific metrics of this impact is still unknown and require additional testing and study, but airborne cannabis terpene contamination has been established in Santa Barbara County. The risk of harm to our County's vineyards outweighs the claimed benefits of cannabis tax revenue. ***This risk can be mitigated by locating cannabis projects away from, and not next to vineyards.***

As we all know, our County has excessive acreage where commercial pot can easily be grown **without impacting existing communities and businesses**. Commissioners Parke and Ferrini have made recommendations through their overlay proposal. You have an opportunity to **make changes in the existing Ordinance** that was hastily approved before fully vetting the impact to our community, its residents, children and existing businesses - we need to protect the health, prosperity and well-being of our existing communities.

It's time to do the right thing for Santa Barbara County!

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Pence
Resident and Business Owner - Buellton, California

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Gretchen Lieff <gretchenlieff@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12:35 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Busy Bee

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 my name is Gretchen Lieff.

I own a ranch in southern San Luis Obispo County where I grow 40 acres of grapes for my own wine production and also sell grapes to other wine makers.

I think there is no Compelling evidence about any danger of growing cannabis near grapes. And until there is evidence I believe it is inappropriate to take any action to prevent the growing of cannabis near Vineyards.

Thank you,

Gretchen Lieff

415 407-0077
Gretchen Lieff
gretchenlieff@gmail.com
www.lieffwines.com
www.lalieffwines.com

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Kate Griffith <kate@flyinggoatcellars.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12:56 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support of Busy Bee's Organics Appeal

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.

Dear County Supervisors:

I called in today to speak during the hearing and when the call came through on my cell phone it went directly to my voice mail, even though I was present. I immediately called the County back to request another call attempt but to no avail. Please consider my written comments below.

I am Kate Griffith, co-proprietor of Flying Goat Cellars, a boutique winery celebrating 20 years in Santa Barbara County. I support the appeal of Busy Bee's Organics and hope you will too.

I work in the wine industry, which celebrates the diversity of wine grape varieties growing in Santa Barbara County. Likewise, we should celebrate the diversity of all legal crops grown in the county, including broccoli, strawberries and cannabis. Agricultural diversification is healthy for the economic vitality of our county. Cannabis supports jobs for ag workers, ag land preservation, taxes for the county coffers and eco-tourism, which are all benefits for Santa Barbara County.

Sara and Nate are exemplary residents of Santa Barbara County, who are setting the bar very high with their regenerative agriculture cannabis project. Sara has also been instrumental in creating a collaborative spirit between many members of the wine and cannabis industries. Many of us believe that both industries can co-exist harmoniously in our county.

Please support the Busy Bee's Organics appeal.

Sincerely, Kate

Kathleen A Griffith
Kate@flyinggoatcellars.com
805-588-0996

Less printed paper is better for the environment.

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: bion@cultivategrowthadvisors.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12:58 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support of Busy Bee Farm

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.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am in support of the application of Busy Bee Farm in Lompoc because of their organic farming, rights to farm their own land, and because they are farming a legal, sustainable crop that is within state and local laws. The terpenes do not affect wine grapes in anyway at the distance that they are from local vineyards. It has been proven by science. And regarding smell, garlic and broccoli would be more offensive in my personal opinion.

BION RICE | FOUNDER

CULTIVATE GROWTH ADVISORS

1350 Santa Teresita Dr, Santa Barbara CA 93105

(805) 896-9660 CELL

[WEBSITE](#) | [TWITTER](#) | [LINKEDIN](#)

--

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Carmela Beck <carmela@busybeesorganics.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 1:27 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: 3/17/20 County of SB BOS Busy Bee's Organics Support Letters
Attachments: 3-17-20 County of SB BOS BBO Hearing_CBeck.pdf; 3-17-20 County of SB BOS BBO Hearing_LEnte.PDF; 3-17-20 County of SB BOS BBO Hearing_RAmby.PDF

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.

Please note that I provided my name and number to Angelica this morning to provide over-the-phone public comment. I'm unclear why my name was not called during the meeting to participate. Since I was unable to participate, I'm attaching a shortened, one-page version of my comments for the public record. I'm also attaching two additional community member support letter.

Please confirm receipt of my email and confirm that these letters will be accepted as part of today's public comment.

Thank you,

Carmela Beck
Busy Bee's Organics, Inc.
(831) 840-5055
carmela@busybeesorganics.org

3/17/2020

Via Email to sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Attn: Clerk of the Board
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2058

Subject: 3/17/20 Busy Bee's Organics Hearing

Dear Chair and Supervisors of the Board:

I'd like to thank the Board for their service and I'd also like to thank the Board for finding an alternative call-in method to provide support to Nate Diaz and Sara Rotman of Busy Bee's Organics. Unfortunately, it appears that my name and number was not shared with the Chairman this morning despite providing my information to the employee answering the phone at 805-568-2240. My name is Carmela Beck. I've worked at Busy Bee's Organics for almost one full year in compliance and production. Busy Bee's Organics cares deeply for their farm, their employees and their community. This is evidenced in the tremendous work they've invested in beautifying and diversifying their farm. This is evidenced in their provision of year-round, full-time, well-paid employment for their employees. And this is evidenced in their ongoing community involvement in planning educational events, hosting homestead farm tours and showing through example what a gold standard organically managed cannabis farm can look like.

I'd ask that the Board really stay laser focused on the opportunities businesses like Busy Bee's Organics brings to the County of Santa Barbara. Job creation and impact on ancillary services are extremely profound – this cannot be underestimated. Know this: Cannabis is the future. Santa Barbara County can either lead the way on cannabis or can shrink from this tremendous opportunity because of very clear, unfair and irrational nimbyism. Although this generational divide is temporary, it is costing diligent, well-intentioned farmers their livelihood and savings – and **this is our urgency!** The urgency of holding today's hearing is to ensure that BBO can finally move through the entirety of this process, stay in business and continue to grow safe, healthy and sustainable cannabis. Note that BBO is not acting recklessly, or illegally on the contrary such allegations are reckless and inappropriate. In reality, BBO along with other legal cannabis operators invest tremendous resources in personnel to cross t's and dot i's all day, every day. We are an extremely dedicated group of farming professionals committed to complying with all laws and regulations in order to bring legal medicinal and recreational cannabis to consumers.

I've worked in agriculture for close to 15 years and have been on farms throughout the US, Mexico and Chile; I can tell you that Busy Bee's Organics is a model farm. Board members, I urge you to not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Please approve BBO's appeal, deny the appeal by the SB County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis, make the required findings for approval of the project, determine that previously certified Program Environmental Impact Report is adequate and grant de novo approval of the project. I really do have a great job, with solid, future opportunities working for extremely hard-working, ethical employers and I'd very selfishly like to keep it. I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,

Carmela Beck
carmela@busybeesorganics.org

March 17, 2020

Dear Chair Hart and Honorable Supervisors,

My Name is Lynda Ente and I live directly across the road from Nate and Sara.

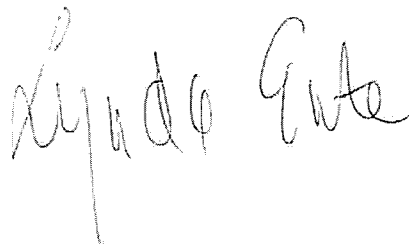
I have watched them take a dilapidated farm and turn it into a beautiful place of healing. Their story resonates with me and I am inspired by the positive way they have responded to Sara's illness. Their farm is a beautiful expression of that positive effort.

I say with particular emphasis 'beautiful' because that's exactly what their farm is. They have taken great care to revive what was an unloved and unsightly property and turned it into a gorgeous thriving and farm. My house looks directly down on their farm and I love it - it's just a beautiful sight. I have not been bothered by any aspect of their operation. I don't smell odor coming from their farm and don't consider their business any different from the other farms in our neighborhood.

They have been considerate, compassionate and kind. And I consider them friends. These are exactly the people we want moving into our neighborhoods - bringing organic practices and environmentally friendly farming to our valley. I wholeheartedly support their project.

Please deny the Coalition's appeal and approve the minor revisions Nate and Sara are requesting.

Lynda Ente

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynda Ente".A handwritten note in cursive script that reads "Thank you".

March 17, 2020

Dear Chair Hart and Honorable Supervisors,

My Name is Ray Amby,

- My family and I own the property next door to Sara and Nate – and we live onsite. In fact, I was born on our property. My family has been here for generations.
- It's unusual now to see younger people getting into farming and I'm happy to see this new generation of farmers working to keep our local Ag tradition alive.
- Since they moved in, Nate and Sara have done a ton of work to improve their property and in doing so they have improved our neighborhood.
- They have been responsible farmers, considerate neighbors and good friends.
- We work with them, neighbor to neighbor to resolve concerns, to share information, to lend and borrow equipment, or just to visit and talk about the history of the valley.
- Nate is curious about this history and I often share stories with him about the changes and events I've seen growing up on the land he now calls home.
- I don't see any conflict between our two farms. We work very well along side of each other. And I'm happy they are here.
- I support their project and the minor revisions they are requesting to their approved LUP. I ask the Board to deny the Coalition's appeal and let these people get back to farming.

Ray Amby



3/17/20