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December 6, 2021

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

Thank you for your careful consideration of Cresco Labs' cannabis farming project in the Carpinteria Valley. CARP Growers has 10 member farms operating in Carpinteria Valley — including Cresco — and in order to be a member, our farmers must adhere to the strict requirements of the group. Responsible farmers are accountable to neighbors and each other, which makes this association's members the best-of-the-best among operators in the statewide cannabis market.

Recently our Association and all individual members signed an agreement with the Santa Barbara Coalition for Responsible Cannabis. Cresco's project is a party to this agreement and the many steps and standards it requires from our members that go above and beyond the county's comprehensive cannabis ordinance.

Only a year ago, the Coalition thought of our farmers as an adversary, but after coming to the table and finding common ground, our groups formed a joint plan to combat odor in the valley. The Coalition saw first-hand how our farmers operate and their continued commitment to odor abatement. The Coalition's members liked what they saw and decided we can work together in a way that makes cannabis farming compatible with the community. This historic agreement between farmers and neighbors is the result of ongoing hard work and a shared vision to preserve Carpinteria's agricultural legacy while improving the ag belt along the foothills and eliminating cannabis odors.

In the coming months, components of our agreement will become operational. Already, CARP Growers has installed a system of meteorological stations throughout the valley to monitor air flow and weather conditions. We will also launch a centralized reporting system and community dashboard to record and rectify odor events in a way that's transparent and responsive. CARP Growers and its individual members continue to invest in new odor abatement technologies built specifically for our greenhouses and our model of clean, efficient cannabis production.

Our farmers, including Cresco Labs, are innovative and never stop looking for ways to solve problems. Cresco's community focus is superlative among local farmers, as we see time and time again when it comes to conducting blood drives, coastal clean ups and school playground work days, among myriad other service initiatives.

In the few years since we began working to improve cannabis farming in Carpinteria Valley, we have made great strides, and the perception and understanding of this crop has changed. The community is behind responsible farming, particularly when it means protecting our valley from sprawl and improving local ag by following all of the new cannabis-specific regulations. Cannabis now means progress and improvement for the valley, and Cresco Labs is a big part of that.

Please, deny the appeal and approve Cresco's application.

Sincerely, Autumn Shelton
President, CARP Growers