



WE Watch, P.O. Box 830, Solvang CA93463



April 7, 2019

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Nancy Emerson, President, WE Watch
RE: Hoop Structure Ordinance

WE Watch is pleased to see that the draft Hoop Structure Ordinance you are considering contains protection of the Santa Ynez Valley's Design Overlay's visual resources. However, we discovered that it is far what was recommended in the EIR mitigations, which only exempted hoop structures from regulation if they could not be viewed from the Design Overlays' public roadways or other areas of public use. Will you please restore this in the ordinance?

We are glad that the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan's streams and creeks setback of 100 feet in Rural areas is included.

Both sections need to fully recognize the importance of honoring Community Plans and individualizing regulations to the needs of regions within the County.

We continue to recommend that hoop structures be located on slopes averaging 10% or less. This would meet an EIR mitigation that requires maximum effort to protect slopes. Evidently, you could do this without making it economically infeasible for berry and vegetable farmers to farm since generally they use slopes of no more than 5-10%.

We ask that that these three elements be included in this Ordinance. We recommend that any additional cannabis specific hoop structure regulations be included in the Inland Cannabis Land Use Ordinance.

Here is why we are asking for these regulations:

WE Watch and others have been saying that, while agriculture has been and is very important to our County, the wine and tourism industries are

important, too. The estimated economic value of these industries countywide in 2016 was Tourism - \$1.7B, Agriculture - \$1.4B and Wine – almost \$1B.

All three coexist in the Santa Ynez Valley where wine and tourism need certain things like visual beauty and an odor free environment to exist. We are not arguing no hoops, just some restrictions to allow other industries that are important economically to operate successfully, too.

Thank you.