

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Louise Draucker <ldraucker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:33 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Brodiaea, Inc.'s pond proposal
Attachments: Board of Supervisors letter.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.

February 4, 2019

To: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

I would like to take a stand against the large holding ponds requested by Brodiaea, Inc. in Cuyama Valley.

Cuyama Valley's water supply has been determined by the State of California to be in critical overdraft, and the users of that water are now required to do something to fix the situation. The primary reason for this situation is the unregulated, cavalier extraction of limited groundwater for the purpose of growing row crops unsuited to the climate (e.g. lettuce in the hot summer sun).

A Groundwater Sustainability Agency and a Stakeholder Advisory Board have been formed to set goals and guidelines for sustainable water use. Rather than working with these groups toward sustainability, Brodiaea would like to pump an enormous amount of groundwater into three huge reservoirs. The geology of the area is still being studied, but it is quite probable that upstream and downstream water users will soon find their well water levels declining significantly. The ponds will have to continually be replenished when overhead watering is used for frost protection in the spring and then evaporation during our hot summers.

Brodiaea Inc.'s goals appear to be in direct conflict with the well-being of the residents of the Cuyama Valley, as well as to the efforts and principles of the GSA and the SAC. Residents, farmers, and ranchers are working to solve our water problems, but Brodiaea Inc. appears to be disinterested at best, even though they are in the Cuyama Basin and will also experience water shortages.

I have lived in Cuyama Valley for over 45 years, and I hate to see it abused and more of the natural world destroyed

I urge the Board to support the Planning Commission's decision to have a focused EIR on this project before it can move forward.

Louise Draucker
4666 Cebrian Ave.
New Cuyama, CA 93254