

#7

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment- Group 1

From: Whitney Collie <whitney@coastalbloomsnursery.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 10:37 AM
To: sbcob; Beyeler, Gwen; Jay Higgins
Subject: BOS Hearing 5/24 Item 7 Creekside Blooms Nursery
Attachments: Attachment 14 - Public Comment Letters.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.

Good Morning,

Can we please add the public comment letters from the planning commission hearing for Tuesday's departmental agenda item 7 to the attachments? I have bundled all the comments from the planning commission hearing and attached here. It is file number 22-00472.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any clarification.

We are planning to submit the applicant presentations for both item 6 and 7 on Monday morning, please let me know if you need them sooner.

Thank you!

Whitney

--

Whitney Collie

VP of Compliance

m: 401-339-2991

e: whitney@coastalbloomsnursery.com

Attachment 14: Planning Commission Public Comment Letters

Villalobos, David

From: Carrie Miles <CarrieM@fastmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Villalobos, David; larryf@lagunafarms.com; michael@igsb.com
Cc: Hans and Lisa Betzholtz; starrtrainer@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Case 21APL-00000-00005 17EIR-00000-00003
Attachments: letter from Meadows re cannabis.docx
Categories: Purple Category

3
5/26/21

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 am writing regarding the following case:

21APL-00000-00005 17EIR-00000-00003

**Appeal of Creekside Property LLC (formerly Roadside Blooms)
Mixed-Light Cannabis Cultivation Carpinteria**

Kathryn Lehr, Supervising Planner (805) 568-3560

Dara Elkurdi, Planner (805) 568-2082, delkurdi@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Hearing on the request of Marc Chytilo on behalf of the Santa Barbara Coalition for Responsible Cannabis (SBCRC), Appellant, to consider Case No. 21APL-00000-00005, an appeal of the approval of a Coastal Development Permit (Case No. 19CDP-00000-00062) by the Director of The Planning and Development Department (herein after Director), which approved 161,838 square feet of three existing, permitted greenhouses and processing within an existing 4,061 square foot warehouse.

As a resident of Carpinteria whose home is often inundated with cannabis odor, I strongly object to any new marijuana growing or processing facilities, or legitimizing of existing unpermitted facilities, anywhere, until effective odor-containment systems are in place.

At a minimum, such facilities must be required to use the best-available odor-containment system. The Byer's system does not meet this criterion and presents a health risk of its own.

While the odor is my primary concern, I am also worried about the amount of water and electricity these operations will require, especially with a drought likely.

I am attaching a letter on behalf of our community, The Meadow.

Thank you for your attention.

Carrie Miles, PhD

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MAY 24 2021

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

We are residents of Linden Meadow in Carpinteria, a community of forty homes immediately adjacent to the greenhouses located at 4701 Foothill and 1495 Sterling Road, Carpinteria. For the last few years, we have been regularly subjected to the heavy, skunky odors of cannabis growing in the greenhouses surrounding our area. The smell can be overwhelming - day or night. We often cannot open our windows because of the odor, and frankly, even closing the windows does not help on some odoriferous occasions. This is a public nuisance that severely impacts our neighborhood as well as other surrounding areas. We strongly request that all relevant agencies do everything possible to ameliorate this situation.

We are also concerned about the health effects of the Byers odor amelioration system currently in use. It has certainly not eliminated the problem, as we still smell the odor. Some of our residents suffer allergic reactions or migraine headaches due to the vapors produced by the Byers system. Elected representatives and regulatory agencies should endeavor to protect the health and safety of all our citizens.

We object to increased cannabis production especially as it is taking place literally a few hundred feet from our homes unless a proven effective odor elimination system is installed and in use in all cannabis farms in the Carpinteria area. It makes no sense to allow additional cannabis production in our area until an effective odor containment system is in place in all existing and future greenhouses.

To reiterate, the residents of Linden Meadow are strongly opposed to more cannabis production here or in the Carpinteria valley until the growers put effective odor containment systems in place. Please keep our beautiful little City of Carpinteria a healthy, pleasant, and odor-free place to live.

Our hope is that the city council, other agencies involved, and our county supervisors will be responsive to our objections as they are a major concern to our community.

Sincerely,

Linden Meadow Homeowners

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5/20/20
RECEIVED
MAY 24 2020
CITY OF CARPINTERIA
CITY CLERK

Villalobos, David

From: merrily peebles <merpeebles@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 3:14 PM
To: Villalobos, David; Dan Blough; Michael Cooney; Larry Ferini; John Parke; Laura Bridley; sbcob; Nelson, Bob; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Lavagnino, Steve; Williams, Das; Heaton, Brittany; Frapwell, Jeff
Subject: Pubic Comment re Creekside Property, LLC, May 26
Categories: Purple Category

3
5/26/21

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 Commissioners,

How many times must one ask for consideration for our quality of life in Carpinteria? The footprint of cannabis is seemingly uncontrolled in Carpinteria and the odor issue is still present. Creekside LLC at 3684 Via Real is the next example. This is the 5th cultivation site within sight of La Mirada and Santa Claus/Padaro. The existing four have not demonstrated odor control and when complaints are filed the Planning Dept. says **there is nothing that can be done until all four have business licenses**. Can you believe that? First it was wait until the grower gets a business license. Now one grower has a business license and we are told:

"Since there are three other unpermitted cannabis operations adjacent to G&K, the Professional Engineer/Industrial Hygienist has no method to determine where any cannabis odors originated. Holding the only permitted cannabis operation accountable for any cannabis odors that are present in the vicinity would be not supportable since there are other adjacent grows and there is not a method to trace an odor to a precise source. The Department is currently exploring other methods to determine effectiveness of the odor control systems. Full implementation of the condition will be possible when all four projects are permitted.

Seriously, when do you think all four projects will be permitted? Now you are contemplating adding another project into the mix? Creekside needs to be put on hold until the County finishes "exploring other methods to determine effectiveness of the odor control systems" or told they must use carbon filters for all buildings and greenhouses.

At the Autumn Brand permit meeting a staff member said "if I stand at the property line and don't smell anything I know there is no problem" Well I drive by property lines all along Foothill and Via Real and smell cannabis. Is that not a problem? I also smell it at my home when the wind is right.

I have a big concern about the Byers Vapor system. There will be 100's of miles of these pipes in Carpinteria Valley. The EPA has never approved this vapor for the way it is used to mask cannabis in residential area. We don't know long term effects. Yet the cannabis industry is allowed to grow and process their product without first, going through a licensing process that guaranties no odor or harmful air quality by-product. We have pointed out many times, the air in Carpainteria is held in the valley due to its geographical position. No other business has huge, significant, negative Class-I Impacts on residents like cannabis.

Please pay attention to Commissioner Blough when he said **the best technology is carbon filters**. We all know this, including the growers. Why not implement this now? Is it because the grows are too large to set up correct systems with the current infrastructure? We see the new cannabis business model with large corporations entering Carpinteria. The compliance system isn't working so the rules need to be changed. Will the County ever be able to figure out where the smell is coming from? The green houses are shoulder to shoulder next to each other. Put in carbon filters for growing and clean up the air, then you can feel confident when you permit cannabis.

Please uphold the appeal. Do not add another 161,838 square feet of greenhouses and another processing warehouse of 4,061 square feet until you have a way to insure good air quality.

Thank you very much,
Merrily Peebles
La Mirada

Villalobos, David

From: Elkurdi, Dara
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 5:40 PM
To: Villalobos, David
Subject: FW: Opposition to Creekside

Categories: Purple Category

I received public comment on Creekside, below.

From: George Zwerdling <geehzee@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 22, 2021 7:11 AM
To: Elkurdi, Dara <delkurdi@co.santa-barbara.ca.us>
Subject: Opposition to Creekside

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.

Ms Delkurdi...Please note and convey to the Commission my opposition to Creekside. There is an enormous amount of work required to control odor before developments of this size are approved. The County has moved much too far and too fast to approve marijuana related businesses and has failed to take into account the very real downside of so doing. We live in an unusually wonderful place and should do all possible to keep it that way
Thank you
George Zwerdling
Carpinteria

3

5/26/21

Villalobos, David

From: anna bradley <annaberit@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 6:20 PM
To: Villalobos, David; Dan Blough; Michael Cooney; Larry Ferini; John Parke; Laura Bridley; sbcob; Nelson, Bob; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Lavagnino, Steve; Williams, Das; Heaton, Brittany; Frapwell, Jeff
Subject: Pubic Comment re Creekside Property, LLC, May 26
Categories: Purple Category

3

5/26/21

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 Commissioners,

Thank you for your consideration. It is my hope that you do not permit any further cannabis projects until the current odor and safety issues have been resolved in Carpinteria. My family lives in the La Mirada area above Foothill. I cannot drive to or from my house without experiencing cannabis odor overtake my car on any day - specifically in the corridor between 3561 and 3615 Foothill. The Byers system is not working. Though I live steep up the hill, my family continues to experience cannabis odor problems daily in our home and on our property. It could be 2am. It could be 9:30 pm. It could be, and most regularly is, around 8:30-10am. It could be anytime. This is our experience. It is real. We have to choose either to close windows (whatever the temperature is outside) or to leave our property entirely if the odor is too strong. I've even been advised to replace or upgrade windows, buy industrial air scrubbers and even more, and at whose expense? I continue to do as we have been asked, log complaints and be patient and be vocal.

Please spend some time in the residents' shoes. Come take a drive down our lanes and park in a driveway at the base of Foothill and experience the odor. Please calculate that experience into your decisions.

I voted for prop 64. I am not against cannabis. I am not against job creation. I am just against what a mess this has become. It doesn't need to be this way. Why expand further cannabis grows thru permitting before correcting what already exists? If we continue this way, I think it is just more honest to say, the County really does not care about the odor and unknown health risks to its residents. It cares more about expanding the cannabis operations.

Thank You Again,
Anna Bradley
La Mirada

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CITY CLERK
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CITY CLERK



February 28, 2022

Honorable Planning Commissioners,

CARP Growers is an association of 10 members operating 23 cannabis farm projects in Carpinteria Valley. Since 2018, the organization has been committed to setting the highest standards in cannabis farming and farming in a way that is transparent and accountable to all stakeholders. We ask that you approve the excellent project submitted by Ivan Van Wingerden and the Creekside Farm team, who are proven and stellar operators.

Creekside Farm is an original member of CARP Growers and its team has been among the most involved in educating the community about cannabis farming and modeling responsible farming for all local operators. In fact, Creekside has been the site of significant odor R&D work on scrubbers and deserves credit for the great strides it has achieved in the understanding of cannabis odors and how to best eliminate them.

Creekside's project is a crop change plus modest improvements at an existing agricultural property. This farm had been in flower production for decades before conditions weakened in the domestic cut flower production industry. The applicant team brings generations of commercial farm expertise to the table and has continuously proven that it belongs as a responsible and economically productive operator in Carpinteria Valley.

We are pleased to see the proposed native plant restoration plan along Arroyo Paredon Creek and are encouraged by the cumulative positive impact cannabis farming will have on habitat around the creek. The Creekside Project includes another acre of important habitat restoration, in addition to what other properties have already committed to achieving. Cannabis farming is the cleanest, most-regulated form of local agriculture, and the county's cannabis program is resulting in many environmental improvements across Carpinteria Valley's established agricultural belt.

This project is also a party to the agreement between CARP Growers and the Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis. Our agreement outlines a path forward for cannabis farming and ensures that it will be done in a way that is compatible with neighbors. Creekside's team was instrumental in achieving this landmark agreement that tightens odor mitigation standards and enhances monitoring and reporting.

Please approve Creekside's application to farm cannabis and make modest improvements to its agricultural property. Thank you for supporting local farms in Carpinteria Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Autumn Shelton", written over a faint, illegible background.

Autumn Shelton, President
CARP Growers

2
3/2/22

Villalobos, David

From: Pam Roberts <pjrob5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 8:08 PM
To: Villalobos, David; Larry Ferini;
Subject: Planning Commission March 2 Hearing - Support Creekside Farm
Categories: Purple Category

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 Honorable Planning Commissioners,

Please approve Creekside Farm's project and stand with our local agriculture. I live within on Via Real within 500 ft of the Creekside growing operation in Carpinteria and am well aware of the long legacy of farming in Carpinteria Valley. Cannabis is a recent crop that has allowed the old greenhouses to come back to life. This is positive for our area both because of tax revenue, the local economy and jobs, *and* because the county's approval process is strict and drives improvement along the established agricultural belt in our beautiful coastal zone. I think the county's cannabis program has been successful in both collecting new taxes and implementing community and environmental improvements at properties that wish to take part in the new crop. It's important to keep this land in agriculture. Please approve this project along with the rest who prove they are committed to the county cannabis program and doing things the right way.

Sincerely,
Pamela Roberts

2

3/2/22

Villalobos, David

From: Anna Carrillo <annacarp@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Villalobos, David; Michael Cooney; Laura BridleyPC; larryf@lagunafarms.com; Dan Blough; JParke@aklaw.net
Subject: 21APL-00000-00005, Appeal of Creekside Property LLC (formerly Roadside Blooms)
Categories: Purple Category

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.

To: Planning Commission
From: Anna Carrillo
May 24, 2021

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5/26/21

Please support the appeal of this project on behalf of the Santa Barbara Coalition for Responsible Cannabis for the following reasons:

1. One of the conditions in all the OAPs is that there will be quarterly inspections during the first year of operation. When I tried to follow-up on the inspections done at the only fully permitted project (as of Aug. 2019) at 3561 Foothill Rd. in this "Nidever rectangle" I was told that these inspections have NOT OCCURRED YET BECAUSE OF THE INABILITY TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THE ODORS AND THIS WOULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL ALL THE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED. There are currently 4 cultivation sites (3 growing with state provisional licenses) and this project would be a 5th NEW OPERATION. There are an additional 3 not even cultivating in the pipeline. How can new operations be permitted when the only 1 permitted operation since 2019 that is currently having significant odor issues has not even had their required quarterly inspections completed yet?
2. See accompanying picture of all the parcels currently growing and this new one. (3504 Westerley is not cultivating though an application under another name is in the pipeline).
3. When the wind blows off the ocean toward the the hillside of the La Mirada EDRN, the stench settles down into the homes or directly into the residences. Residents here can not enjoy having their windows open or being outside.
4. This project is not satisfactory if there are only Byers vapor phase pipes placed inches below the open vents around the perimeter of the 3 greenhouses hoping to catch all the cannabis odors drifting down. This site either needs to have sealed greenhouses or carbon scrubbers required. The odor must not leave the greenhouses to blow into the residences directly up the hill.
5. As the building right next to Via Real will be used for processing, solar equipment should be required to be on the rooftop.
6. There have been no long term studies on the effects of the use of Ecosorb 100/107 24/7 on the health of the community.

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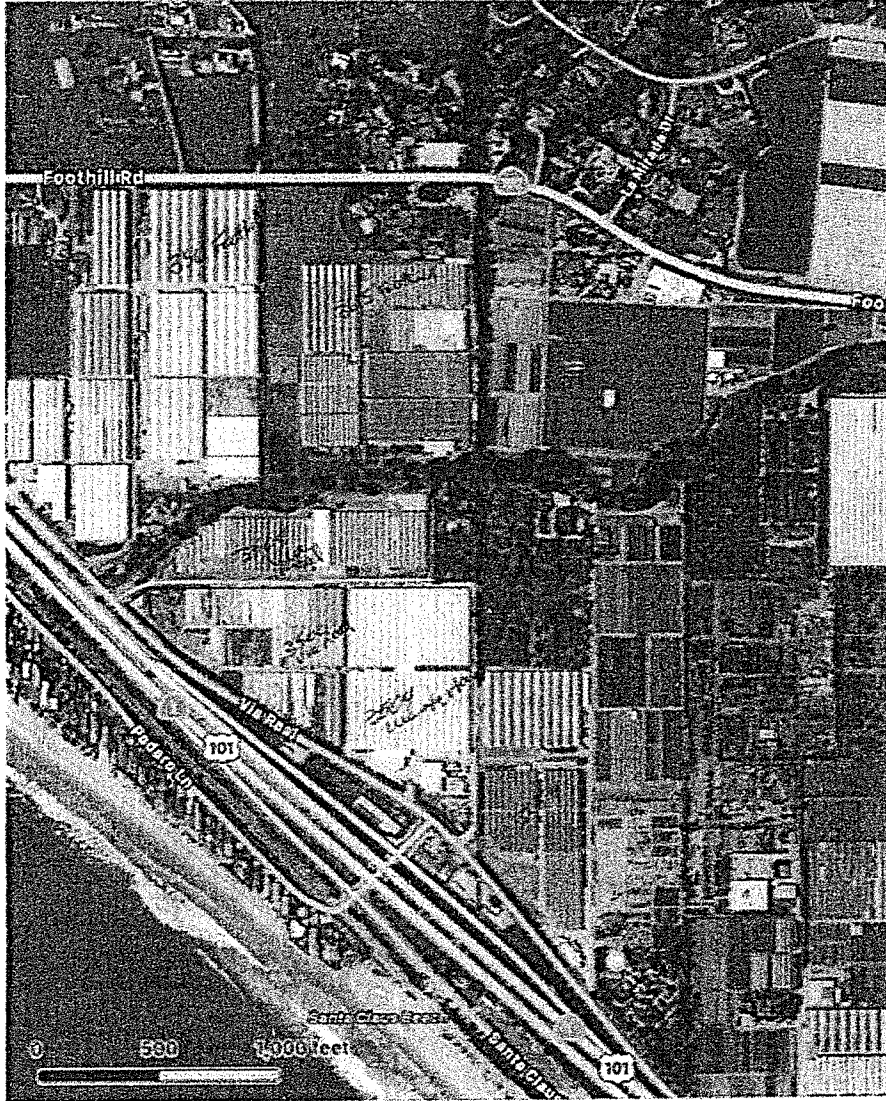
MAY 24 2021

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

7. If this appeal is denied, there needs to be added to the project description the use of Best Available Technology when better technology becomes available.

8. As far as I'm aware the odor problems at the only permitted operation at 3561 Foothill is still causing issues for the annual Business License renewal which is still under review.

9. As this project will be using water from the Carpinteria Valley Water District, I think it is important to know how much water will this operation use?



514 1 of 1

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Villalobos, David

From: jstassin@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 2:00 AM
To: Villalobos, David; lbridley2nddistpc@gmail.com; mihcael@igsb.com; larryf@laguanafarms.com; Dan Blough; JParke@aklaw.net
Subject: Appeal of Creekside Property LLC (formerly Roadside Blooms) Mixed-Light Cannabis Cultivation Carpinteria (Please read into the record)

Categories: Purple Category

3
5/26/21
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.

To the Santa Barbara County Planning Commissioners:

I am writing to you to request that you repeal the Coastal Development Permit issued for new cannabis cultivation and processing at 3684 Via Real in Carpinteria. I am a long time resident of Carpinteria and have been alarmed by the proliferation of new cannabis cultivation and processing sites in my neighborhood as well as those near me. This new cannabis cultivation and processing site at 3684 Via Real will be the fifth cultivation site located in or near residential neighborhoods.

The skunk like odors are particularly concerning due to the fact that there have been no long term studies done on the effects of the Ecosorb being put into the air. Please don't allow new cannabis sites to be permitted until there is a way to determine where the skunk like odors are coming from and what effects Ecosorb has on our environment and our health.

Also, during this time of drought, I am wondering where this new cannabis cultivation site will obtain their water and electricity (with Southern Calif. Edison's planned rolling brown outs due to the upcoming fire season).

Another concern I have is the increase in big rig truck traffic using two lane roads to travel to and from these sites. Recently, I was almost hit by a big rig truck backing into 4610 Foothill Road to load up with cannabis products. The driver of the big rig truck did not signal and stopped immediately in front of me and started to back up. I was sure the big rig truck was going to hit me as the driver continued to back up towards my car despite my continuous horn honking. The big rig blocked both lanes of Foothill Rd., near a blind curve, backing into the cannabis processing site. Fortunately, nobody was hurt. Unfortunately, this situation is an accident waiting to happen.

Please do not allow the over concentration of cannabis cultivation and processing sites in residential neighborhoods. Please repeal the Coastal Development permit issued for new cannabis cultivation and processing at 3684 Via Real in Carpinteria.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Jill Stassinis
1760 Ocean Oaks Rd.
Carpinteria

Villalobos, David

From: Gregory Gandrud <Greg@gandrudfinancial.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2021 9:31 AM
To: Villalobos, David; Lbridley2nddistpc@gmail.com; mihcael@igsb.com; larryf@laguanafarms.com; Dan Blough; JParke@aklaw.net
Cc: Concerned Carpinterians
Subject: Case No. 21APL-00000-00005 Appeal of Creekside Property
Categories: Purple Category

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.

Honorable Commissioners:

I have lived in Carpinteria for over 32 years. We are being overwhelmed by the cannabis industry and our air quality, health, and quality of life is suffering.

The Byers Vapor Phase system does not work well for controlling odors when it is used outside the perimeter of the building. The chemicals are respiratory irritants that cause health issues for neighbors and for nursery workers.

I used to live adjacent to the Ever-Bloom 15-acre cannabis grow but we were forced to sell my home of 24 years and move away because my spouse could not breath because of the cannabis operation with the Byers system. We have had to retain an attorney and have had to sue in order to recover for the damages to my spouse's health and to my property.

Please require cannabis operations to be airtight and/or to use carbon scrubbers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gregory Gandrud
Carpinteria
805-566-1475 x114

RECEIVED
MAY 26 2021
PLANT HEALTH UNIT
1000 N. MICHIGAN ST.
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

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5/26/21

www.GandrudFinancial.com

(805) 566-1475

May 22, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you uphold the appeal and oppose Creekside Property, LLC for the many reasons we have repeatedly presented to your commission, from the outset. I am reiterating some of them, here:

1. Most of us voted for Prop 64. We attended initial Town Hall meetings and supported Planning & Development's sensible, 2017 PEIR. However, the Ad Hoc Committee/BOS failed to adopt P&D's prudent recommendations, which would have avoided "Significant, Negative Class-I Impacts." As a result, BOS opened Pandora's box, blatantly embraced pot industry and created a countywide crisis that "We the People" have been subjected to, ever since!
2. There is an overconcentration of cannabis in Carp and other areas. Hundreds of Odor Complaints have been filed. Many more have gone unreported because of perplexing, tedious process where residents have to prove where odor is emanating from. Nothing has been remedied! In 2018, Commissioner Blough advocated for "carbon filtration systems." His advice went unheeded and instead, pot proponents introduced the Byer's system, in 2019. Thus far, this system has proven to be unreliable and it has not been tested for this specific use. Potential toxins may be wafting into the air that people are forced to breathe, adding to the skunk smell of weed. When Lisa Plowman first spoke the words, "Best Available Technology" last year, I thought, 'Oh! Oh! Here we go again. Another loop-hole law and bogus ploy, where SBC appeases growers and avoids the real issue, resolving the odor problem.
My solution for odor issue:
 - a. Require that "Best Available Technology" be proven safe and effective (carbon filters). If odor is discovered coming from grower's site(s), confiscate all products, immediately and file a 'cease and desist order' for one-year. I believe that "law" would protect legitimate growers and motivate others to clean up their act, rather quickly, don't you? I think it's an effective way to separate the "legitimate weed" from the "chaff."
 - b. Require renovated sealed greenhouses.
 - c. Heed Commissioner Blough's initial recommendation to use "carbon filters." To my knowledge, this is currently the 'best available technology.'
 - d. Ban cannabis in SBC and/or regions that P&D initially recommended, in the 2017 PEIR..., which included Carpinteria.
3. What, if anything, is the County doing to address drought concerns? For years, we observed and documented Tepusquet growers hauling in tens of thousands of gallons every day (no operable well), for three, provisional licenses. Growers claimed to be using, "state-of-the-art-technology" and described this technology to me, in detail. It sounded good. However, this was never proven to be effective because the water tankers kept hauling in the water. As with most broad-leafed plants, Cannabis requires copious amounts of water and nutrients to flourish and produce desired results - big, fat, sticky buds. I have been an organic gardener for years and am well-aware of what plants require and the consequences of underwatering and/or underfeeding various, high-demand veggies/fruits/landscape plants.
4. Set time limits for growers to complete various stages of the permit/licensing process. Some Tepusquet growers have been operating illegally and/or non-compliantly, since 2014 (seven years!). They have dragged their feet through the entire cannabis licensing process and have yet to meet CUP requirements and/or respond to their planner, 'in a timely manner.' They will never feel compelled to meet any requirements because current, County tactics allow them to continue operating, *ad nauseum*, without consequences (emphasis added).

No other business in this County, is allowed to sell products to consumers without first, going through a rigorous licensing process. No other business has huge, significant, negative Class-I Impacts on residents. No other business requires the level of oversight, security and/or law enforcement to supervise it. The cannabis industry is costing taxpayers more than we are benefiting. In the April 2021 budget workshops, SBC Sheriff, Chief Deputy Bonner stated, "...that of the 108 growers, 50 percent claimed no income or did not file at all." Most growers fail to pay their fair share in taxes (extra emphasis added).

Respectfully Submitted,
Renée O'Neill

3

5/26/21

Villalobos, David

From: Valerie Bentz <valeriebentz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 22, 2021 3:14 PM
To: Villalobos, David
Cc: lbridley2nddistpc@gmail.com; mihcael@igsb.com; larryf@laguanafarms.com; Dan Blough; JParke@aklaw.net
Subject: Stop increase of Cannabis growing unregulated in south county!!
Categories: Purple Category

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 Commissioners:

Please do not approve yet another grower of cannabis in our South County with the low level of oversight and control that has become all too common around the Carpinteria area.

As a resident of Carpinteria I have continued to suffer from severe allergies and respiratory issues since and cannabis production and the awful Byers chemicals are suffocating residents.

We are getting sick from this and are sick of the county commissioners rubber stamping these efforts.

Sincerely,

Valerie Bentz, Ph.D.
Resident of Carpinteria

[Faint signature and date stamp]
3
5/26/21

See more at valeriebentz.com
Transforming Consciousness for a Livable World

Fielding folks access Valerie's Research Center
here: <https://learning.fielding.edu/course/view.php?id=4731>

Valerie Malhotra Bentz, PhD, MSSW
Professor | School of Leadership Studies
Fielding Graduate University
5367 Ogan Rd. | Carpinteria, CA 93013
office 805-395-0709
vbentz@fielding.edu



CHANGE THE WORLD. START WITH YOURS.

Ramirez, Angelica

From: RUSSELL RUIZ <ruizsblaw@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:42 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; ED VW; peter dugre; coastal view; Concerned Carpenterians
Subject: Board of Supervisors Meeting May 24, 2022, Agenda Items #6 & 7

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.

Honorable Members of the Board:

I intend this Comment to pertain to both Items #6 Everbloom and #7 Via Real. My focus here will be on #6 Everbloom but my general Comments pertain to both.

By way of brief personal introduction for the three of you who do not know me, I am a lifelong, 8th generation South Coast Local. I am retired after a professional career where I called myself a Water & Land Use attorney. I was General Counsel for the Goleta Water District for over 20 years and the Summerland Water District until it merged with Montecito. I represented private Mutual Water Companies from Carpinteria to the Hollister Ranch. I served on the Santa Barbara Water Commission for almost 10 years. Throughout my career I worked on local land use Projects. My father and grandfather were successful South Cost building contractors. Particularly pertinent to Everbloom, I am a Carpinteria resident. In the aerial photo of the Project site in the Staff Presentation you can see our Home. Our daughter is a freshman at the High School. She has been a student in Carpinteria schools since she started at Canalino. I was the Parent representative on Site Council at Canalino and Middle Schools. I served on the School District Parent Advisory Committee, among several others. This year I have participated in the Parents for Carpinteria High School group at all our meetings. I have been an active volunteer at School events at the High School over the past several years including the Russell Cup track meet just last month, outdoors at the stadium. I drop our daughter off at school every morning. I am very familiar with the Carpinteria odor issue and can provide first hand witness testimony on the subject.

I have not actively participated in the most recent County hearings on Carpinteria Cannabis farms as I know the war is over and the good guys have won. I was asked to participate in this hearing and so here it is, I will be concise. I closely followed the County Cannabis process out of personal interest with my professional background, it has certainly been one of the most significant land use issues of our lifetimes here. I have read the entire PEIR and followed every County hearing on Carpinteria Cannabis matters. Of course being a Carpinteria resident was also a reason for my interest. I have a long background in local Ag and I have always been a supporter of our local farmers. My father was friends with many of the Goleta area farmers of his generation. When I was Counsel for Goleta Water District I knew every one of our Ag customers who I worked with just about every year when the Ag Water Rate discussions were engaged. I am a strong advocate for local farming. I know that maintaining the viability of local farming in the Carpinteria Valley is the most significant issue regarding preservation of our longterm quality of Life here.

Both of these Appeals focus on odor issues. We live literally a stone throw away from Everbloom. Several years ago we did smell Cannabis odor but that was completely rectified well over 3 years ago when the initial odor scrubbers were installed. Today and for at least several years now we smell absolutely nothing. As stated above, I drop our daughter off at the High School every morning. We smell nothing there. I volunteer for the annual Russell Cup track meet which is a major event for Carpinteria. Schools from all over the State participate. We had thousands of participants and spectators in a packed stadium at the last meet in April. No one mentioned Cannabis odor because there was none.

For those of you who may not have followed Carpinteria Cannabis permitting over the last several years at the Planning Commission, 1st District Planning Commissioner Cooney has been the most rigorous and strict County decisionmaker since the issue first developed. Up until relatively recently he was a champion of the Concerned Carpinterians perspective. He voted against several Carpinteria Projects. He has stated several times on the record that he has grandchildren in our Schools and he is determined that they not be negatively impacted by Carpinteria Cannabis farming. Commissioner Cooney is now satisfied. He voted with a unanimous Commission on both of these Projects and again, he is our most rigorous County decisionmaker on Carpinteria Cannabis matters. His son is the Athletic Director at the High School and is on campus just about every day of the year. No one knows the environment at the High School better. The Cooney family is satisfied.

I know Supervisor Williams has said something along the lines of "They do not know how or when to say, Thank you" referring to Concerned Carpinterians. They have for years now vehemently opposed every Cannabis farming Project in the Carpinteria Valley purporting to object to odor but I have followed closely and I certainly detect a sense of "Refer Madness" in their advocacy. Yes, 4 years ago there were several areas in Carpinteria where Cannabis odor was unacceptable. That has been rectified and that is why every Carpinteria Cannabis matter at the County over the past year has been approved unanimously. "They do not know how or when to say, Thank you." I expect that same result here.

Not that in context it is particularly important but the only named Appellant on Everbloom, Ms. Singer, lives miles away from the Project site, on Toro Canyon and at her age she certainly is not a parent of a current student at the High School.

Specific to Item #7, Via Real, Cannabis odor impacting steelhead trout? In my role as Goleta and Summerland Water District Counsel, I had to learn more than I ever would have cared to about Steelhead trout. I was on the local Water District Steering Committee for Steelhead trout formed in 1993 when steelhead were first listed as endangered, which has significantly impacted our Santa Ynez River water supplies. The claim that Cannabis odor could impact steelhead trout shows how far out of any norm these people are willing to go in their desperate attempt to try to come up with some credible argument. Again they have failed.

In consideration of the location of this Cannabis farm on Via Real, right next to the freeway, I will re-use a line that I successfully used on a neighboring Project that was unanimously approved by your Board when Supervisor Adams was still on the Board. As stated I have about 30 years professional experience before local land use decisionmakers. On that particular Project, which like this one is right next to the freeway, I used the term "infinitesimal" to describe the odor impacts from a Cannabis farm in that freeway impacted environment. Only someone in my former profession would appreciate this, I was greatly complimented when Supervisor Adams quoted my Comment using the term "infinitesimal" in making his closing Comments before voting with a unanimous Board to reject that Appeal brought by these same people. We all know that odor and air quality right next to the freeway are major concerns and no-one in that environment is going to smell or be impacted by a Cannabis farm.

Again in context it is not that important but the only named Appellant on via Real, Ms. Stassinis lives over 2 miles away from the Project site. She has been identified as a special ed teacher but I do not see her name on the High School Staff roster so I do not know which campus she works at.

In summary, neither of these Appeals raise any credible issues. I concur with Staff on each and every Issue addressed. The war is over in Carpinteria and it is time to move on. Carpinteria Valley Ag is a major employer in our area. If these people really cared about our students and their families they would join with me and most other Carpinteria residents and be grateful for those jobs. I hope you can help our Community convey to these people that it is time for them to find a productive avenue for their time and efforts and move on. Our Carpinteria Valley Cannabis farmers are here to stay, Thank You God!

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Ruiz

Carpinteria resident and Carpinteria High School Parent