

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

From: Joe Armendariz <joe@armendarizpartners.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:08 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: FW: Admin Agenda Item #41


 LATE
DIST

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 remove my request to have this letter read into the record.

From: Joe Armendariz <joe@armendarizpartners.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:00 AM
To: sbcob@countyofsb.org
Subject: Admin Agenda Item #41

We ask that this letter be read into the record.

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Gregg Hart, Chair
 Board of Supervisors
 Santa Barbara County

Re: Admin Agenda Item 41 (July 14th Hearing on Cannabis Ordinance)

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comment on this administrative agenda item...obviously we will have more to say on this issue if and when it comes before your Board for a full hearing next Tuesday. As one of the most severely impacted growers, in the event your Board adopts the conceptual motions made in June 11th, we hope your Board will consider some pertinent facts.

#1. A recent poll conducted by Gallup shows that 68% of people in the country support the legalization of cannabis. While it is undoubtedly true that many people who support legal cannabis support it because they themselves use cannabis, still, a large percentage support legal cannabis because that is the best way to regulate it and tax it.

#2. Santa Barbara County is a leader in this state when it comes to regulating, and taxing cannabis. Despite the false narrative, advanced by those with a prohibitionist agenda, which is that Santa Barbara County doesn't regulate the Cannabis industry, it is unequivocally the case that not only does SB County regulate this industry, your Board has held more public hearings, over the past two years on the issue of how to best regulate the Cannabis industry, than it has held on any other industry, including oil and gas, combined.

#3. Santa Barbara County heavily regulates the Cannabis industry. And while a recent Grand Jury Report advances a fiction that SB County doesn't regulate Cannabis, it's worth keeping in mind that same Grand Jury Report makes a persuasive argument for Cannabis land use permits being approved and issued in areas of the County where its proximity to so-called sensitive receptors is limited or in some cases nonexistent. To that point:

#4. We believe it is important that your Board recognize that various areas throughout the County should be looked at and treated differently than other areas with respect to cannabis cultivation. Specifically, Ignoring the remoteness of the Tepusquet Mountains, for example, when deciding if and how to regulate cultivation in EDRN's, seems capricious, and therefore unfair. Indeed, it turns on its head a widely accepted belief, which has taken on an almost cliché sounding mantra, which is that we should allow cannabis cultivation in areas of the county where you especially can't see it, hear it, or smell it. Cultivation in areas of the County where those findings apply, should be the preferred standard when approving or denying Cannabis cultivation in Santa Barbara County.

Moreover, we respectfully ask that your Board consider the wisdom of postponing next Tuesday's hearing in order to gather additional information that can and almost certainly will inform your Board's decision making process throughout this process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joe Armendariz
Director, Government & Public Affairs
Natural Healing Center, LLC
Cell: 805.990.2494