#7

Ramirez, Angelica Public Comment - Group 6

From: merrily peebles <merpeebles@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 6:03 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter
Subject: Santa Rita Valley AG Agenda item-May 5

LATE DIST

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Board of Supervisors,

With Busy Bee and West Coast (50 acres alone) on Highway 246, the gateway to Santa Ynez Valley, another 32 acres is too much. Cannabis brings odor, bad visuals and conflict with agriculture. Farms cannot apply even organic pest control materials without threats of lawsuits from adjacent cannabis grows. This threatens putting wineries and farms out of business.

This Santa Rita Hills Ag project, combined with the pending 21 projects in the area (the 5 around Pence Vineyard total 155 acres), will cause significant impacts to the Santa Ynez Valley and Santa Rita Hills. The proliferation of Cannabis in Santa Barbara County has caught the attention of the world. Every Cannabis Company in the US and beyond wants to set up shop In Santa Barbara County because of the lenient rules here. Please do the right thing and deny this project. Cannabis must find a way to fit in, not dominate. The role of the Board is to balance the County for the good of all.

I would like my letter to be read in the record of the hearing. Thank you.

Sincerely
Merrily Peebles

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Shelly Carbone <mbcarbone@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 9:48 AM
To: sbcob; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter
Subject: "Santa Rita Valley Ag appeal"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Supervisors:
Please add this letter to the record in the hearing regarding the Santa Rita Valley Ag 32 acre appeal project.

Santa Barbara County seems hellbent on becoming the marijuana capital of the world, without taking the time to observe, learn and fine tune THE SUCCESS of our mix of agricultural projects in our county over time. Santa Barbara, and it's wine appellations, particularly the Santa Rita Hills AVA are known throughout the world as beautiful and safe tourist destinations. It is well known that nearby cannabis grows can affect the subtle components of fine wines. It is imperative that further study on the effects on this critical market, and our organic farming markets be completely understood before further cannabis expansion is allowed.

Currently, cannabis cultivation is still federally illegal. Because cannabis is illegal, and proceeds are un-bankable, the cash aspects of this business come with a certain high level of criminality. Why would anyone risk getting caught in the cross-fire of a grower robbery while sampling our formally fine wines, now tainted by subtle notes of cannabis and gunpowder. PLEASE RETHINK YOUR APPROVALS OF ADDITIONAL CANNABIS GROW APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRE ANY CURRENT AND NEW APPLICANTS TO SUBMIT CUPS AS PART OF THEIR APPLICATION PROCESS!

Please DENY the Santa Rita Valley AG appeal!

-Michele Carbone,
Santa Barbara County resident

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Sashi Moorman <m.sashi@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 6:54 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Santa Rita Valley Ag

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please read into the record.

To the Board of Supervisors:

Your local wine industry needs you. These cannabis operations will have a significant impact on our businesses and the local hospitality economy that depends on wine tourism. I am completely bewildered that a majority of our county supervisors would continue to approve these developments against the recommendations of the Planning Commission, the Ag Commission and the outpouring of concern from your local Santa Barbara County wineries.
As a resident of Lompoc, who lives and works in proximity to this and future proposed marijuana farms, I cannot understand how this Board of Supervisors can continue to approve marijuana grow operations without a better plan to successfully integrate them into our agricultural community and local wine industry.
The unchecked growth of marijuana cultivation in our viticultural appellations will not result in a net positive outcome for the county. The growth of one industry that harms the livelihood of another makes no sense. Please consider a path forward that allows everyone to succeed and contribute to the future of Santa Barbara County.
Thank you,

Sashi Moorman

Sashi Moorman
Winemaker & Managing Partner
Domaine de la Côte | Piedrasassi
Sandhi | Evening Land
Mobile: +01 8054030605

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Earl Bradford <earl_bradford@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 6:49 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support Santa Rita AG - March 5th - Please read into the record

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please read into the record

As a resident of the valley for over 25 year I have seen many things change in the beautiful landscape that we call our home. Change is growth and growth is good. What I find most baffling is the resistance to growth that has been fought for by Blair Pence and the "coalition for responsible cannabis."
While this is baffling, I should not be surprised given the person who is spearheading this effort. It is business as usual for the appellant, Blair Pence as this was the same exact way that he came rolling into town some 13 years ago with his entitled and pompous efforts to force the Santa Rita Hills AVA to expand its boundaries in order to include his property in the AVA.
Quote from wine spectator
"Area vintners are also grumbling that Pence hired an out-of-state consultant to develop his proposal and did not contact the SRHWA or the original authors of the boundaries. "He's an out-of-town guy, and his geologist is an out-of-town guy," said Hagen. "I would have liked it if he handled it like a farmer, not a developer. We farmers talk over fences."
This is clearly Mr Pences MO. His way or the highway. Well that might be how people handle things in LA. But it certainly isn't how I want to see things handled in my town.

Please don't pander to these tactics. You have adopted an ordinance and it needs to be give a chance.

Sincerely,

Earl Bradford

Ramirez, Angelica

From: headfiddle@fiddleheadcellars.com
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 6:54 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Santa Rita Valley Ag Appeal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

RE: Santa Rita Valley Ag Appeal

Please read my statement below into the record at the hearing on Tuesday, May 5.

I am the owner/winemaker of Fiddlehead Cellars and Fiddlestix Vineyard. I request you deny this appeal. Unlike Pence Vineyards, I already have a large, cannabis grow operating on land next door. In spite of my best efforts, the relationship has not been amiable or pleasant.

Since last fall I tried to purse "good neighbor practices", a process frequently mentioned by your Board and cannabis farmers as the solution. The process has been frustrating and not fruitful. For example, last year while spraying, a representative of the grow trespassed and accosted one of our tractor drivers. They filed a complaint with the Agriculture Commissioner which resulted in a costly investigation and administrative hearing. This unpleasant experience is ongoing. After threats of a lawsuit, I was forced to switch to a less effective, more expensive spray program to meet their needs and abandon ours. The result was a total loss of 5 acres of grapes—a substantial economic loss.

I am now concerned about this year, as negotiations are at a standstill. The grower insisted that I agree to publicly support their permit application. In good conscience, I am unable to support this inappropriate nonconforming use. I am now forced to farm in a different way, at significant additional expense, after 23 years without any incident to avoid being sued or strong-armed into supporting a permit that is incompatible with grape growing in the Sta. Rita Hills.

Please do not allow what has happened to me, happen to Pence Vineyards and others.

Kathy Joseph
Owner-Winemaker
Fiddlehead Cellars/Fiddlestix Vineyard
805-735-7728

Ramirez, Angelica

From:	Dave Clary <templeclary@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, May 4, 2020 6:47 AM
To:	sbcob
Cc:	Dave Clary; Renee O'neill; Steve Junak; Leigh Johnson; Derek McLeish; Susan Ashbrook; Lil Clary; Blair Pence
Subject:	Letter re Agenda item D7 scheduled for 5 5 2020 BOS - Santa Rita Valley Ag, Inc.
Attachments:	SANTA RITA VALLEY AG INC - BOS HEARING - 5 5 20 - DTC LETTER.pdf
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
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Clerk of the Board ...

Attached is a letter I have drafted to be included with the packet for the BOS regarding item identified on the agenda for May 5, 2020 as D7. It deals with the Santa Rita Valley Ag, Inc. hearing on its LUP, appealed by Blair Pence.

Please circulate it to the public interested in this matter, to the Board of Supervisors, each individually, and to interested County staff.

Thank you.

Dave Clary

Clerk of the Board of
Supervisors of Santa Barbara County

Re: Written comments regarding Item D7 on the Agenda for May 5, 2020

Applicant: Santa Rita Valley Ag, Inc.

Re: Blair Pence Appeal of LUP determination by
Planning Commission to the
Board of Supervisors

Position: Support Appeal, deny the LUP

To the Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I fully support the position set forth by counsel Marc Chytilo et al
In letters and documents submitted in the course of hearings on
This Application for an LUP. It is firmly based upon ordinances,
statutory authority, caselaw and scientific evidence.

I am appalled at the consistent and overwhelming extent of the
exercise by the Board of Supervisors of its authority to ignore
The lack of mitigation measures as set forth in the PEIR by
citing overriding considerations. There is certainly a danger
that any Board decision could be overturned in court simply
because of this wholesale overruling of the PEIR, negating
the purpose of CEQA.

By favoring cannabis cultivation over and over again in this
major winemaking AVA the Board will very probably provide
the wine world with a major caveat regarding wines from
this area that could well deal them a death blow. Terpenes
and odors are a major threat that should not be ignored.

Finally, grapes are an agricultural product that bear the right to farm.
Cannabis, by definition is not and does not have this right.
The cannabis cultivators can call themselves farmers until they are blue
In the face, but they are producing a drug, largely sold
on the black market. Why then is this unproven and volatile
industry allowed to threaten legitimate agriculture?

Respectfully I request that you deny this LUP to this applicant.

David Clary
Resident, along with his wife, Lil, of Tepusquet Canyon for 24 years.
Resident of Santa Barbara County pfor 40 years

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Jackie Miller <mjackie58@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 6:54 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Santa Rita AG Support Letter

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please Read Into the Record

Dear Chair Hart and Board Members,

I have been to numerous public hearings and as I have watched the hearings evolve I am absolutely amazed at how arrogant and righteous blair pence and diane pence, DBA "coalition for responsible cannabis"
reveal themselves. I am sorry that I am not one of the wealthy elite who can be part of the ever so exclusive winery owner's club.

They are misleading and deceitful in their public comments and are trying to evoke an unfounded fear among county residents.

Will someone please tell me why the Pence's and other wine grower's didn't participate in the many months of countless public hearings (40+?) during which time the ordinance was formed, tweaked and adopted?

Wouldn't that have been the time to offer their input, comments and suggestions, prior to several hundred groups going out and spending millions of dollars on land, attorney's, architects and engineers to pursue a permit based on what the county outlined in the final ordinance?

I understand that the Pence's have millions of dollars to spend to harass and thwart diligent applicants from getting the permit they are entitled
to.

How ironic that the pence winery has been cited for zoning violations and continues to operate an illegal wine tasting operation.

I guess those with incredible wealth think they have the ability to manipulate other people and the legal system as they so chose.

Jackie Miller

Ramirez, Angelica

From: PAUL EKSTROM <paulekstrom@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 9:01 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Fwd: Please support the Planning Commission's Denial of Santa Barbara West Coast Farm's project.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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---------- Original Message ----------
From: PAUL EKSTROM
To: sbcob@countyofsb.org
Cc: Das Williams , Joan Hartmann , Gregg Hart , Peter Adam , steve Lavagnino <steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.o
Subject: Please support the Planning Commission's Denial of the Santa Rita Valley Ag. Project.

Please read this into the record:

Chair Hart and Honorable Supervisiors, Please give serious consideration to your planning commissions finding for denial of this project. This is one of many large scale applications that will create an "industrial" scale cannabis corridor to the west of Buellton that will threaten the quality of life and businesses of this part of Santa Ynez Valley and Santa Rita in particular. It is too early to know if cannabis can grow near other crops especially wine grapes without affecting the quality of grapes. Studies need to be done. Cannabis odor from this project will impact residents, farm workers, wineries, visitors and nearby agricultural operations. Cannabis projects were hastily approved in Carpinteria Valley and look at the problems we now face. It is apparent the "best practices" odor control may work in the laboratory but not in the real world. There is no hurry to approve such a large scale cannabis operation, there is a glut of both medical and recreational cannabis on the market. Profit is not near what investors projected. Apparently many growers are not making enough to pay taxes. This region of California is a jewel and we need to make the best decisions to protect it. Thank you, Paul Ekstrom

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Andrew Olsen <andrewolson805@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 10:41 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Santa Rita AG Please Read Into the record

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please Read into the Record

Dear Chair Hart and honorable members of the Board.

I have lived in Santa Barbara for the past 15 years and have never been so disgusted by such untruthful and relentless attacks being made by big shots who think they run the town.

In his letter to Santa Rita Blair Pence and Mr. Pence have shown who they are.

Quote from email "There was one other thing I meant to bring to your attention when we discussed the tort claim I would file. Assume best case, your project was to get approved, you obtain a business license, and prevail in CEQA litigation. You get a year or two of profits in spite of all my objections, but what happens if you lose the tort case? Ask your lawyer about disgorgement of your profits under the unfair business practices act. Sorry, but you're the messenger. My playbook is right out in the open."

Yes Mrs Pence, thank you for being honest for once and showing everyone who you are. Just to recap on what you're saying, if all of the people and courts in town agree that Santa Rita has the right to run a business like everyone else, you will be coming after them for the money you spent wasting everyone's time.

Please do not allow this disgusting example of bullying to influence you. Santa Rita has done everything that your board has asked and they should be able to proceed with their project.

Thank you,

Andrew Olsen

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Gail Herson <devesi@me.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 12:14 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Santa Rita Valley Ag project hearing Tuesday May 5 Please read it into the record.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Commissioners,

Please disallow the Santa Rita Valley Ag project. This project brings excessive density to the gateway to the valley.

Commissioner Park stated in the Santa Rita Ag hearing: **PEIR did not cover clustering around the gateway to the Santa Ynez Valley, -**directly relevant.

This application, with others locally **will create an Industrial Cannabis Corridor inconsistent with CEQA** ("It is necessary to provide a high-quality environment that at all times is healthful and pleasing to the sense and intellect of man" PRCode 21000)

This project's odors will negatively effect residents, visitors and nearby farm workers. This valley's not suited to cannabis operations-Its **thermal inversions hold odors** and fine particles at ground level.

Agricultural products, ie wine, and wine tasting visitors' experience will be negatively impacted, threatening the livelihood of established vintners and tourist industry.

This project **will impact established non-cannabis farms.** Fear of cannabis growers' lawsuits stopped professional applicators from applying materials controlling pests and mildew and standard practices (plowing) that stirs up dust. **As an avocado farmer,** I am concerned **non-cannabis farming will be put out of business.**

Please protect County residents and agriculture. Do not allow the Santa Rita Valley Ag project.

Thank you,
Gail Herson

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Judy Dean <judycathryndean@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:13 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Cannabis permit for Santa Rita Valley Ag; Please read at hearing

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to oppose the approval of the cannabis project by SAnta Rita VAlley Ag. This project will result in an over-concentration of cannabis in the Santa Inez Valley, and will be detrimental to near by agriculture, homes, and businesses.

The proposed project will be a visual blight. It is well known that revisions to the Santa Barbara County cannabis ordinance have been demanded by citizens groups and recommended by the County Planning Commission. To allow this project to move forward would be a serious breach of faith with your constituents.

Judy C Dean MD

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Sharyne Merritt <professormerritt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:47 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: santa rita valley ag PLEASE READ INTO RECORD

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Chair Hart and Members of the Board,

I urge you to reject this appeal and support your Planning Commission's restriction of this project to 12.75 acres in the center portion of the lot to mitigate negative impacts of the project.

This project is not compatible with food agricultural operations in the vicinit. Our farm is less than a mile from this project and given our experience at our south county farm of licensed pest control appliers being unwilling to work in valleys with cannabis, this project will impact my ability to successfully farm conventional crops.

This project is also incompatible with the wine industry, to which Mr. Pence and other vintners will speak.

Finally, the clustering of large industrial cannabis grows will forever change the nature of our valley. Please consider this in your decision making and look to protecting what makes our county special, not just getting more revenue.

Thank you,
Sharyne Merritt, farmer

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Jackie Thiele <jackiethielegj@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:56 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: comments to be read at BOS meeting May 5, 2020 item D7

Please read my comments at meeting for D7

Please limit the cannabis grows in Santa Rita Hills AVA. We are already inundated with massive grows on Santa Rosa Rd and HWY 246. It is completely overwhelming. At the April 21st BOS meeting, Supervisor Lavagnino said "where are they supposed to grow it if not here". Well... cannabis is a weed and can grow anywhere! Why is it all being congested in Santa Rita Hills? The ONLY place quality Pinot Noir can grow in Santa Barbara County is Santa Rita Hills! Supervisor Adams said "during an economic downturn you take care of your existing businesses first", This is economics and finance 101. Why isn't the Board supporting the existing businesses in Santa Rita Hills first?

At the April 21st meeting some on the Board said they were "reluctantly" voting for West Coast. Really? If you are voting on something that directly affects peoples lives and businesses and you are "reluctant" then the vote is NO not yes!

Why do you keep throwing us under the bus? Why do you say one thing and do another?

This is a turning for our county and all who live here. Your 5 names will always be associated with either the ones who destroyed the wine industry in Santa Barbara County or the 5 Supervisors that supported it.

Thank you Jackie Thiele

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Anna Carrillo <annacarp@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:40 PM
To: sbcob; Hart, Gregg; Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: Appeal of Santa Rita Valley Ag. Inc. - PLEASE READ INTO THE RECORD

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To: Board of Supervsors

From: Anna Carrillo

May 4, 2020

Please support the appeal of Santa Rita Valley Ag Inc. Cannabis Cultivation Project.

1. Applicant, because of a change in ownership, should not be allowed to modify its proposed project acreage through the appeal process to eliminate conditions and acreage limitations imposed by your Planning Commission

without having appealed the Planning Commission's approval first. This is a clear abuse of the appeal process and Applicant has not acted in good faith now requesting 32 acres, which is 19.25 acres more than the Planning Commission approved.

2. Since the PEIR determined that odor abatement regulations do not apply in AG-!! Zones, and the Right to Farm rules were adopted after this certification of the PEIR this air quality issue needs to be taken into account for nearby residents and

outdoor wine tasting rooms.

3. Terpene taint from cannabis is another issue that was not studied in the PEIR analysis.

4. Another issue with this project is the overconcentration of cannabis cultivation sites. Recently your board approved 2 projects, one 50 acres in size. This is another one of the 21-23 pending in the Santa Rita Hills.

5. The Santa Rita Hills is a well-known AVA with large long term investments made.

6. The unexpected air and soil drift from even organically used pesticides and fertilizers is preventing legacy vintners from protecting their investment and their crops.