

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

#5

From: Nancy Emerson <fnemerson@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 11:27 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: WE Watch letter for BOS 5/24/22 meeting
Attachments: WEWCOPICommCUPCannabis.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.

Good morning,

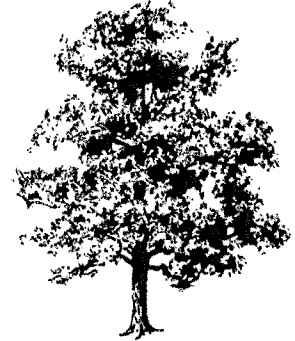
Please post the attached WE Watch letter for the May 24, 2022 meeting, Item 5 Cannabis Amendment hearing

Thank you.

Nancy Emerson

WE Watch, P.O Box 830, Solvang CA93464

May 9, 2022



TO: County Planning Commission
FROM: WE Watch, Nancy Emerson, President
RE: Item 2, Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Amendments

WE Watch, a Santa Ynez Valley land use and environmental organization, supports approval of the amendments that will now require a CUP for larger AG-I parcels, AG-II and other zones. We are relieved that it includes both new applications and applications in process that have not received final approval. The Planning Commission and the public have greatly needed discretionary standards when considering cannabis applications.

ODOR. The Santa Ynez Valley deals with about 3 months of seasonal odor problems along 101 between Nojoqui Summit and Santa Rosa Road, in Buellton and east as well as in the entire valley to the west. This causes health problems for those with sensitive receptors and offensive odors for other residents and tourists. We recommend requiring odor abatement as part of the CUP.

Odor is such a big problem that existing cannabis cultivation sites need to choose to use odor abatement tools. As stated in the staff report, it is important to incentivize this by allowing LUP holders to make certain minor improvements without requiring a CUP. Might incentives include a fee reduction in the year effective odor controls were added? Odor control reduces need for complaint investigations.

WATER. There has been concern about how much water is used for cannabis cultivation and it is difficult to determine what that impact is and will be as growers reach their acreage capacity. When researching water use, we learned that Sonoma County requires meters for cannabis wells. Since many outdoor cannabis cultivation sites in the Santa Ynez Valley and elsewhere use wells, and GSAs will begin adding groundwater regulations,

isn't this a good time to require that wells used for cannabis cultivation be metered and to incentivize this for existing growers?

We recognize that CUPs are an additional expense for applicants. However, if it eliminates appeals, which have been frequent, those costs will be eliminated. We hope the CUP requirement will enable existing agriculture and residents to coexist with cannabis cultivation, which has been our organization's goal.

Attachments: UC Berkeley Cannabis Research Center information, Article re Sonoma County cannabis