

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

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From: Laurel Fisher Perez <laurel@sepps.com>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 9:33 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Cannabis Ordinance Amendments; Board Hearing May 24, 2022
Attachments: SEPPS Ltr to Board of Sups. Nojoqui Farms. 5.23.22.pdf



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Good morning Clerk of the Board,

Please distribute the attached letter concerning the proposed Cannabis Ordinance Amendments to each of the Supervisors in advance of tomorrow's Board Hearing.

Kind regards, Laurel

Laurel Fisher Perez, AICP
Principal Planner



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May 23, 2022

Chair Hartman and Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
Sent via email: sbcob@countyofsb.org

Subject: Cannabis Ordinance Amendments; Board Hearing May 24, 2022

Dear Chair Hartman and Honorable Board of Supervisors:

We are writing on behalf of our client, Nojoqui Farms, an existing organic row crop farm located along Hwy 101 approximately five miles south of Buellton. After nearly two years in the review process, Nojoqui Farms obtained Land Use Permit approval in August 2021, authorizing 21-acres of cannabis cultivation and associated processing facilities on the 53-acre property. In September 2021, the LUP was appealed, and Nojoqui Farms has been working with P&D Staff and the appellants since that time to try to resolve the appeal issues. Unfortunately, the appeal hearing will move forward to the Planning Commission this summer. At no fault of Nojoqui Farms, it will be nearly one year following LUP approval before the appeal is heard.

Nojoqui Farms has diligently and comprehensively addressed every review request, including submittal of detailed plans and technical studies, and has adapted to multiple ordinance amendments along the way. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to address the ever-changing standards needed to obtain the Land Use Permit approval. As discussed at the Planning Commission Hearing on May 11th, it would be fundamentally unfair and unusually punitive to the seven permittees, including Nojoqui Farms, to NOW require these applicants to convert their LUP approved projects to CUPs just because the LUP approval has been appealed.

We therefore support the Planning Commission's recommendation that your Board exclude the seven permittees on appeal from the proposed Ordinance Amendments, and ensure that the CUP requirement would not apply to these seven projects that are pending their LUP appeal hearings. In the event that your Board adopts the proposed Ordinance Amendments affecting cannabis applicants, we ask your Board to please exclude the seven permittees with approved and appealed LUPs from the Amendment requiring a CUP.

Respectfully yours,

Laurel Fisher Perez, AICP
Principal Planner
SEPPS Planning & Permitting Services, Inc.