# Nojoqui Farms 1889 US Highway 101 19LUP-00000-0053



Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors November 1, 2022

### Applicant Team Introduction















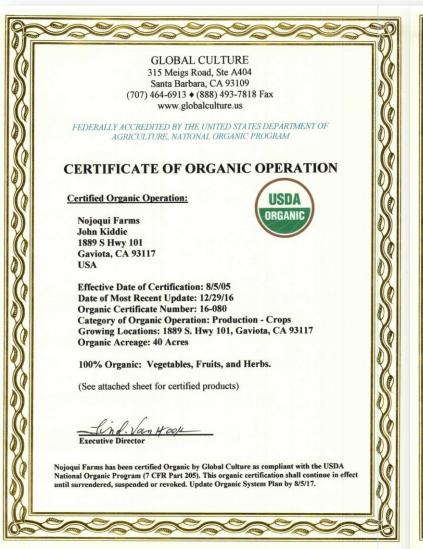
#### Planning Commission Outcome

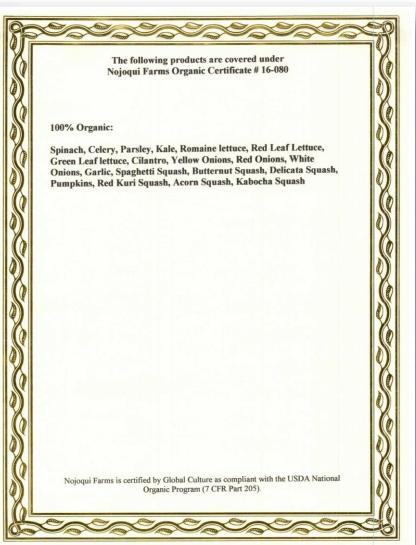
- ✓ Unanimous 4-0 approval; both appeals denied.
- ✓ Applicant volunteered to restrict Main Well water use to HALF of historic use. Added to Project Description and enforceable by County P&D.
- ✓ PC confirmed water use regulation and reporting is within the State's jurisdiction, NOT the County's.

# Nojoqui Farms



# One of the Earliest Certified Organic Farms in the County

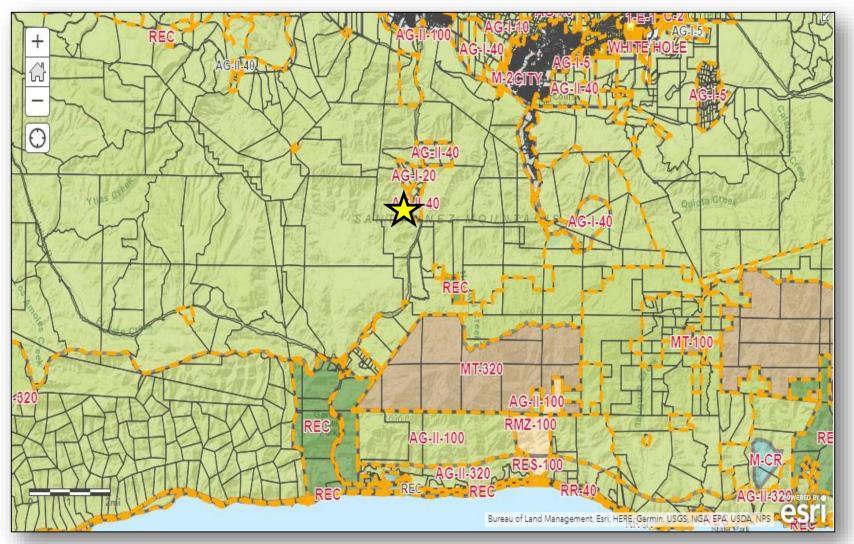




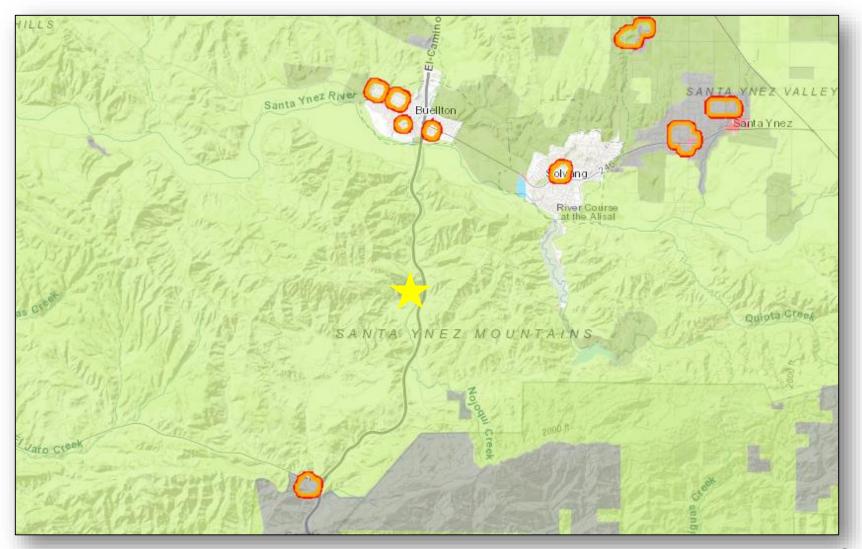
## Preserves Farming Operation



#### Not Near Residential Zones

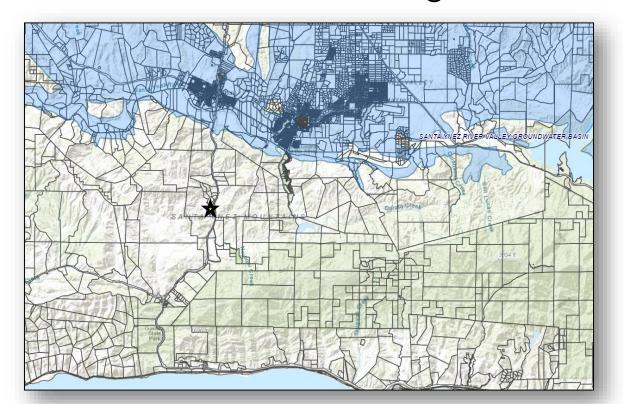


## Not Near Sensitive Receptors



### Not within a State or County Designated Groundwater Basin

Project site is not located within a State or County designated Groundwater Basin, and is not subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.



### Project Components

- ✓ Project is a change of crop; utilizes existing farm infrastructure
- ✓ Ensures continued AG on productive, prime AG land
- √ 50% reduction in historic water usage
- ✓ Significant vegetative screening with drought-tolerant plants
- ✓ No significant direct or indirect impacts to biological resources
- √ 21.87 acres of cannabis under hoops; 42% of property
  - ✓ Ginegar advanced material with recycling program
  - ✓ North-South orientation to minimize odor
- ✓ One new processing building
  - ✓ Activated carbon filtration odor abatement system
- ✓ Property has been farmed for 30 years

## Current Views from Highway 101



#### Timeline

Approval	Date
Land Use Permit Submitted	12/13/2019
Land Use Permit Approved	8/19/2021
Appeal #1 Filed	8/23/2021
Appeal #2 Filed	8/26/2021
Business License Deemed Complete Acreage Secured in Cap	9/30/2021
Planning Commission Appeal Hearing	8/10/2022
Board of Supervisors Appeal Hearing	11/1/2022

### Project Approvals

#### **Agencies**

**Planning & Development** 

Fire Department

**Flood Control** 

**Agricultural Commissioner** 

**Environmental Health Services** 

Sheriff's Office

**Sustainability Division** 

**CEO's Office** 

**CA Water Board Monitoring Program** 

#### State Review Timeline

#### Timing of State Annual License Application Submittals

In order to conduct commercial cannabis business in the County of Santa Barbara (County), business entities must obtain the appropriate State license issued by the Department of Cannabis Control. However, prior to submitting a State license application, new cannabis business entities must first obtain local authorization from the County, which consists of:

- An issued land use entitlement.
- A cannabis business license

Should a cannabis operator submit a State license application prior to having obtained both a land use entitlement and/or a cannabis business license, the operator assumes the risk of the State licensing authority processing their State license application prior to the operator having obtained local authorization. Should this occur, the State may notify the applicant of their lack of local authorization and may provide applicants up to 90 days to cure this deficiency. Should the operator fail to cure the deficiency within the specified timeframe, the State license application may be disqualified and the associated fees paid by the applicant, may be forfeited.

#### Water Resources



### Significant Water Reduction

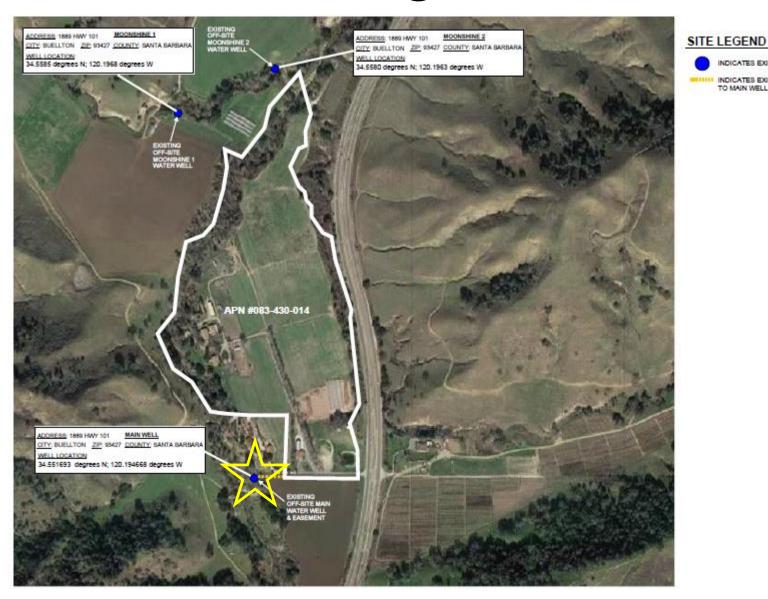
- Applicant volunteered to condition the project to approximate 50% reduction of the historic water usage on Main Well.
  - 51.5 AFY Historic Water Use (10-year average)
  - 26.6 AFY Proposed Max. Water Use
    - Includes (cultivation <u>and</u> landscaping)
- Reduction in the total footprint of cultivation on-site
  - The Applicant voluntarily reduced the cultivation acreage by approximately 4 acres prior to Planning Commission
- Water conservation features include:
  - Soil Moisture Monitoring
  - Drip Irrigation

## Three Existing Off-site Wells

INDICATES EXISTING IRRIGATION WELL

INDICATES EXISTING WELL EASEMENT

TO MAIN WELL



# Cannabis Water Use Regulated by the State

#### Staff Response:

The appeal issues pertaining to water use and odor are addressed above and in the Staff Report dated August 2, 2022. As previously discussed, the Applicant's Water Source and Water Demand Memo demonstrates that the Project will result in a reduction of the historic water use of the subject property. The conclusions of the Water Source and Water Demand Memo with respect to historic water use of the subject property and projected water demand of the proposed Project have not been disputed. Accordingly, there is substantial evidence that the Project's use of groundwater from the Project Site's existing wells provides an adequate water supply for the proposed Project. Further, the conclusions of the Water Source and Water Demand Memo demonstrate a beneficial impact of the proposed Project with respect to groundwater resources, when compared to the historic baseline use, against which the Project is evaluated under CEQA. Accordingly, there is substantial evidence that the Project was appropriately reviewed under CEQA with respect to groundwater resources.

Ultimately, the permitting of surface water diversions, as well as diversions of groundwater that constitute a subterranean stream flowing in a known and definite channel, is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the SWRCB. In the event that the SWRCB determines that the Project's water

# Groundwater Will Supply the Project

Project Geologist, Charlie Katherman conducted a comprehensive study on the Project wells and local watershed and found <u>no connection</u> between the groundwater supply and the surface supplies based on:

- water quality distinctions between the groundwater and surface water
- elevation of the static water levels in the wells
- completion depths of the wells
- sanitary seals
- pump test

# State Agencies Ensure No Impacts to Creek or Species

- Like all cannabis projects, this project must apply for a 5-year CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSA) as part of the state licensing process. No cannabis can be cultivated until LSA and state license processes are completed.
- If CDFW requires a LSA, Applicant will be required to monitor and report groundwater use to ensure there are no impacts to the creeks or species.
- If CDFW imposes conditions on pumping through an LSA, Applicant must comply.

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#### Project Benefits

- ✓ No change of use crop change on an existing farm.
- ✓ Ensures continued AG on productive, prime AG land
- √ 50% reduction in historic water usage
- ✓ Significant vegetative screening with drought-tolerant plants
- ✓ No significant direct or indirect impacts to biological resources
- ✓ Reduces historically farmed footprint; only 21.87 acres
- ✓ One processing building with activated carbon filtration OAS
- ✓ Utilizes existing farming infrastructure

#### Thank You



## Backup Slide Deck



# Applicant Volunteers the Following Condition:

Three existing offsite groundwater wells will provide water for the Project (irrigation, domestic, and fire protection uses). The Applicant shall provide County P&D staff, a well meter log of the Main Well that serves the cannabis cultivation project prior to commencement of use and biannually thereafter for the life of the project. The use of the well is limited to 26.6 acre-feet per year (AFY), as confirmed by the well meter log. The Project will include approval of a water system permit and repair of the existing private onsite wastewater treatment system serving the employee restroom. The Project site will continue to be accessed via an existing 24-ft.-wide asphalt driveway off Highway 101. Fire protection will be provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department and law enforcement will be provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. The Project site is a 53-acre parcel zoned Agriculture-II (AG-II-40), and shown as Assessor's Parcel Number 083-430-014, located at 1889 Highway 101 in the Buellton area, 3rd Supervisorial District.

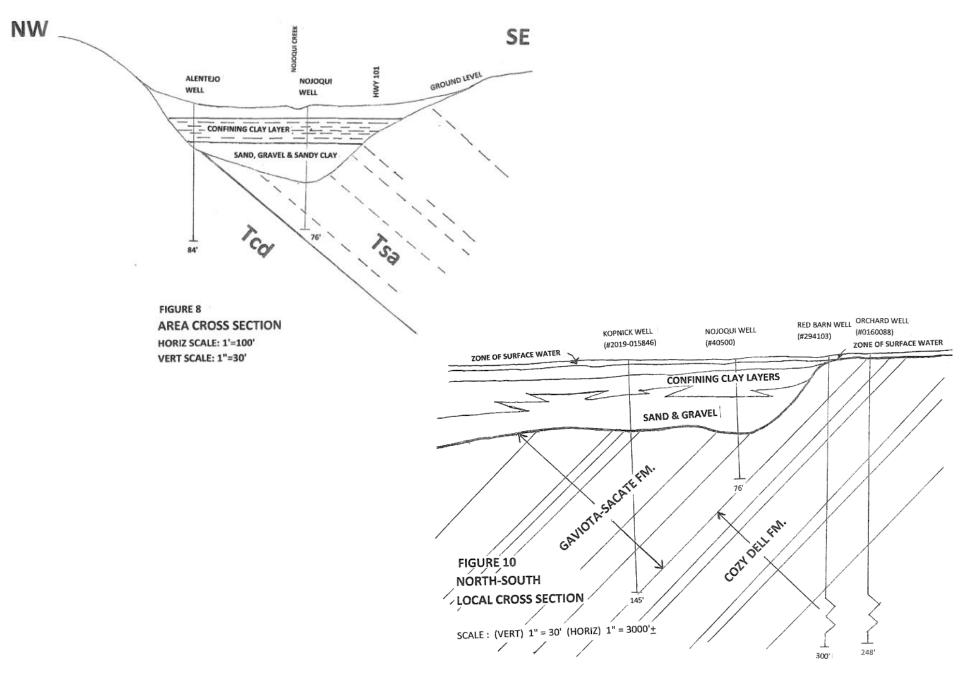
## Subject Wells Use Groundwater, Per SWRCB

During that meeting, SWRCB Water Rights Division staff confirmed that unless there is an existing determination by the State Water Board identifying a specific well as a surface water diverter, there is a presumption that all subsurface water is percolating groundwater. This information is confirmed in the email from SWRCB staff, dated April 7, 2022, and included as Attachment B to this Staff Memo. The SWRCB has not determined that the Project wells constitute subsurface stream diversions and has confirmed that absent such a determination, the wells are presumed to be sources of groundwater. Additionally, the Water Source and Water Demand Memo concluded that the Project is unlikely to substantially affect instream flows.

### Coexisting Uses

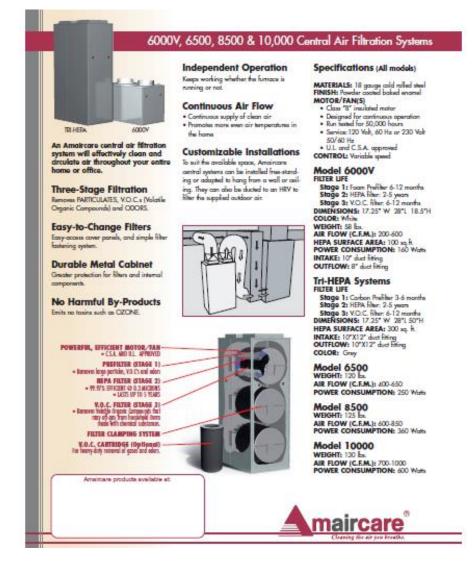
Santa Barbara County was awarded the 2021 Wine Star Award for Wine Region of the Year by Wine Enthusiast—the same year in which the County had hundreds of acres of legal cannabis growing next to some of the best wineries in the world.





#### Odor Control

- All drying, curing, or trimming of harvested cannabis shall be located within the processing building with an activated carbon filtration system to mitigate odors.
- This is the County's recommended method of odor control per LUDC 35.42.075.C.6.E(1).
- Setback from cultivation to ROR >650 ft.
  - Topography
  - Landscape screening
  - Highway 101



#### Operations

THREE HARVESTS WILL OCCUR EACH YEAR BETWEEN THE MONTHS OF MAY THORUGH JUNE, JULY THROUGH AUGUST, AND OCTOBER THROUGH NOVEMBER. EACH HARVEST WILL LAST 21 DAYS. OPERATION WILL BE FROM 7:00 AM TO 4:00 PM MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY.

- Approved Land Use Permit

#### Sierra Botanical's Site Plan



#### WATER WELL DRILLERS REPORT

(Sections 7078, 7880, 768), 7082, Water Code)

Do Not Fill In

Nº 38481 Same Well No. 6 N/32 W 36 RS

DEC 3 1969

#### THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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