

From: [Haley Kolosieke](#)
To: [sbcob](#)
Cc: [Laurel Fisher Perez](#); lkatherman@aol.com
Subject: BOS Appeal Hearing Item #1, 11.1.2022
Date: Monday, October 31, 2022 4:06:50 PM
Attachments: [2022-09-30. Paulsen Letter.Nojoqui Farms.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon –

Please include the attached 1-page letter into the record for tomorrow's Board of Supervisors hearing, agenda item #1.

Additionally, when you have a moment please send a panelist virtual meeting link to one of our Applicant Team presenters, Charlie Katherman, at lkatherman@aol.com

Kind regards,

Haley Kolosieke
Associate Planner
(805) 966-2758 x115

September 30, 2022

Patricia Paulsen
P.O. Box 130
Buellton, CA. 93427

Subject: Nojoqui Farms Cannabis Cultivation Appeal Hearing; 21APL-00043 & -044

To Whom It May Concern:

As director and president of Nojoqui Farms, APN 083-430-014, I would like to address certain statements that I personally know were misrepresented by the appellants and speakers at the Planning Commission meeting on August 10, 2022. (Appeal of Nojoqui Farms Cannabis Cultivation Project).

I have lived and worked at Nojoqui Farms since 1991, overseeing the maintenance of the property to this day, and the caring of our organic crop operation until 2016. We shipped most of our produce to five of our major natural food stores until four of them were sold in 2015. After that time, we began to cut back and finally close this farming operation in 2016. We then decided to sell or lease out the farm under a purchase and sale agreement that today involves the current cannabis cultivation project that has recently been unanimously approved by the Planning Commission.

Appellant Mr. Seaman, who lives across the highway from Nojoqui Farms, stated that the Nojoqui Falls corridor is a dry farming region, and that he dry farms his blueberry farm. I am also involved in dry farming hay on another property. "Dry farming" means you don't irrigate your crop, you seed it after the rains and that is all the water you use. He is not and cannot be 'dry farming' his blueberries that need a good amount of water during their growing season and ripening.

Also, if Nojoqui Falls corridor is a dry farming region, our close neighbors in this corridor would have to stop their large operations of growing wine grapes and conventional farming that is very visible as you drive by on the highway.

The second appellant, Sierra Botanicals, is leasing the property bordering our farm where they obtained County approvals to cultivate cannabis. Sierra Botanicals operates a small domestic well to irrigate their cannabis crops and is required by the State to develop an ag well, which they still have not completed.

Mr Benumof, attorney representing Sierra Botanicals, stated during the hearing that our Nojoqui ag well has always been a shared well and has shared water uses with Sierra Botanicals - this is not true. Ever since the Nojoqui ag well was drilled over 60 years ago, all of its underground irrigation lines go directly to our Nojoqui Farm. There are no pipes from this well that have ever been for the use of Sierra Botanicals or for the property they are leasing. Further, Sierra Botanicals does not have access to the Nojoqui well; while they may desire access to the Nojoqui well in order to address their State requirement for an ag well, the Nojoqui ag well exclusively serves the Nojoqui Farm.

Randy Jones with Pork Palace is our neighbor to the north and spoke at the Nojoqui Farms appeal hearing stating that our farming affected his well and the water in the creek. Of the 32 years that I have been involved with Nojoqui Farms, we have never heard from Randy or his family of any problems when we were farming. Neither he nor his family ever mentioned to us or the State Water Board, who we regularly reported to when we were farming, of any concern of our agriculture water usages.

When we farmed, we worked with our neighboring farmer across the highway downstream to balance the days we all irrigated to make sure everyone was in balance with the use of the ground water.

Randy Jones misstated that we stopped growing crops because we ran out of water. That is not true. We stopped growing because we sold the stores that were our main buyers of our produce! Looking at the Nojoqui creek today, it looks the same as it always did when we farmed this time of the year.

I do hope this clears Nojoqui Farms of the misstatements that were expressed at the Planning Commission hearing.

Thank you,

Patricia Paulsen
Director & President Nojoqui Farms