



**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

December 9, 2020

Hon. Gregg Hart
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Appeal of the Decker Greenhouse Denial, Hearing Date 2/9/21

Dear Chair Hart and Members of the Board:

The Santa Barbara County Agricultural Advisory Committee (the "AAC") has considered the above referenced matter at its November and December monthly meetings and has heard comments from Mr. Decker at both of those meetings. We appreciate the opportunity to comment briefly on the issue presented in this matter.

Although we have had extensive discussions about the policy implications of this project, we also recognize that we do not have the benefit of having heard all of the public comment and deliberation that has taken place related to the project. Nonetheless, while we recognize that there may be nuances of which we are unaware, we believe that it is important for the County to always be mindful of the Comprehensive Plan's Agricultural Element when considering matters such as this.

As you are aware, Policy I.B of the Comprehensive Plan Agricultural Element states that: *"The County shall recognize the rights of operation, freedom of choice as to the methods of cultivation, choice of crops or types of livestock, rotation of crops and all other functions within the traditional scope of agricultural management decisions. These rights and freedoms shall be conducted in a manner which is consistent with: (1) sound agricultural practices that promote the long-term viability of agriculture and (2) applicable resource protection policies and regulations."*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Van Leer, Chair

Committee Members

Bradley Miles
Ron Caird
Sharyne Merritt
AJ Cisney
Randy Sharer
Carrie Jordan
Claire Wineman
Paul Van Leer, Chair
June Van Wingerden
Tyler Thomas, Vice Chair
Bill Giorgi, *Alternate*
Chrissy Allen

Representing

1st District Supervisor, Das Williams
2nd District Supervisor, Gregg Hart, Chair
3rd District Supervisor, Joan Hartmann
4th District Supervisor, Peter Adam
5th District Supervisor, Steve Lavagnino
California Women for Agriculture
Grower-Shipper Association of SB and SLO Counties
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
Santa Barbara Flower & Nursery Growers' Association
Santa Barbara Vintners
Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Assn.
California Strawberry Commission