

Attachment O Addendum 1

Public Comment Received

May 6, 2021 through May 9, 2021

**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:46:20 AM

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**From:** Beth Buchanan <bbuchananmft@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 10:28 PM  
**To:** district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.--

**Beth Buchanan, LMFT**  
**Forestville, CA**

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**From:** [BOS](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Issue: Cannabis growing in Rural Residential Zones  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 2:16:15 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: no-reply@sonoma-county.org <no-reply@sonoma-county.org>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 5:27 PM  
To: BOS <BOS@sonoma-county.org>  
Subject: Issue: Cannabis growing in Rural Residential Zones

Sent To: County of Sonoma

Topic: Issue

Subject: Cannabis growing in Rural Residential Zones

Message: Please advise as to your position and just ovation with respect to voting “for” or “against” the currently proposal to open cannabis grows in RR zones without public comment.

We have lived at 5321 Wilshire Dr, Santa Rosa , 95404 - a RR zoned parcel for more than 35 years. Such a grow on a parcel less than 10 acres AND not in a commercially zoned area without public review and input is not acceptable.

Thank you for your time and in advance for your prompt reply.

Cal Lewis  
(707)528-9617

Sender's Name: cal Lewis  
Sender's Email: clewis1828@hotmail.com  
Sender's Cell Phone: 7075289617  
Sender's Address:  
P.O. Box 450  
Fulton, CA 95439

**From:** [Diane](#)  
**To:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**Cc:** [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Cannabis](#); "[Silvy, Tyler](#)"  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:46:37 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, and have read the letters to the editor in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups.

To say I'm disappointed in the results of your latest amendment to the ordinance is an understatement. I'm furious.

The County stated that its mission was to amend the guidelines to better take into account neighborhood impact and compatibility for grows located near residences. It appears that *no* effort has been made to adjust setbacks or regulations to mitigate the impact of this commodity crop on adjacent neighbors, *at all*.

In fact, the entire ordinance feels blatantly geared to support growers and streamline their interests to make the permit process a "one size fits all" endeavor, assuring that little oversight or regulations are involved and giving neighbors no recourse or input into this train wreck of a process.

The Mitigated Declaration is rife with allowances that heavily impact anyone unlucky enough to have their property located next to a grow. Too many of these are situating themselves in close proximity to residents instead of on farmland in the countryside where distance separates them from their neighbors—acorage which is abundantly available in Sonoma County.

Why aren't cannabis processing plants regulated to existing industrial and commercial zones where there is plenty of support for them via

proper roads, access, and police and fire proximity, rather than being allowed in rural neighborhoods replete with one-lane roads, neighbors right next door within 300 feet from 24/7 commercial activity, and all the noise, odors, and activities associated with a large-scale commercial operation?

Why can't setbacks begin at property fence lines...isn't that what the property line is for? And why can't they be 1,000 feet, as Humboldt County has already successfully done in their own rural communities? That would mitigate many impact issues, right off the bat.

There needs to be a project-wide EIR for Phase 2 which is in compliance with CEQA regulations and allows nearby residents to enjoy their properties without being located next to a busy 24/7 processing plant and commercial endeavor.

I've written once or twice before, in response to your invitations for feedback. This latest draft of the ordinance feels like a slap in the face. It blatantly ignores residents' needs in order to fast track a highly impactful industry offering lucrative tax dollars, which flaunts Sonoma County's longstanding rural communities and traditions.

If this revised ordinance's goal is to foster a war between growers and their neighbors, resulting in years of legal battles and bitterness on all sides, this latest ordinance travesty is a good start.

Repeal, redesign, and start over; with an eye to creating a situation that involves compromises on *all sides*, that we ALL can live with—growers and neighbors alike; *equally*.

Diane Donovan  
12424 Mill Street  
Bloomfield CA

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments – May 15t  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 1:55:49 PM

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**From:** David Shatkin <dshatkin@sonic.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 1:08 PM  
**To:** Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>; Andrea Krout <Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; Jenny Chamberlain <jchamber@sonoma-county.org>; district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments – May 15t

**EXTERNAL**

**Dear Supervisors:**

***I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.***

**David Shatkin**

**Occidental**

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**From:** [Gary Holm](#)  
**To:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:16:27 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

We have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. We are unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. We have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

*Gary and Karen Holm*

*Sebastopol*

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/8/2021  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:13:33 PM

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**From:** Heather Patz <patzheather@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 4:40 PM  
**To:** Andrea Krout <Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org>; Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>; Jenny Chamberlain <jchamber@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/8/2021

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

***Heather Patz-Graton, CA***

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

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**Warning:** If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected, **do not** click any web links, attachments, and **never** give out your user ID or password.

**From:** [johnamodeo@aol.com](mailto:johnamodeo@aol.com)  
**To:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 3:33:35 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Please note that I am especially concerned about water use during a drought, which may very well endure for a long time. It doesn't seem sensible to me to allow for expansion of an industry that will require massive amounts of our limited and precious water resources. But let's see what an EIR would say about this.

Best regards,  
John Amodeo  
Graton, CA 95444

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**Warning:** If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected,  
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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Is California Ready for Drought?  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:15:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[Neighborhood Response to Cannabis Ordinance.pdf](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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**From:** Marsha Dupre <marshad@sonic.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 1:42 PM  
**To:** Grant Davis <Grant.Davis@scwa.ca.gov>; Matt St. John <Matt.St.John@waterboards.ca.gov>; Robert Pittman <Robert.Pittman@sonoma-county.org>; Sheryl Bratton <Sheryl.Bratton@sonoma-county.org>; Chris Coursey <Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org>; David Rabbitt <David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org>; district4 <district4@sonoma-county.org>; district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>; Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>  
**Cc:** Richard A. Green <Rick.Green@pressdemocrat.com>; Mary Callahan <Mary.Callahan@pressdemocrat.com>; Kent Porter <Kent.Porter@pressdemocrat.com>; John Burgess <john.burgess@pressdemocrat.com>; Jim Sweeney <jim.sweeney@pressdemocrat.com>  
**Subject:** Is California Ready for Drought?

## EXTERNAL

In light of the Governor's declaration of drought and the excellent presentation this morning (email below), it baffles me to think of widespread permitting of yet more water to cannabis operators – especially when the tools taxpayers trust - i.e. EIR/CEQA - have not been done and the Bd. of Supervisors is poised to make a dramatic decision all the while we are asking our residents to conserve water. Begs the question of how thoroughly are all entities of government working with one another as our trusted decision-makers?

Marsha

Marsha Vas Dupre, Ph.D.  
Former Santa Rosa City Council Vice Mayor, SRJC Trustee  
3515 Ridgeview Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
707-528-7146

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**From:** Marsha Dupre [mailto:marshad@sonic.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 12:51 PM  
**To:** 'events@ppic.org'; Grant Davis (Grant.Davis@scwa.ca.gov)  
**Cc:** Nancy and Brantly Richardson (NRchrdsn@sonic.net); Matt St. John (Matt.St.John@waterboards.ca.gov); Supv. Chris Coursey (Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org)  
**Subject:** Is California Ready for Drought?


EXCELLENT!

Thank You,  
Marsha

Marsha Vas Dupre, Ph.D.  
Former Santa Rosa City Council Vice Mayor, SRJC Trustee  
3515 Ridgeview Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
707-528-7146

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**From:** Eventbrite [mailto:noreply@sparkpostmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 6:18 PM  
**To:** marshad@sonic.net  
**Subject:** Registration Confirmation for Is California Ready for Drought?

  
**Marsha,  
you've got tickets!**

  
[Get the app](#)

**Is California Ready for Drought?**

\_\_\_\_\_

1 x Registration  
Order total: Free

Thursday, May 6, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM (PDT)  
Add to [Google](#) · [Outlook](#) · [iCal](#) · [Yahoo](#)

[View event details](#)

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Public Policy Institute of California

Follow

Questions about this event?

[Contact the organizer](#)

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## Additional Information

The event organizer has provided the following information:

Thank you for registering for PPIC's virtual event, **Is California Ready for Drought?**

On May 6, at 11:00 a.m.

**WATCH HERE:** <https://www.ppic.org/event/is-california-ready-for-drought/>

The event will also be livestreamed to PPIC social media channels:

- PPIC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PPICNotes/>
- PPIC YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PPICvideos>
- PPIC Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/PPICNotes>

Questions? Contact Beth Elder at [events@ppic.org](mailto:events@ppic.org) or 415-291-4430.

Thank you,  
Public Policy Institute of California

To learn how to support PPIC, visit the PPIC website:  
<https://www.ppic.org/support-ppic/donate/>



This email was sent to [marshad@sonic.net](mailto:marshad@sonic.net)

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May 3, 2021

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Drive, Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: CANNABIS ORDINANCE, PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Supervisors:

**We represent a coalition of neighbors and environmental activists who are trying to preserve what makes Sonoma County so special: our scenic beauty and precious natural resources. The solution is small cannabis grows away from residences, not in public view, and not spreading noise or odor. This is not what is proposed.**

We don't expect to make millions of dollars from this policy change, like growers will, nor are we backed by major investors or powerful political players. We are ordinary homeowners and nature lovers, and we vote, consistently, as do our friends. We are local people who want to make Sonoma County better for everyone.

Members of our coalition have been constructively participating in this issue for years. At your behest, we have volunteered for community planning groups, reached out to staff, participated in public meetings, written letters and made endless suggestions to improve this new policy — only to see most of our recommendations sidelined and ignored. We are frustrated.

The proposed changes to the cannabis permitting process will be some of the most significant land use changes in Sonoma County in the last 40 years and, during a crushing pandemic when families are struggling with immediate needs, almost no one who's not already a grower or adjacent neighbor knows about it. Consider the context:

- Written into the Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration (SMND) document, more than 65,000 acres have been identified by the County for potential ministerial permits. The County, however, has *not* identified high fire danger zones, areas without a reliable source of water, lands with endangered species, areas away from neighborhoods, nor important open spaces, among other omissions. While proponents say they don't expect that many acres to actually be approved for grows, no one is offering a smaller number of acres than the 65,753 acres already stated. It's too much cannabis, and we need the County to clearly state a reduction in the acreage available for permits.
- This policy will grow tons of a new water-guzzling product, yet it relies on water survey data from 1980. We face a historically bad drought emergency that will likely extend for multiple years, caused by climate change, never considered in that 1980 data, the 20-year old General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or the SMND prepared for this policy. This policy change should not move forward without evaluating our current water resources, determining if we have enough supply to meet current and projected demand in normal and drought years.
- Calls from environmental experts and affected community members (and several Planning Commissioners) for a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) have been ignored too many times to count. The SMND is fatally flawed. We need a full EIR which could allow the County to determine suitable areas for future grows.
- The legal recommendations and Agency input, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommendations, among others, have not been incorporated, putting our county and taxpayers at risk of another expensive lawsuit.

***This is not how we should run our county. Fortunately, you have the power to course-correct and find true consensus in our community. We offer these recommendations below in that spirit.***



## **1. Recognize the Cumulative Impacts on Neighborhoods and our Environment**

- A. Invest in a full Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, fully analyze and proactively identify locations for cannabis cultivation that are least impactful on residences and agricultural, resource, commercial and industrial zoned parcels, plus set an acreage cap for each groundwater basin.
- B. Suspend issuing and renewing cannabis permits until the EIR is completed, until setbacks between cannabis cultivation and residences and other sensitive uses are increased, and until other flaws in the newly revised Commercial Cannabis ordinances are addressed.
- C. Improve the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) processes as follows: Undertake normal land use planning for cannabis by identifying suitable sites, after the EIR is completed, and clearly identify State permit requirements, including project-specific environmental review and site criteria for proposed projects. Then determine areas suitable for cannabis operations based on evaluation of:
  - i. Water availability and impacts
  - ii. Proximity to residential homes, schools/childcare, parks/recreation, waste stream impacts from excess wastewater and plastic hoop houses
  - iii. Avoiding open spaces, all identified scenic resources, community separators, access roads, wildfire danger and other hazards, endangered or sensitive species, wildlife corridors, riparian corridors, wetlands, and historic/archeological/cultural resource sites
  - iv. Providing accessibility to law enforcement
- D. Satisfy CEQA including for ministerial permits, predetermine suitable locations that remove the need for discretion by County staff on aspects like hydrogeological analysis, biotic assessment, proper access roads, analysis of visual blight, fire risk, etc. Projects resulting in fencing, 24-hour security, nuisance lighting and odor emissions are by definition changing their surrounding environment, and thus triggering CEQA requirements.
- E. In short, align with California state regulations including:
  - i. Prop 64 – as implemented by the California Department of Food and Agriculture
  - ii. Fire safe roads – as implemented by the Board of Forestry
  - iii. CEQA – include CEQA requirements for ministerial permits
  - iv. State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Water Resources requirements for water demand, wastewater disposal and required setbacks for biotic resources, riparian habitats, etc.
- F. Eliminate the practice of issuing multiple ministerial permits to separate growers on the same or adjacent parcels. This is a loophole which leads to cumulative impacts as it amplifies the impacts many times over, obfuscates liability for violations, and does not comply with project-specific CEQA review and cumulative impact review as currently required by State law.
- G. Restore the Health and Safety clause in Chapter 38. Residents have a right to health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.
- H. Limit permitted acreage in any 10-mile square zone to prevent saturation of any one area.
- I. For all ministerial permits, impose a local residency requirement to stop the influx of non-Sonoma County operators, where “operators” are defined as owning at least 51% of the applying business.
- J. Prohibit the use of all single-use plastics in cannabis grow operations, especially for hoop houses.
- K. End the Penalty Relief Program (PRP) after May 31, 2021 and schedule public hearings for all remaining PRPs by September 30, 2021. Enough time has elapsed to give aspiring growers the opportunity to fix their applications and reapply.

## **2. Preserve Water and Open Spaces**

- A. Maintain the Planning Commission’s inserted prohibition on all cannabis cultivation in Sonoma County’s Class 3 and 4 groundwater areas for all ministerial permits, and the County should assess water availability in all water zones as recommended by CDFW, before issuing new conditional use permits.
- B. Prohibit trucking of water or recycled wastewater under all circumstances.
- C. Require all wells to be independently monitored using a micro grid network system. Take precautionary steps to ensure that residential and agricultural wells do not run dry due to cannabis groundwater extraction or catchment systems.
- D. Prohibit all cannabis cultivation in voter-passed Community Separator parcels.
- E. Limit permit approvals during a drought, as declared by the State of California, to applicants that grow cannabis only using dry farming techniques with strict monitoring by the County.
- F. Trees with fruit or nuts have, since the original draft ordinance was published, been exempted from tree protections. Since many (or most) trees have fruits or nuts – including oak trees, whose acorns are both fruits and nuts – this exemption must be removed from proposed Chapter 38, or clarified so that the explicit intent is clear, resulting in continued protections from removal for oak and other trees.

## **3. Increase Setbacks, Neighborhood Compatibility and Odor Controls**

- A. Require 1,000 foot minimum setbacks, from the property line, for outdoor and hoop house cultivation and 300 foot minimum setbacks for indoor cultivation — for all residences, schools, childcare facilities and parks.
- B. Require that no odor will cross the property line for all indoor cultivation and processing.
- C. Create a “Rural Residential Exclusion Zone” option for neighbors to pursue, which would be a simple and speedy (less than six months) mechanism to exclude commercial cannabis production from certain locations based on potential harm to watersheds, including wells serving residential homes, endangered species, neighborhoods with multiple homes, poor access roads and/or other site-specific constraints.
- D. Do not open agricultural or resource lands to cannabis events. Follow CalCannabis’ rules for events in commercial and industrial areas.
- E. For outdoor cultivation, require the applicant to submit the results of air quality modeling that show terpene emission levels under a series of typical weather conditions during the growing and harvesting season at the cultivation location. The modeling shall include all current and proposed sources of terpene emissions within one mile of the cultivation location, and the County may require setbacks deeper than 1,000 feet to mitigate offsite odor from outdoor and hoop house cultivation.

## **4. Centralize Processing of the Product**

- A. Prohibit cannabis processing on-site and in residential, agricultural and resource zones. Instead, focus processing in facilities in commercial and industrial zoned land only.
- B. Prohibit cultivation and processing in areas without fire safe roads, which are narrow and often dead-end roads. This is another reason all processing should be done in our central corridor and not in our rural areas.

- C. State explicitly that cannabis is an agricultural product, not an agricultural crop, and therefore not the same as conventional agriculture and not subject to right-to-farm law.

**5. Enforce with Penalties that Deter Law-breakers**

- A. Change the initial term of permits to match the State License term of one year. This will allow the County to monitor performance and adjust standards on compliance with water, odor control, plastic handling and disposal. All evidenced claims of potential violations will be investigated immediately.
- B. Renew permits with no violations or unresolved complaints for two years, with the caveat that if violations and complaints occur later, the County will revoke the permit, effective immediately.
- C. Require posting of a \$50,000 bond upon issuance of each permit, to be used to remove structures, fencing and trash if the operator abandons a grow site, as well as to pay for enforcement; otherwise, the taxpayers will shoulder these costs.
- D. Do not give cannabis growers notice prior to inspections of their facilities for compliance checks. State law does not require this.
- E. Implement an enforcement team, similar to Humboldt County, consisting of Sheriffs, Fish and Wildlife and Water Resources staff to perform surprise inspections for compliance.
- F. Stop bad actors. Any person performing an illegal or un-permitted activity shall be required to stop all activities immediately, dismantle operations, pay a fine and be put under a two year probation where the violating operator will not be issued any cannabis permits.

In a news article from Sunday, April 18, the Press Democrat reported “cannabis varies in value from \$5.5 million to \$6 million per acre annually, compared to wine grapes that were about a \$11,000 per-acre value in 2019, county Agriculture Commissioner Andrew Smith said.” There’s a lot of money on the table, we understand that.

**But pushing through a major policy like this — during a pandemic when so many people are struggling, without adequate environmental review, during a drought emergency with no adequate evaluation of water availability, or listening to affected neighbors — it’s an unnecessary rush to judgment. Don’t pass this Ordinance just to get it off your agenda, like an ill-advised Chanate sale or an ill-conceived school funding ballot measure, because this will come back to haunt you. Slow down, listen to neighbors and the environmental community, learn from past mistakes, and let’s do this the right way.**

Make the changes we requested above and give neighbors and our environment a better deal. We cannot afford to get this wrong. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Bridget Beytagh**  
Friends of Graton (FOG)

**Tess and Tom Danaher**  
Barlow Lane Neighbors

**Deborah Eppstein**

**Ron Evenich**  
No Pot on Pepper Lane

**Chris Gralapp**  
Bennett Valley Citizens for  
Safe Development

**Kim Gutzman**  
Barlow Lane Neighbors

**Bill Krawetz**  
Gold Ridge Neighborhood

**Katie Moore**

**Anna Ransome**  
Friends of Graton (FOG)

**Vi Strain**  
Concerned Citizens of  
Bloomfield

**Marsha Vas Dupre and Jack  
Dupre**

**Rachel and Gene Zierdt**  
Coffee Lane Neighbors

CC:

Sonoma County Administrators Office  
Sonoma County Counsel's Office  
Sonoma County Agriculture Commission  
Mayors of Sonoma County Cities  
The Press Democrat  
Petaluma Argus Courier  
Sonoma West Times & News  
Kenwood Press  
Oakmont Times  
North Bay Business Journal  
Sonoma County Gazette  
Sonoma Index-Tribune  
Sonoma Sun  
Greenbelt Alliance  
Sierra Club  
Sonoma County Water Coalition  
Sonoma County Conservation Action  
Preserve Rural Sonoma County  
Bay Area Chapter of the Gospel Coalition  
Interfaith Council of Sonoma County  
League of Women Voters  
North Bay Labor Council  
Sonoma County Vintners Association

**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:50:24 AM

---

**From:** Paula Brent <mpbb@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 7:22 PM  
**To:** Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21

## EXTERNAL

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***Paula Brent***  
***Sebastopol***

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:58:33 AM

---

**From:** Pamela Tonge <pet627@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>; Andrea Krout <Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; Jenny Chamberlain <jchamber@sonoma-county.org>; district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the cannabis industry in the drafting of the new cannabis ordinance. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide Environmental Impact Report (EIR) before adopting a flawed ordinance. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources (including our ground water), will comply with State CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties. ***I can't understand why residents are told to conserve water, yet growing cannabis, which is not a necessity of life, will use enormous volumes of water, is even being considered. Water is essential to all living things and should not be used for anything but maintaining the health & vitality of our community. Please, please look beyond the money this industry would bring in, and look at the long term health and viability of the people who voted for you.***

***Thank you for your time,  
Pamela Tonge  
Sebastopol***

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**From:** [Robert Nissenbaum](#)  
**To:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [district3](#); [district5](#); [Cannabis](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#); [Cannabis](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance Meeting Board of Supervisors Meeting - May 18  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:52:26 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors:

As a resident of a Sonoma county rural neighborhood, it is stunning to me that the County has not adequately reached out to residents for their input and has from all observation been overly influenced by the commercial cannabis industry in the drafting of the new cannabis ordinance.

In the past 9 months two permits were approved to a cannabis grower in my rural neighborhood, without warning or any input with the neighbors. who have observed numerous violations according to the restrictions in the permits. But the county does not respond to any reports of violations. We already smell the noxious cannabis odor wafting in the neighborhood some days and it's early in the growing season.

It is past time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide Environmental Impact Report (EIR) before adopting a flawed ordinance that will create perpetual disputes between cannabis growers and rural neighborhoods.

Cannabis may have its place in the county, but it's an industrial product needing lots and lots of water when the future of our water is perilous. It's not apples, grapes, blueberries, or tomatoes. It doesn't fit having ugly hoop houses with security fencing, within 300 ft of homes, emitting skunk like odor. If 1000 ft setbacks are the appropriate distance from schools, what about when children and the elderly are at home? There is no rationalization to explain this dichotomy.

Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources (including our ground water), will comply with State CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Robert Nissenbaum  
Sebastopol

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis Ordinance.  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:45:13 AM

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**From:** sean casey <seancasey60@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 12:27 AM  
**To:** Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance.

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

***Sean Casey and Theresa Melia - Graton.***

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**From:** [Sheri Fox](#)  
**To:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [Cannabis](#); [district5](#); [district3](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [andreakrout@sonoma-county.org](mailto:andreakrout@sonoma-county.org)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:40:26 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2.

*On a personal note, I am saddened by the apparent lack of concern for the living, breathing residents of this beautiful part of California. I've lived all over the state in my 50 years and nothing compares. We moved here believing that respect for open space, protected natural resources, and vibrant communities were at the heart of the decisions made by those in charge (unlike San Diego, where we moved from, which was driven by financial motives). It's the people, animals, communities, and natural habitat that make Sonoma County so special. I do not want to see Sonoma County become a barren wasteland devoid of growing families, retirees, business owners, farmers, chefs, wild animals and the natural wonders of old growth oaks and waving grasses. Without appropriate restrictions on incoming cannabis growers and processing facilities, all of these resources will dwindle as people and animals are driven away to seek a better life for themselves and their families. The future vibrancy of this beautiful area is in your hands, we are trusting you to make decisions that benefit a better, healthier, more sustainable way of life for all of us.*

**Sincerely,  
Sheri Fox, Petaluma, CA**

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**From:** [Cindy Schellenberg](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments May  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 2:53:26 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

**Dear Sonoma County Planners, Staff and Supervisors :**

***Given that I am forced to endure another year of an unwanted outdoor commercial grow next door, I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County. I have read the letters to editors in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I am encouraged that more and more concerned county residents are realizing we don't need to increase acreage to cultivate and supply the nation with pot grown here, and we certainly don't need more high demand water crops as we enter a second record breaking drought year.***

***I'm more than unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and appears to have been unduly influenced by the wealthy cannabis industry in the drafting -- one more reason that the ministerial permitting process is NOT appropriate in these instances where neighborhood impact and compatibility***

***should be important considerations.***

***I firmly believe that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is past time to return to the Board's previous decision to finally conduct a project-wide EIR for Phase 2.***

***Simply put - Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will not only protect our natural resources, and will comply with CEQA requirements, but also preserve, respect and protect residents' rights to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their residences and properties.***

***It's the zero hour and time for the County to step up and do the right thing.***

Respectfully,

Cindy Schellenberg, longtime resident and tax payer

Davis Lane, Penngrove

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**From:** [Greg Koss](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments – May 18  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 2:15:35 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Gregory Koss  
Sebastopol, CA

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**From:** [Sam De La Paz](#)  
**To:** BOS; Cannabis; David Rabbit; Lynda Hopkins; Leo Chui; district3; district3; Susan Gorin  
**Subject:** Re: Hessel Farmers Grange - Chapter 38 Public Comment Memo (2021 Cannabis Draft Ordinance)  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 1:56:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [Hessel Farmers Grange - Chapter 38 Recommendations Memo.pdf](#)

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EXTERNAL

Hello, Honorable Sonoma County Supervisors & County Staff,

Our sincerest apologies for the premature send! You will find the final dated memo below.

We realized the wrong version was sent and the one below is the dated version that we request to be submitted to public record.

Thank you all so much for your time and attention to this memo from our Hessel Farmers Grange membership.

Sending all the very best to you all and your loved ones!

Signed,

Hessel Farmers Grange Membership  
Vince Scholten - Grange President  
Sam De La Paz - Vice President

 **Sam De La Paz** Vice President, Hessel Farmers Grange  
707.827.3045 | 707.354.3884 | VP@hesselfarmersgrange.com  
5400 Blank Rd  
Sebastopol Ca, 95472  
www.hesselfarmersgrange.com



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Sent with [Shift](#)

On Fri, May 7, 2021 at 1:37 PM Sam De La Paz <[membership@hesselfarmersgrange.com](mailto:membership@hesselfarmersgrange.com)> wrote:

Hello Honorable Board Members & County Staff,

We hope this letter finds you and all of your loved ones doing well.

Attached below, in PDF format, is an Official Memo from our Hessel Farmers Grange Membership Organization.

Our organization represents 75+ members in total. The percentage of those stakeholders are Cannabis industry members. The remaining membership consists of other agricultural professionals, farmers and Cannabis & Hemp industry supporters. Additionally, our organization includes the largest majority of the "Priority Processing" applicants, from the Chapter 26 ordinance. Most of these stakeholders remain in the CUP process to this day.

Our Cannabis industry representation and Cannabis cultivation stakeholder numbers are very significant within Sonoma County.

We ask for your thorough review of the attached recommendations and considerations.

We appreciate all of your time, energy and due diligence in hearing from the stakeholders of the Cannabis industry and more specifically from the legacy operators who are trying to make an honest living here within our agricultural county.

We all want to see a thriving and viable legal industry form here in Sonoma County. We look forward to the revenues and tax dollars that this essential industry can bring to our county and its municipalities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this memo.

Signed,

Hessel Farmers Grange (75+ Members)  
Vince Scholten - Grange President  
Sam De La Paz - Vice President

 **Sam De La Paz** Vice President, Hessel Farmers Grange  
707.827.3045 | 707.354.3884 | VP@hesselfarmersgrange.com  
5400 Blank Rd  
Sebastopol Ca, 95472  
www.hesselfarmersgrange.com



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*Sent with [Shift](#)*

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May 7th, 2021

Hessel Farmers Grange

5400 Blank Rd Sebastopol, Ca 95472

Dear Board of Supervisors,

**We ask that you approve County Staff's original recommendations, including immediately moving the Cannabis cultivation review to the Ag Commissioner's office under ministerial permitting right away.**

- **All legacy operators and existing applicants in the pipeline need to be prioritized as baseline Social Equity applicants with the following:**
  - A 50% acreage be allotted to small farmers, priority processing applicants, social equity applicants in any acreage cap limitation.
    - The state has approved the Sonoma County Cannabis Social Equity assessment grant funding. If Social Equity is not prioritized it will harm the county and our industry pioneers.
  - Further, we are ok with the 5-acre county cap with a 2-acre cap on hoop houses
- All other annual crops are by right. Only orchards and vineyards go through a ministerial process. Even hemp only needs a simple registration!
- We are still in a recession, and this move is needed for our local economy
- The Planning Commission kept saying that “no one is happy with this ordinance” but then proceeded to cut staff’s recommendations down to an unworkable ordinance recommendation. Staff recommendations were barely suitable, this industry should not have to live under the additional constraints being suggested by the Planning Commission.

- Sonoma County Planning Commission considered minimal Cannabis stakeholder recommendations. Even after significant documented public comment. Additionally, we are still waiting for those recommendations to be acknowledged by the BOS.
- For example, The requirement that a “declared emergency” must be initiated to use a generator. This is not taking into consideration a PSPS (Public Safety Power Shut-off) which is not a “declared emergency”. It also does not reflect the fact that any power outage can ruin a Cannabis Crop.
- The industry went from 8,000 potential applicants to hundreds, and now fewer than forty. Sonoma County can’t continue to be left behind.
- Sonoma county ordinance drafts have not protected the small farmer and have only made it too restrictive, it has not allowed our local cultivators to transition and flourish.

**In reviewing the tapes of the Planning Commission deliberations on March 25th, it appears that the Planning Commission avoided the nuances of how to include Water Zone 3 and 4 properties when in fact these are the most important to include for the following reasons:**

- Not all properties in groundwater availability zone 3 & 4 are the same. Many have ample well or recycled water availability. Rainwater catchment should also be incentivized.
- The proposed staff changes require that dry well testing and hydrogeological studies be conducted by a certified hydrologist, ensuring that the proposed area has sufficient water. This is unprecedented and quite onerous as it is.
  - The premise that a hydrology report would disqualify a property from a zoning permit is a moot point, considering that each permit requires a hydrology report.
- The staff’s recommendations for water are very restrictive. We don’t think the commissioners spent enough time addressing the issues with groundwater availability and instead spent too much time on trucking water
- Ranchers and other farmers are in these zones and also want to diversify their income-
- Many of the already permitted cannabis farmers are in Zone 3 and have ample room and water to expand. There should be a level playing field for these pioneers.
  - Groundwater is also not the only source that Cannabis should be allowed
    - Trucking of groundwater or recycled water should be allowed and incentivized.

**The setbacks recommended by staff are already extremely restrictive. There is no need to increase setbacks. It would even be prudent to relax the setback requirements.**

- Increasing the setbacks makes minimum property sizes much larger than the allowed ten-acre minimum lot size. That is prohibition, not regulation.
- Mandating larger parcels creates an equity issue and an unreasonable cost of entry for the potential small farms.
- When the cannabis ordinance was introduced it was with the idea of making permitting easier as we progressed, not harder.



- Original permit applicants that were on 5 acres have already been completely pushed out of the industry. Let's not push out even more applicants, this only drives the counter economies further underground.

**Pending applicants need to be given processing priority!**

- Let's remember to give due process to those who have been in a multi-year CUP process.
- Give them their CUP hearing right away, or move them to the front of the line for ministerial permitting consideration.
- We need dedicated planners at PRMD and we need more hearing dates available for both Planning Commission and Original Jurisdiction.
- Give the Ag-Dept the resources it needs to process the major influx of applications and keep people that are already in line processed first.

**We need to continue developing the *next phase* of the permitted Cannabis industry now by developing an EIR which can study:**

- The needs and impacts of cannabis tourism
- Cultivator farm stands
- More permitted dispensaries
- On-site Processing, **harvest-specific manufacturing** and self-distribution.
- On-site consumption
- Expanded zoning allowances for permitted cultivation, such as permitting RR and AR zoned properties.
  - Not doing this excludes legacy farmers that are trying to comply with the regulatory frameworks.
- We need to strategically allow the components of a fully developed cannabis industry

**An industry-led ad-hoc needs to be established in order to address the inequities of the county's cannabis ordinance.**

- We need a definitive social equity component in our ordinance.
- The cost of entry into the cannabis industry is extremely high and limits local, smaller operators' ability to participate in the cannabis program.
- Unless we move faster towards a path to compliance the alternative market will prevail and we'll lose all the potential tax revenues.
- This industry pays more in taxes and fees than many other industries. We deserve a seat at the table to address our concerns!
- With the Social Equity grant monies that the county qualifies for, we would like to see a paid Cannabis Commission.

**Temporary Hoop Houses should be allowed in all areas of the county where cannabis is permitted.**

- Temporary hoop houses are NOT greenhouses
  - Greenhouses require building permits
  - Hoop houses receive over-the-counter permits for 180 days
- Hoop houses support a clean cultivation area, where operators can maintain the operational standards demanded by the market.
- Overspray from adjacent parcels and other vectors of contamination can destroy a farmer's only annual crop. Hoop houses are needed to protect it.
- It is fair that all cannabis farmers should be allowed to do what any other farmer can do in regards to growing techniques here in Sonoma County.
- Supporting the use of hoop houses will keep Sonoma County cannabis competitive on the statewide market. Hoop houses produce the highest quality Sonoma County cannabis.
- We are not saying that we want to see sprawling acres of hoop houses, which mimic the central valleys either. We appreciate that this needs to be implemented in a site-specific manner.

**Signed,**

**Hessel Farmers Grange Membership (75+Members)**

Vince Scholten - Grange President

Sam De La Paz - Vice President

**From:** [Jeffrey Spragens](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't ruin our County  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 2:37:10 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Jeffrey Spragens  
6700 Sonoma Mountain Rd.  
Glen Ellen, CA

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** [katie moore](#)  
**To:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 3:59:23 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I am a resident of Fulton and I live 2,000 feet from a long-unpermitted PRP grow at 1737 Wood Road, Fulton. I have a vested interest in the outcome of this ordinance.

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting.

I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Regards,

**Katie Moore**  
**Principal**  
**The Energy Alliance Association, Inc. (TEAA)**  
**1415 Fulton Road #476**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95403**  
**Cell: 707-322-0171**

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments – May 15th  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 1:50:06 PM

---

**From:** Penny Fink <pennyfink@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 1:22 PM  
**To:** Jenny Chamberlain <jchamber@sonoma-county.org>; Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>; Andrea Krout <Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>  
**Cc:** Bob Fink <bobfink@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments – May 15th

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

We have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. We are unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. We have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Penelope Fink, Occidental  
Robert Fink, Occidental

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**From:** [Val](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 12:59:22 PM

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EXTERNAL

So sorry that you are letting our county go down the tubes. Your idea of agriculture is twisted but all you care about is the supposed money that these growers will bring. Ha Ha They were doing something illegal and they are not about to give taxes on their crops. Aside from the money issue, there is the issue of water. They use tons of water for this unnecessary plant. We are in a drought for Pete's sake. Don't you listen to the news?

Another thing is the smell. That stuff stinks and people will have to live by it. Cannabis will increase the crime rate because there will be theft of that stuff. More people will be driving or walking around stoned. Our law enforcement has a hard enough job without you adding to it. Your job to keep us safe gets an F.

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**From:** [Brian Connell](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis operations in Sonoma County  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:27:26 PM

---

**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

This is serious business. Many residents are highly charged, emotionally, about this issue. Please take action to protect quality of life and environment over dollars and cents.

Brian and Sally Connell  
Bennett Valley  
4737 Grange Rd.  
Santa Rosa  
95404

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**From:** [Beth Buchanan](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 5:49:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**EXTERNAL**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **district3** <[district3@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district3@sonoma-county.org)>  
Date: Fri, May 7, 2021 at 3:51 PM  
Subject: RE: Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
To: Beth Buchanan <[bbuchananmft@gmail.com](mailto:bbuchananmft@gmail.com)>

Dear Beth,

Thank you for contacting our office on May 5th with comments regarding the ongoing hearings on the Revised Cannabis Ordinance. Supervisor Coursey is sensitive to your concerns appreciates you taking the time to share them with our office.

It appears that you live in District 5, which is represented on the Board of Supervisors by Supervisor Lynda Hopkins. We will forward your correspondence to Supervisor Hopkins office for any future follow-up.

You may also wish to send your comments regarding the Revised Cannabis Ordinance to [cannabis@sonoma-county.org](mailto:cannabis@sonoma-county.org). Comments sent to this inbox will be compiled and delivered to all Supervisors prior to the hearings on the proposal.

Thank you again for contacting Supervisor Coursey with your opinions on the Revised Cannabis Ordinance.

Sincerely,





*Office of Supervisor Chris Coursey*

Third District  
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr., Room 100A  
Santa Rosa CA, 95403  
Phone: (707) 565-2241  
Email: [district3@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district3@sonoma-county.org)

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**From:** Beth Buchanan <[bbuchananmft@gmail.com](mailto:bbuchananmft@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 10:28 PM  
**To:** district5 <[district5@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district5@sonoma-county.org)>; district3 <[district3@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district3@sonoma-county.org)>; Arielle Kubu-Jones <[Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21

**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.--

**Beth Buchanan, LMFT**

**Forestville, CA**

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--

**Beth Buchanan, LMFT**

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**From:** [claire adelson](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Gorin](#); [claire adelson](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments – May 18  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:10:05 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups.

I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable.

It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Regards,

Claire Adelson, resident of Sonoma

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**From:** [Catherine Flowers](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** the upcoming vote on cannabis cultivation  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:23:02 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

To All that It May Concern:

I have gotten a 2nd email from Marsha Dupre about the initiative or consideration of cannabis in our county.

As I begin to think and worry about the horrifically dry summer we are about to endure, and having lived through the last several fire seasons/years, I believe that we cannot afford to cultivate a lot of cannabis here. There is not going to be enough water to drink and wash with, and I think such a thirsty crop as cannabis will not be feasible or just for our county population.

Please vote AGAINST the adoption of any widespread permitting of cannabis cultivation.

Thank you.

Regards,

Catie (Catherine) Flowers



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**From:** [Chris Hanley](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** Enough! Too much cannabis  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 6:24:07 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

*Dear Supervisors,*

*I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups.*

*I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the cannabis industry in drafting this policy. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable.*

*It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and, at the same time, give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.*

*Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written. Enough is enough -- please protect our beautiful county.*

*Christine Hanley  
Sebastopol*

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis Ordinance  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 10:23:02 AM

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**From:** chloeog@gmail.com <chloeog@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 4:35 PM  
**To:** Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>; Andrea Krout <Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; Jenny Chamberlain <jchamber@sonoma-county.org>; district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

***Chloe OGara***  
***Sebastopol***

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**From:** [C](#)  
**To:** [Susan Gorin; Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments - May 18  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 5:11:54 PM

---

**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Cheryl Pennington

Santa Rosa, CA

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**From:** [Dale Wiley](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** cannabis ordinance  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:16:14 PM

---

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

I spent last week visiting three different friends in the Willits area of Mendocino County. One is a rancher, one owns a smaller farm—both of these living out of town--and one lives in Willits itself. Apparently, residents of the county are very upset about what is happening with the cannabis industry there. First, between wineries and cannabis farms, the water table is being severely impacted during a serious drought. Wildfires are of course a major concern this year once again. Armed marijuana thieves from out of the area are threatening illegal growers and their innocent neighbors. Major tobacco companies are pressuring the growers so they can buy them out, move in and corner the market. (Marlboro specifically was named.) But worst of all, Covelo is being infiltrated by drug cartels from Mexico, Russia and Bulgaria! All three people independently told me that Covelo is not a safe place to go these days.

I knew nothing about these problems—do you? Have you talked to the Mendocino County supervisors? I think you should.

Dale Wiley  
Sebastopol

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**From:** [Elspeth Benton](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** May 18 vote  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 4:44:03 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

*Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written.*

Elspeth Benton  
6015 Rick Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

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**Warning:** If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected, **do not** click any web links, attachments, and **never** give out your user ID or password.

**From:** [Gerda Dinwiddie](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:55:12 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

The drought is not going away, and cannabis uses way too much water.

Sincerely,

Gerda Dinwiddie  
Santa Rosa, CA

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**From:** [Jane Marx](#)  
**To:** [Susan Gorin](#)  
**Cc:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Sonoma County  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:45:23 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Supervisor Gorin,

I am absolutely stunned by the County promoting cannabis farming. Even if we weren't in a drought year, the water situation out here (Bennett Valley) should give one concern about promoting such a water intensive crop.

So let me get this straight, as a resident, I will have to conserve more water, on top of what we already do, lose my garden and most plants, yet a new cannabis farm can go in and use the ground water in my area?

Seriously? Do you realize how contrary and backwards this is?

Please realize what folly this represents for the residents here in Bennett Valley, and the rest of the County. I am not a 'NIMBY', and have worked with development all of my working life, so I am not one to be considered anti-development. I'm just using common sense, and I wish the Board of Supervisors would do the same.

Thank you,

Jane Marx, Landscape Architect  
707-888-4040  
Bennett Ridge, Bennett Valley  
[janemarxdesign@sonic.net](mailto:janemarxdesign@sonic.net)

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**Warning:** If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected, **do not** click any web links, attachments, and **never** give out your user ID or password.

**From:** [Karen Ahn](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** please perform due diligence BEFORE approving further cannabis projects  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:26:34 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups.

I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the cannabis industry in drafting this policy. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable.

It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and, at the same time, give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written.

Karen Ahn  
Sebastopol, CA

--

e m a i l [karenhiahn@gmail.com](mailto:karenhiahn@gmail.com)  
c e l l 323.632.7534

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**Warning:** If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected, **do not** click any web links, attachments, and **never** give out your user ID or password.

**From:** [Karen Girard](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 10:14:16 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups.

I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the cannabis industry in drafting this policy. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable.

It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and, at the same time, give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written.

Best Regards,

Karen Girard  
429 Benjamins Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

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**From:** [nbaylk@aol.com](mailto:nbaylk@aol.com)  
**To:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [ichamber@Sonoma-county.org](mailto:ichamber@Sonoma-county.org); [district5](#); [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:36:49 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

To the Board of Supervisors:

I am aware of, and agree with, all the many valid objections to the planned controls (or rather lack of controls) that the Board of Supervisors is considering for the cannabis grows that can have a such detrimental effect on most of the residents of Sonoma County. I hope that ultimately the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will require EIRs, and Set Back Buffer Zones big enough to be effective, and restrict cannabis grows to appropriate areas: areas that are on major roads, away from neighborhoods, and in commercial use zones; not areas with neighborhoods, or small family farms and ranches.

However, because of our water crisis, it seems to me that, at present, no cannabis grows should be allowed. Until a solution to the water shortage has been found, I do not see how there can be any reasonable determination of what limits and controls should be placed on cannabis grows. In the almost twenty-five years we have lived on our country property (near the village of Bloomfield) we have never had any problem with our wells running dry. These wells supply, in addition to the main house, two rental houses, ten acres leased to an organic farmer, and forty acres of pasture leased for grass-fed cattle. If the currently proposed cannabis grow adjacent to our property is permitted by the Board of Supervisors during this water crisis, and causes problems with our wells, I hope the Supervisors will explain to all of us on this land exactly what it is that we are supposed to do to get water.

Please do not put the profits of a few above the way of life for most of the citizens of Sonoma County.

Karen Kibler

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**From:** [Lynne Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments - May 18  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 4:21:41 PM

---

**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Sincerely,

Lynne Walsh  
Bennett Ridge/Bennett Valley

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**From:** [Mike Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Cc:** [J Richardson](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments – May 18  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:36:03 PM

---

**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

We have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. We are unhappy & disappointed that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced way too much by the industry in the drafting. We have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Thank you for your serious consideration on this matter.

Mike & Jerine Richardson

4325 Savannah Trail, Bennett Valley residents

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**From:** [Marsha Chevalier](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:49:59 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors and County Officers,

As you meet on May 18 to discuss changes to the cannabis ordinance, please consider how climate issues have changed this year in our county.

Cannabis cultivation uses a lot of water as do all agricultural enterprises. A full and intensive EIR needs to be done to determine how much water cannabis growers will consume. Based on the results of that study, the county needs to create strict guidelines for growers to conserve water. It may even be prudent to suspend issuing any new permits for agricultural activities including cannabis growing as long as the current severe drought continues.

Please conserve our water resources. Do not approve the proposed cannabis ordinance as written.

Thank you for hearing my views,

Marsha Chevalier

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**From:** [Marge Tobias](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments – May 18  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:42:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [Neighborhood Response to Cannabis Ordinance.pdf](#)

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I was about to send the form letter provided by the Bennett Valley Neighborhood Coalition, but I thought that a personally composed letter might have more impact.

I am a long-time resident of Bennett Valley who chose to live here because it was rural but still close to town. If the information provided by Neighborhood Coalition is right (and I have no reason to believe it is not), the area around our home could be completely spoiled.

If it were possible, I'd like to eliminate marijuana growing in Bennett Valley altogether.

How would you like to live surrounded by greenhouses that resemble self-storage units, breathing the smell of marijuana, and dealing with increased traffic on a road that is already carrying more traffic than it was designed for? It's time to recognize that a marijuana growing facility is not anything like a vineyard.

Please vote to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Margery Tobias

(I live in unincorporated Sonoma County near Santa Rosa.)

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May 3, 2021

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Drive, Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: CANNABIS ORDINANCE, PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Supervisors:

**We represent a coalition of neighbors and environmental activists who are trying to preserve what makes Sonoma County so special: our scenic beauty and precious natural resources. The solution is small cannabis grows away from residences, not in public view, and not spreading noise or odor. This is not what is proposed.**

We don't expect to make millions of dollars from this policy change, like growers will, nor are we backed by major investors or powerful political players. We are ordinary homeowners and nature lovers, and we vote, consistently, as do our friends. We are local people who want to make Sonoma County better for everyone.

Members of our coalition have been constructively participating in this issue for years. At your behest, we have volunteered for community planning groups, reached out to staff, participated in public meetings, written letters and made endless suggestions to improve this new policy — only to see most of our recommendations sidelined and ignored. We are frustrated.

The proposed changes to the cannabis permitting process will be some of the most significant land use changes in Sonoma County in the last 40 years and, during a crushing pandemic when families are struggling with immediate needs, almost no one who's not already a grower or adjacent neighbor knows about it. Consider the context:

- Written into the Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration (SMND) document, more than 65,000 acres have been identified by the County for potential ministerial permits. The County, however, has *not* identified high fire danger zones, areas without a reliable source of water, lands with endangered species, areas away from neighborhoods, nor important open spaces, among other omissions. While proponents say they don't expect that many acres to actually be approved for grows, no one is offering a smaller number of acres than the 65,753 acres already stated. It's too much cannabis, and we need the County to clearly state a reduction in the acreage available for permits.
- This policy will grow tons of a new water-guzzling product, yet it relies on water survey data from 1980. We face a historically bad drought emergency that will likely extend for multiple years, caused by climate change, never considered in that 1980 data, the 20-year old General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or the SMND prepared for this policy. This policy change should not move forward without evaluating our current water resources, determining if we have enough supply to meet current and projected demand in normal and drought years.
- Calls from environmental experts and affected community members (and several Planning Commissioners) for a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) have been ignored too many times to count. The SMND is fatally flawed. We need a full EIR which could allow the County to determine suitable areas for future grows.
- The legal recommendations and Agency input, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommendations, among others, have not been incorporated, putting our county and taxpayers at risk of another expensive lawsuit.

***This is not how we should run our county. Fortunately, you have the power to course-correct and find true consensus in our community. We offer these recommendations below in that spirit.***

## **1. Recognize the Cumulative Impacts on Neighborhoods and our Environment**

- A. Invest in a full Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, fully analyze and proactively identify locations for cannabis cultivation that are least impactful on residences and agricultural, resource, commercial and industrial zoned parcels, plus set an acreage cap for each groundwater basin.
- B. Suspend issuing and renewing cannabis permits until the EIR is completed, until setbacks between cannabis cultivation and residences and other sensitive uses are increased, and until other flaws in the newly revised Commercial Cannabis ordinances are addressed.
- C. Improve the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) processes as follows: Undertake normal land use planning for cannabis by identifying suitable sites, after the EIR is completed, and clearly identify State permit requirements, including project-specific environmental review and site criteria for proposed projects. Then determine areas suitable for cannabis operations based on evaluation of:
  - i. Water availability and impacts
  - ii. Proximity to residential homes, schools/childcare, parks/recreation, waste stream impacts from excess wastewater and plastic hoop houses
  - iii. Avoiding open spaces, all identified scenic resources, community separators, access roads, wildfire danger and other hazards, endangered or sensitive species, wildlife corridors, riparian corridors, wetlands, and historic/archeological/cultural resource sites
  - iv. Providing accessibility to law enforcement
- D. Satisfy CEQA including for ministerial permits, predetermine suitable locations that remove the need for discretion by County staff on aspects like hydrogeological analysis, biotic assessment, proper access roads, analysis of visual blight, fire risk, etc. Projects resulting in fencing, 24-hour security, nuisance lighting and odor emissions are by definition changing their surrounding environment, and thus triggering CEQA requirements.
- E. In short, align with California state regulations including:
  - i. Prop 64 – as implemented by the California Department of Food and Agriculture
  - ii. Fire safe roads – as implemented by the Board of Forestry
  - iii. CEQA – include CEQA requirements for ministerial permits
  - iv. State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Water Resources requirements for water demand, wastewater disposal and required setbacks for biotic resources, riparian habitats, etc.
- F. Eliminate the practice of issuing multiple ministerial permits to separate growers on the same or adjacent parcels. This is a loophole which leads to cumulative impacts as it amplifies the impacts many times over, obfuscates liability for violations, and does not comply with project-specific CEQA review and cumulative impact review as currently required by State law.
- G. Restore the Health and Safety clause in Chapter 38. Residents have a right to health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.
- H. Limit permitted acreage in any 10-mile square zone to prevent saturation of any one area.
- I. For all ministerial permits, impose a local residency requirement to stop the influx of non-Sonoma County operators, where “operators” are defined as owning at least 51% of the applying business.
- J. Prohibit the use of all single-use plastics in cannabis grow operations, especially for hoop houses.
- K. End the Penalty Relief Program (PRP) after May 31, 2021 and schedule public hearings for all remaining PRPs by September 30, 2021. Enough time has elapsed to give aspiring growers the opportunity to fix their applications and reapply.

## **2. Preserve Water and Open Spaces**

- A. Maintain the Planning Commission’s inserted prohibition on all cannabis cultivation in Sonoma County’s Class 3 and 4 groundwater areas for all ministerial permits, and the County should assess water availability in all water zones as recommended by CDFW, before issuing new conditional use permits.
- B. Prohibit trucking of water or recycled wastewater under all circumstances.
- C. Require all wells to be independently monitored using a micro grid network system. Take precautionary steps to ensure that residential and agricultural wells do not run dry due to cannabis groundwater extraction or catchment systems.
- D. Prohibit all cannabis cultivation in voter-passed Community Separator parcels.
- E. Limit permit approvals during a drought, as declared by the State of California, to applicants that grow cannabis only using dry farming techniques with strict monitoring by the County.
- F. Trees with fruit or nuts have, since the original draft ordinance was published, been exempted from tree protections. Since many (or most) trees have fruits or nuts – including oak trees, whose acorns are both fruits and nuts – this exemption must be removed from proposed Chapter 38, or clarified so that the explicit intent is clear, resulting in continued protections from removal for oak and other trees.

## **3. Increase Setbacks, Neighborhood Compatibility and Odor Controls**

- A. Require 1,000 foot minimum setbacks, from the property line, for outdoor and hoop house cultivation and 300 foot minimum setbacks for indoor cultivation — for all residences, schools, childcare facilities and parks.
- B. Require that no odor will cross the property line for all indoor cultivation and processing.
- C. Create a “Rural Residential Exclusion Zone” option for neighbors to pursue, which would be a simple and speedy (less than six months) mechanism to exclude commercial cannabis production from certain locations based on potential harm to watersheds, including wells serving residential homes, endangered species, neighborhoods with multiple homes, poor access roads and/or other site-specific constraints.
- D. Do not open agricultural or resource lands to cannabis events. Follow CalCannabis’ rules for events in commercial and industrial areas.
- E. For outdoor cultivation, require the applicant to submit the results of air quality modeling that show terpene emission levels under a series of typical weather conditions during the growing and harvesting season at the cultivation location. The modeling shall include all current and proposed sources of terpene emissions within one mile of the cultivation location, and the County may require setbacks deeper than 1,000 feet to mitigate offsite odor from outdoor and hoop house cultivation.

## **4. Centralize Processing of the Product**

- A. Prohibit cannabis processing on-site and in residential, agricultural and resource zones. Instead, focus processing in facilities in commercial and industrial zoned land only.
- B. Prohibit cultivation and processing in areas without fire safe roads, which are narrow and often dead-end roads. This is another reason all processing should be done in our central corridor and not in our rural areas.

- C. State explicitly that cannabis is an agricultural product, not an agricultural crop, and therefore not the same as conventional agriculture and not subject to right-to-farm law.

**5. Enforce with Penalties that Deter Law-breakers**

- A. Change the initial term of permits to match the State License term of one year. This will allow the County to monitor performance and adjust standards on compliance with water, odor control, plastic handling and disposal. All evidenced claims of potential violations will be investigated immediately.
- B. Renew permits with no violations or unresolved complaints for two years, with the caveat that if violations and complaints occur later, the County will revoke the permit, effective immediately.
- C. Require posting of a \$50,000 bond upon issuance of each permit, to be used to remove structures, fencing and trash if the operator abandons a grow site, as well as to pay for enforcement; otherwise, the taxpayers will shoulder these costs.
- D. Do not give cannabis growers notice prior to inspections of their facilities for compliance checks. State law does not require this.
- E. Implement an enforcement team, similar to Humboldt County, consisting of Sheriffs, Fish and Wildlife and Water Resources staff to perform surprise inspections for compliance.
- F. Stop bad actors. Any person performing an illegal or un-permitted activity shall be required to stop all activities immediately, dismantle operations, pay a fine and be put under a two year probation where the violating operator will not be issued any cannabis permits.

In a news article from Sunday, April 18, the Press Democrat reported “cannabis varies in value from \$5.5 million to \$6 million per acre annually, compared to wine grapes that were about a \$11,000 per-acre value in 2019, county Agriculture Commissioner Andrew Smith said.” There’s a lot of money on the table, we understand that.

**But pushing through a major policy like this — during a pandemic when so many people are struggling, without adequate environmental review, during a drought emergency with no adequate evaluation of water availability, or listening to affected neighbors — it’s an unnecessary rush to judgment. Don’t pass this Ordinance just to get it off your agenda, like an ill-advised Chanate sale or an ill-conceived school funding ballot measure, because this will come back to haunt you. Slow down, listen to neighbors and the environmental community, learn from past mistakes, and let’s do this the right way.**

Make the changes we requested above and give neighbors and our environment a better deal. We cannot afford to get this wrong. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Bridget Beytagh**  
Friends of Graton (FOG)

**Tess and Tom Danaher**  
Barlow Lane Neighbors

**Deborah Eppstein**

**Ron Evenich**  
No Pot on Pepper Lane

**Chris Gralapp**  
Bennett Valley Citizens for  
Safe Development

**Kim Gutzman**  
Barlow Lane Neighbors

**Bill Krawetz**  
Gold Ridge Neighborhood

**Katie Moore**

**Anna Ransome**  
Friends of Graton (FOG)

**Vi Strain**  
Concerned Citizens of  
Bloomfield

**Marsha Vas Dupre and Jack  
Dupre**

**Rachel and Gene Zierdt**  
Coffee Lane Neighbors

CC:

Sonoma County Administrators Office  
Sonoma County Counsel's Office  
Sonoma County Agriculture Commission  
Mayors of Sonoma County Cities  
The Press Democrat  
Petaluma Argus Courier  
Sonoma West Times & News  
Kenwood Press  
Oakmont Times  
North Bay Business Journal  
Sonoma County Gazette  
Sonoma Index-Tribune  
Sonoma Sun  
Greenbelt Alliance  
Sierra Club  
Sonoma County Water Coalition  
Sonoma County Conservation Action  
Preserve Rural Sonoma County  
Bay Area Chapter of the Gospel Coalition  
Interfaith Council of Sonoma County  
League of Women Voters  
North Bay Labor Council  
Sonoma County Vintners Association

**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 10:19:53 AM

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**From:** Sandeep Bhandari <infamily9@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 6:59 PM  
**To:** Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>; Andrea Krout <Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; Jenny Chamberlain <jchamber@sonoma-county.org>; district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Regards  
Neera Bhandari  
Petaluma, CA

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**From:** [Nancy Hair](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** CANNABIS ORDINANCE  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 10:58:39 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

Many of us have been following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County and have read the letters in the newspapers, as well as information and concerns from neighborhood groups.

It's extremely disappointing that the County has not reached out to residents and has clearly been influenced too much by the cannabis industry in drafting this policy. As a result, the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable.

It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County residents know that there needs to be an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and, at the same time, give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties. **Why are the Supervisors shirking their responsibility by not requiring an EIR?**

Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written.

Nancy Hair  
Sebastopol

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**From:** [Robert Benavides Jr](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** cannabis proposition  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:28:00 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Robert and Irene Benavides

Bennett Valley

--

Robert Benavides Jr., Ed.D.  
Psychologist 11363

As part of HIPAA regulations, I need to remind you that email transmissions are not secure. CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message, together with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is confidential and prohibited from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering to an intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this message in error, and that any dissemination, review, distribution or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone or by return e-mail and delete this message along with any attachments from your computer, and any hard copy printouts.

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**From:** [ROBERT FORGY](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments – May 18  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 4:51:19 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Thank you,  
Robert Forgy  
Santa Rosa, CA

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**From:** [Bob Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** (Not) Going to Pot  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:48:27 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Friends in County government -

Attached below is a message you've all received, urging you *not* to approve the Cannabis Ordinance as written and asking for a project-wide EIR to protect the entire county from the dangerous impacts of an unleashed cannabis industry.

I second that message, and add these thoughts for your consideration:

Like countless others, I have *no* moral objection to cannabis (pot) entering our economic bloodstream. With our economy already clinically addicted to wine, adding 'stoners' to the impaired tourists filling our roadways & tax coffers won't materially alter our chances in the rumored Hereafter.

However, before cannabis was on anyone's agenda, the state — and certainly our county — has been wrestling in the Here-And-Now with the conjoined threats of climate change, record drought and raging seasonal wildfires, with no end in sight in the lifetime of anyone reading this. Some of you have personally experienced the terror & loss of wildfire and need no preaching on that subject.

But "seasonal" is misleading. CAL Fire — indeed, every sentient being -- recognizes that constant drought has created a year-round wildfire "season" replete with trickling rivers, disappearing reservoirs, sinking water tables and Red Flag Warnings, the latest in effect as I write this.

To your credit, many of those warnings and reminders emanate from your offices.

However, the introduction or expansion of *any* agriculture or other commercial activity which increases the demand on critically scarce water from any source is, *per se*, unwelcome if not downright dangerous and irresponsible. The visual and odor unpleasantries of cannabis cultivation aside, its extensive water demands present a clear & present danger to the personal safety and welfare of everyone who lives, works and visits our county.

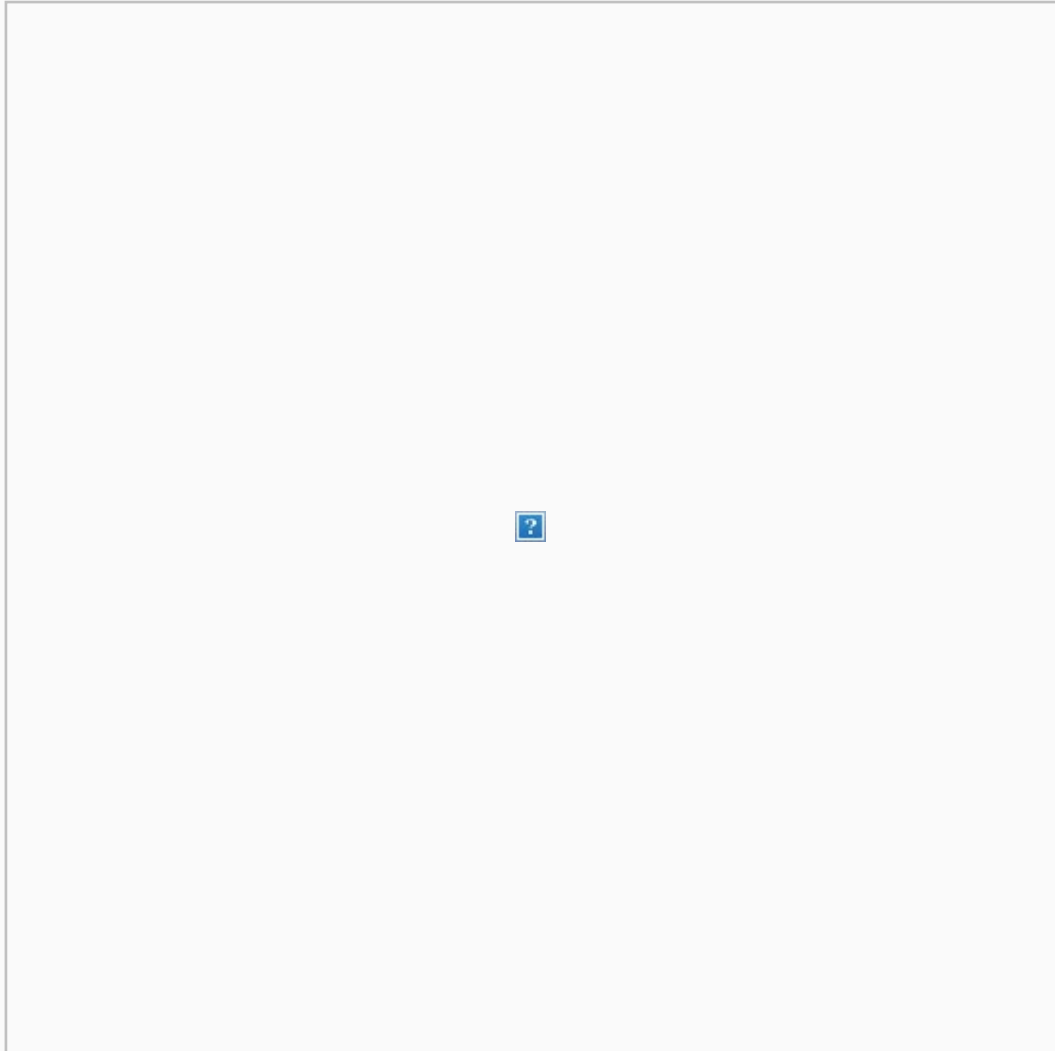
At a minimum, consider the mixed messaging: With water agencies on the verge of mandating restrictions on customers of every sort, what level of compliance can be expected if the county simultaneously green-lights countless new acres of water-sucking cannabis?

On the science alone, banning cannabis agriculture for the foreseeable future is the only prudent decision. However, given the allure of tax revenues and pressure from powerful commercial/political interests that typically trump (pun intended) the well-being of ordinary people, I realize that may sound naive.

Nonetheless, at a minimum, I urge you to make your decision guided by constituent voices and a thorough, fact-based and CEQA-compliant EIR so residents and businesses can decide how best to respond to any negative impacts of your decision. Like many, I feel certain that if cannabis cultivation takes root in the current drought/sustainability crisis, there will be no positives for the community at large.

bob edwards  
Sonoma CA

,



Dear Fellow Neighbors,

On Monday, May 3, our Neighborhood Coalition emailed this [five-page letter](#) to all five Sonoma County Supervisors, their lead staffers and multiple news outlets and community organizations, as listed at the end of the letter.

**The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors is now scheduled to discuss major changes to local cannabis policy on the morning of Tuesday, May 18 — please mark your calendars to listen in and perhaps add comments of your own.**

**Leading up to this public session, we have requested private meetings with each of the five County Supervisors so that they can hear from members of our neighborhood coalition who live in their districts. Supervisor Rabbitt met with us yesterday, Friday May 7, and Supervisors Coursey and Gorin meet with us this coming week. Despite multiple emails and phone calls, we have not yet heard back from Chair Hopkins or Supervisor Gore.**

Delivering our concerns directly to our elected representatives is critically important, especially to compete against the dozens of meetings that the cannabis industry has already had with County Supervisors and staff. While we cannot invite everyone to these meetings with Supervisors, we urge you to add your comments to the historical record and send them a letter or email today. You are welcome to draft your own comments but we recognize that some community members may be more comfortable starting with sample text, as we have shared below.

*Dear Supervisors,*

*I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups.*

*I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the cannabis industry in drafting this policy. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable.*

*It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and, at the same time, give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.*

*Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written.*

*[YOUR NAME AND RESIDENCE AREA]*

Whether you use this text or write your own, please email your comments to all of the key decision makers below. For your convenience, you can simply copy and paste these addresses into the "To" field of your email:

- [cannabis@sonoma-county.org](mailto:cannabis@sonoma-county.org)
- [Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)
- [Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org)
- [David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org](mailto:David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org)
- [Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org)
- [district3@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district3@sonoma-county.org)
- [Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org)
- [Sean.Hamlin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Sean.Hamlin@sonoma-county.org)
- [district4@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district4@sonoma-county.org)
- [James.Gore@sonoma-county.org](mailto:James.Gore@sonoma-county.org)
- [jchamber@sonoma-county.org](mailto:jchamber@sonoma-county.org)
- [district5@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district5@sonoma-county.org)
- [Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org)
- [Leo.Chyi@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Leo.Chyi@sonoma-county.org)

For more information about the changes needed in the proposed cannabis ordinance, please make use of our recent [five-page letter](#) which details the proposed ordinance's many flaws and suggests multiple recommendations on how we can move forward.

Once again, please **forward** this email to your friends and family throughout Sonoma County. It's important that as many people as possible know about this critical cannabis ordinance, and it's likely harm on open spaces and water supplies, before the Supervisors vote at their meeting on May 18.

Thank you,  
Your neighbors at It's Too Much Cannabis



**Our mailing address is:**

It's Too Much Cannabis  
PO Box 314  
Valley Ford, CA 94972

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

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**From:** [cathycrowley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathycrowley@sbcglobal.net)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#)  
**Cc:** [Cathleen Crowley](#)  
**Subject:** Commercial Growers cannabis concern  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:08:46 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

Every day I read the paper, or social media from Sonoma county officials predicting a drought this year. Currently we are asked to voluntarily to everything we can to conserve water. I agree- we must take steps now to deal with this pending issue. Why then is Sonoma County officials not planning on following this and instead pursuing the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration? It takes more water to grow pot than wine, but you want to basically give a pass to commercial pot growers?

I also live very close to a potential commercial grower. I am very concerned about the possible stench it will produce, potential security concerns and the impact on the beauty of some of the remaining green space in unincorporated Sonoma county.

I have closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

It makes no sense to me that you would do this without a project-wide EIR for phase two, unless you know it will not stand based on how it is currently written and deliberately need to get this passed with the EIR. That decision alone demonstrates that this is not in Sonoma County's advantage. Please do the right thing.

Cathy Crowley  
6975 Bennett Valley Road.  
Santa Rosa, Ca

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**From:** [Carol Smith](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cannabis Amendments for Phase 2 - May 18  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 12:32:07 PM

---

**EXTERNAL**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carol Smith** <[cs2589232@gmail.com](mailto:cs2589232@gmail.com)>  
Date: Wed, May 5, 2021 at 3:50 PM  
Subject: Cannabis Amendments for Phase 2 - May 18  
To: <[cannabis@sonoma-county.org](mailto:cannabis@sonoma-county.org)>, <[Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org)>, <[Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org)>, <[District3@sonoma-county.org](mailto:District3@sonoma-county.org)>, <[jchamber@sonoma-county.org](mailto:jchamber@sonoma-county.org)>, <[District5@sonoma-county.org](mailto:District5@sonoma-county.org)>

**Dear Supervisors:**

***I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.***

**Carol Smith  
Santa Rosa**

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**From:** [Don Pedrazzini](#)  
**Subject:** Marijuana Proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:16:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [Marijuana Proposal II.pdf](#)

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**EXTERNAL**

Please see attached.

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May 9, 2021

To: Board of Supervisors  
Subject: Marijuana Proposal

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, you will be making a decision that will affect the health and wellbeing Bennett Valley residents, forever. When we first built in Bennett Valley, there was a design and review committee that sought to insure that new construction conformed to very high standards as to appearance, color and visibility. They sought to mitigate the view of any new structures from the public roads. This marijuana proposal guts decades of the gains made to keep Bennett Valley a rural, safe and sought after place to live.

The number of acres of proposed production is staggering in scope, 600 vs the existing 2.5 acres. Even with the current number of acres, at certain times of the year the stench of the marijuana is horrific. To increase that number would have a devastating effect on the quality of life for us that live here and could cause serious health related issues for those with respiratory problems.

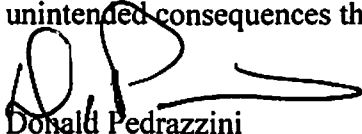
Fire and water shortages have become a way of life in Bennett Valley. On April 27, 2021 your board declared a "drought emergency" due to the lack of rainfall for several consecutive years. Has this been taken into consideration when a marijuana plant needs six times more water than a grape vine? Apparently not!

Where you have marijuana, you have crime that is a fact. To intentionally inject this criminal element into our nearly crime free area is outrageous. We recently attended a meeting with the Sonoma County Sheriff who said that the cost to capture, convict and incarcerate the criminals involved in these crimes, directly connected to marijuana, far negates any and all revenue the tax on the marijuana produces.

All of these ugly hoop houses will need people to attend to the marijuana production, estimates are in the thousands. Bennett Valley road is already congested with local residents and the influx of potentially thousand more is simply ludicrous and is another degradation of the life style that Bennett Valley residents currently enjoy.

This proposal will not only destroy our current quality of life but have a negative impact on our financial wellbeing. With the increase in traffic, crime, water shortage and the stench of skunk hanging over the valley, even long term residents will be forced to consider relocating to a place like Bennett Valley once was. Property values will decline as it will become increasingly difficult to find someone willing to live under these undesirable conditions. This will result in a serious decline in the value of the properties that we currently own.

This marijuana proposal is especially bad for the residents of Bennett Valley but bad for Sonoma County as well. As the Sheriff pointed out the anticipated tax revenue will be consumed by crime and legal activities, in the end we will all be losers. Do not allow this proposal to pass; it will lead to unintended consequences that have yet to be considered.



Donald Pedrazzini  
2945 Wild Turkey Run  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:08:53 AM

---

**From:** Meelk54 <meelk54@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:**

## EXTERNAL

*Dear Supervisor Gorin*

*I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups.*

*I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the cannabis industry in drafting this policy. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable.*

*It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and, at the same time, give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.*

*We are in the midst of the worst drought we have had since the mid 1970'S...And I lived here then and remember how it impacted my life. There are so many more demands for our water supply now than then and we need to be mindful of the present problem as well as what the future will bring for our community. Water is more precious than anything and essential for life--- we need to carefully evaluate and assess how any additional demands will affect the county into the future.*

*In addition, since we have seen more acceptance of the marijuana industry, both*

*legal and illegal, we have also seen a dramatic increase in the number of new residents in our community which has impacted our housing needs. There are many people who come here to work in the associated businesses who are unable to find permanent housing or, in some cases, prefer not to live in a traditional residential situation. There are many aspects to the issue of cannabis that exacerbate the already burdened socio-economic and ecological problems in our county. ALL these issues need to be evaluated and considered when we look at expanding any industry or commercial and agricultural endeavours. Our ag workers in the viticulture, ranching and farming sectors already are extremely impacted by our housing deficit.*

*If you truly care about our county and all its residents (human, flora and fauna) please think carefully about how this impacts our entire community, now and in the future.*

*Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written.*

*Thank you for your time.*

*Sincerely,*

*Eileen L. Kortas*

*District One resident (Bennett Valley, Santa Rosa)*

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**From:** [Jeff Corcoran](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments - May 18th  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:16:36 AM

---

**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

The current approved distance of 100 ft from a neighbor's property for a cannabis operation is just too close. When a thorough CEQA study is performed the results should match those of the study done in Yolo county thereby requiring a minimum of 1000 feet from a neighboring property.

Jeff Corcoran  
2795 Rollo RD  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
832-758-1114

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**From:** [JEANETTE Lebell](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:10:26 AM

---

## EXTERNAL

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm concerned about the proposed cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County. As a rural residential homeowner and an attorney with a background in environmental law, I haven't seen enough attention paid to the bigger picture. I fear the quality of life for the residents of the county will be seriously compromised if this ordinance passes as it now stands. It will also be expensive as we all know there will be litigation challenging it that will tie it up in the courts for a long, expensive battle. That benefits no one.

I've had to drill a new well in the last several years because of the water table dropping in my neighborhood south of Sebastopol. I fear that won't be sufficient if this ordinance passes and more land gets devoted to growing cannabis. I also fear I won't be able to enjoy my property if the stench wafts over from local growing operations. I find it nauseating to be around and don't want to have to lock myself indoors with closed windows to be safe from the skunk-like intrusion. I also hate to think what happens to property values when the water table is further depleted, especially during these increasingly drought prone times, and then pile on the negative aroma impacts. A mitigated negative declaration is insufficient analysis for the scope of this proposed ordinance. Please do your job and protect the quality of life that brought most of us to the area. We have made Sonoma County our home and we love it. You can and must do better to protect it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jeanette Lebell

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**From:** [John Martin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Cc:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21 i  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:11:04 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

*Sincerely*

*John F Martin*

*2853 Edison Street*

*Graton, 95444*

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**From:** [Lauren Mendelsohn](#)  
**To:** [Scott Orr](#); [Andrew Smith](#); [McCall Miller](#); [Cannabis](#); [Christina Rivera](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Cannabis Ordinances  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 6:53:59 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Good evening, and Happy Mother's Day to all.

I have concerns with the proposed cannabis ordinances, both the draft revisions to Chapter 26 and the newly-proposed Chapter 38, in that I think they will result in even fewer cannabis applications being submitted and fewer cannabis projects actually being completed when that is the opposite of what this whole thing was supposed to accomplish. The reason I feel this way is because Chapter 38 contains so many disqualifiers that most applicants in AG zones won't even be able to take advantage of it, and will be forced back through PRMD using an even more stringent version of Chapter 26 than exists now. For example, limiting the Chapter 38 pathway to parcels in Groundwater Availability Zones 1 & 2 would eliminate a significant amount of the otherwise-eligible properties. As far as Chapter 26 goes, I am particularly concerned about the zoning tables, which currently contain ZP and MUP options for smaller-scale operations, but which under the new version would only contain CUPs for cultivation. This would mean that someone who wanted to get the smallest type of cultivation license available from the state for just 25 plants but who didn't qualify for Chapter 38 for one reason or another would have to obtain a full-blown conditional use permit, which as you know is costly and time-intensive, instead of a zoning permit. This will make it even harder for small cultivators to get licensed, resulting in further exodus out of Sonoma County by people who've lived here for generations -- taxpayers, community members, friends and families. If the county wants everything under Chapter 26 to be a use permit, then at least allow MUPs. However, I would leave Chapter 26 zoning table just as it is; the existing MND took these ZPs into account and found that any impact from them was mitigated.

So, why the changes to Chapter 26? Please be specific.

Also, I would like to know how many parcels staff thinks would be eligible for a Chapter 38 permit taking into account ALL of the conditions in the draft ordinance.

Furthermore, why is there no mention anywhere about what can be done to help current applicants and folks who were "zoned out" of their farms by the county's existing policy (i.e., grandfathering, priority review, etc.)?

Finally, how come this opportunity was not taken to bring the rest of the ordinance into alignment with state law and regulations, at least where doing so would not require further environmental review (for example, allowing the full range of permits available from the state to be available from the county)?

Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Lauren A. Mendelsohn, Esq.**  
 Senior Associate Attorney  
 Law Offices of Omar Figueroa  
 7770 Healdsburg Avenue  
 Sebastopol, CA 95472-3352  
 Tel: (707) 829-0215  
 Fax: (707) 861-9187  
[lauren@omarfigueroa.com](mailto:lauren@omarfigueroa.com)  
[www.omarfigueroa.com](http://www.omarfigueroa.com)

**Have you heard about the International Cannabis Bar Association (INCBA)? [Check us out!](#)** Use code "Mendelsohn" for 15% off membership and events.



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**From:** [Lise Valbert](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Cannabis Amendments - May 18  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:43:56 AM

---

**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Lise Valbert  
Santa Rosa

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: ItsTooMuchCannabis  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:08:45 AM

---

**From:** Moira Jacobs <moiraajacobs@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 2:59 PM  
**To:** ryan.gregory@countyofnapa.org  
**Cc:** Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>; Lynda Hopkins <Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; district4 <district4@sonoma-county.org>; David Rabbitt <David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** ItsTooMuchCannabis

## EXTERNAL

Hello Supervisor Gregory,

I recently read your very wise “go slow” approach to commercial marijuana for Napa County, from an article a while back. Long note here, mostly meant for my Supervisors.

Our aggressive pro-pot policy here in Sonoma County is a complete nightmare, our supervisors did the exact opposite of what you wisely observed from your learnings at a conference of county governments on marijuana policy.

This is your quote which I greatly appreciated, I’m ccing my Supervisors as I hope they might read it and learn something:

“The biggest thing I left with was start slow, limit it to a handful of permits, and see how you can try to make it work in your community,” he said just before the vote. “And then require use permit compliance and performance along the way to make sure that it does fit your community before you open the door to wide open.”

I hope Napa continues to go VERY slowly on this. In fact I’m still not sure why California or any county thinks they must cave into the pressure from the marijuana industry. They are ten times worse than what Big Tobacco was in the past. The health problems caused by THC are numerous and there is plenty of evidence how it all results in increased crime, mental illness, homelessness, family harms, danger to children of users, etc, etc.

Water is a whole other issue here, and ignored by our supervisors. Although Hopkins at least said water should go to food first, before drugs. Yep! No food farms = no food! That’s called common sense! Food insecurity will grow in the USA and the foolishness of drug productions displacing Ag land will exacerbate that looming issue.

**Bottom line for all policy makers: THC products result in more social, health, and crime related costs versus the tax revenues.** I urge you and your fellow supervisors to not allow this very powerful and greedy steamroller to do to Napa what it's currently doing in Sonoma.

Our social and crime problems are exploding here, tho you won't read about it in the local papers. We have an explosion of drug use, homelessness, car breakins, stealing batteries, catalytic converters (they steal anything), porch invasions, and mailbox raids, all now aimed at the general population. This is all happening in once very safe areas (Kenwood, Bennett Valley, etc). Sonoma County is becoming more unsafe every day due to our Supervisors and City "leaders." **Our law enforcement does a fantastic job despite everything, the problem lies in those above them.**

At the same time Sonoma County and Santa Rosa have unwisely been cutting the budgets of both our sheriff and police departments, or not funding them to properly needed levels given the increase in drug related mental health disturbances and crime.

Our Supervisors caved a very long time ago to the marijuana industry. One thing they did was very unwisely overpromise the industry before even drafting an ordinance. They might as well have put out blinking neon signs: Come to Sonoma and enjoy Potmania! We have many people coming in from all over the country, even international, trying to get into Potmania early and have bought up large parcels and disrupted and harassed hundreds of rural residential neighborhoods.

On the low end of the economic scale we have hundreds if not thousands flocking here for the Potmania as well, contributing to the homeless crisis. The county does not have enough resources to keep up with all the new problems all of this causes.

There's a lot more I can report to you from "on the ground" here, things you will never read in the papers. Sadly, our media serves only as a propaganda arm for the pot operators.

**In Colorado, with many more years of legalization experience than CA, they already have data that the social, economic and enviro costs are 5X the tax revenues. 5X!** Visit <https://www.itstoomuchcannabis.com> to learn more.

I just got off a conference call today with local nurses here. One lady works in a mental health clinic in Santa Rosa and they have seen 1-4 clients die per week from drug overdose or suicide, PER WEEK!, at one clinic in the past few months. The homeless camps keep growing here. I include reports below for your information on the connection between pot and social/homeless/mental health crises and crime.

Sonoma County fails to address any of this, they fail to even consider a connection between their aggressive Potmania policies and mental health crisis and related crime. The result here is an unmitigated disaster. You still have time to save Napa from a similar disastrous and



COSTLY course.

California voters only approved decriminalization of marijuana with prop 64, not promotion of it. If you ask voters, you'll find the vast majority thought that's what their vote meant, not state or county sponsored promotion of a new marijuana industry and mass market promotion of this unhealthy drug.

My recommendation for Sonoma and Napa: together partner with a national lab leader on a state of the art research institute to attract high paying scientific based jobs to the area to conduct legitimate and scientific research on all the POTENTIAL health benefits, and harms, of both THC and CBD products. They could be leaders in studying other truly legitimate natural medicines too, as opposed to this sham they call "Cannabis".

Instead, they are trying to mass market unhealthy THC products to children for God's sake! Of course they say they're only marketing to adults, not true. Anyone can be harmed by THC, especially anyone under 30. It doesn't get more evil than this, except if you're handing a 12 year old a needle full of fentanyl from China.

This "industry" is all about mass marketing THC psychoactive chemicals to our youth. They cloak their endless lies and deceptions under ridiculous claims of "medicine."

Why on earth is it good public health policy to open the flood gates on this new marijuana industry before even establishing the scientifically proven health benefits and dangers? Why don't we fully divorce THC from CBD based products, for research, development and regulatory purposes? We know why! Raw and thoughtless greed.

The pro pot people jump up and down about how great THC and CBD products are for the human body, ok, let's see them put their money where their mouth is.

As a matter of fact, there are many scientific research reports already conducted going back to 1940s and 1960s that established no proven value and only harms of THC to the human body. See references below.

CBD is perhaps the only chemical compound that may yield therapeutic benefits, a few FDA approved therapies include CBD compounds. Yet once again, broadly speaking, nothing has been fully studied to prove CBD benefits as broadly as they are being touted by marketing arms of pot industry proponents. Kaiser recently issued a press release warning all its patients about CBD product claims and possible liver damage, as well as unknown reactions with other medications. Neither the State of CA nor Sonoma County are doing anything significant to combat massive misinformation about THC or CBD products.

For all the national discussion about “follow the science” this past year, who here running Sonoma County is following any “science” when it comes to pot? They are like modern day witch doctors. Their complicit ignorance is unbelievable.

Finally, once again I applaud your wise “go slow” approach. There is no need to damage our health, our communities, our children’s brains, deplete water resources or damage our environment, all in some mad rush to chase the Potmania pipe dream.

Sincerely,  
Moirra Jacobs  
Santa Rosa, CA  
<https://www.itstoomuchcannabis.com/>

Links to research I reference above:  
<https://thrive.kaiserpermanente.org/thrive-together/live-well/what-you-need-to-know-cbd>

Data from Colorado, several years longer experience with pot legalization:

Researchers found that Denver neighborhoods adjacent to marijuana businesses saw 84.8 more property crimes each year than those without a marijuana shop nearby (Freisthler et al., 2017). The number of court filings charged with the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act that were linked to a marijuana charge increased 639% from 2013 to 2017 (Colorado Department of Public Safety). Further, Crimes Against Society (such as drug violations) have increased 44% since 2014 (Denver Police Department).

A 2018 study, conducted by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, surveyed seven Colorado jail populations. It yielded results that further link homelessness and marijuana use (CDCJ, 2018). The study, though small, found that 50.8% of respondents reported using marijuana 30 days prior to their time in jail. Additionally, 54.9% of respondents who were homeless prior to their jail time reported marijuana use 30 days prior to it (compared with 36.1% reporting alcohol use).

Studies found marijuana use can cause severe consequences for mental health. Marijuana is increasingly linked to the onset of psychosis and schizophrenia (Henquet et al., 2005; Marconi et al., 2016; Mustonen et al., 2018; Niemi-Pynttari et al., 2013) and shows a more modest association with depression and anxiety (Agrawal et al., 2017; Duperrouzel et al., 2018; Gobbi et al., 2019). In one of the most comprehensive studies to date on marijuana and psychosis, Di Forti et al found that daily marijuana use is associated with an increased likelihood of developing psychosis. What’s more, researchers reported a more than four-times odds of daily users of potent marijuana to develop psychosis (Di Forti et al., 2019).

<https://learnaboutsam.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-Impact-Report1.pdf>

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**From:** [Mark Wardlaw](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [district4](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chyi](#)  
**Subject:** Too much cannabis!  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 8:32:28 AM

---

## EXTERNAL

*Dear Supervisors,*

*I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups.*

*I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the cannabis industry in drafting this policy. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable.*

*It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and, at the same time, give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.*

*Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written.*

Mark Wardlaw  
Santa Rosa, CA.

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**From:** [Margit Yasukawa](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 2:13:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [Cannabis Ordinance Concern.pdf](#)

---

**EXTERNAL**

May 9, 2021

Dear Supervisors:

I am very concerned about the cannabis ordinance in Sonoma County. Water conservation and management must be forefront in our county. Sustainable farming practices must also be mandatory, verifiable and enforced.

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Margit Yasukawa

Bennett Valley

Santa Rosa

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May 9, 2021

Dear Supervisors:

I am very concerned about the cannabis ordinance in Sonoma County. Water conservation and management must be forefront in our county. Sustainable farming practices must also be mandatory, verifiable and enforced.

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Margit Yasukawa

Bennett Valley

Santa Rosa

**From:** [Cathy Crowley](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#)  
**Cc:** [Cathy Crowley](#)  
**Subject:** Say no to Proposed cannabis ordinance  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:21:11 AM

---

## EXTERNAL

I am struggling to understand how the environmental disclosure document for commercial cannabis growers concluded that the proposal would have “no significant impacts,” so the supervisors could decide that permits can be issued in an over-the-counter, backroom “ministerial” process without public knowledge or participation. how does that take into consideration the expected drought we are having this year? How can pot which uses more water than grapes, not have an environmental impact? It makes no sense.

In addition the proposed cannabis ordinance will change Bennett Valley forever, including:

Allowing up to 600 acres of commercial marijuana cultivation in Bennett Valley (there are currently 2.5 acres)

- Allowing large portions of Bennett Valley to be blanketed with unsightly hoop houses that are covered with white plastic.
- Marring Bennett Valley’s vistas with hundreds of greenhouses that resemble self-storage units.
- Bring thousands of new employees to Bennett Valley, choking our narrow road system with thousands of daily trips.
- Generate widespread stench that elsewhere in Sonoma County has made [residents uncomfortable living in their own homes](#).

Please on May 18th return to the Board’s earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Thank you.

Paul Amlin



Santa Rosa, Ca 95405

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: cannabis and more  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:08:20 AM

---

**From:** patricia driscoll <pdriscoll15@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:43 PM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** cannabis and more

## EXTERNAL

Please add my voice in opposition to the proposed cannabis regulations. There just isn't enough water for this crop.

Also, Santa Rosa looks dilapidated with all of the overgrown weeds and grasses that are on so many of our streets. Maybe you want to wait until June to weed wack, but meanwhile, if a fire should come to this city again, it will have no problem racing through these streets. And, it looks a mess! The city has received funds for fire clean up from PG&E, This would be a good use for it. Be pro-active.

Also, any plans to clear out Annendale? So much brush and dead trees. It's a time bomb.

Thanks,  
Patricia Driscoll  
Oakmont

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis Ordinance Proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:24:15 AM

---

**From:** Patrick Rafferty <patrickra@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 12:46 PM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance Proposal

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Gorin:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm concerned and unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Respectfully,

Patrick Rafferty

7001 Bennett Valley Road

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**From:** [Rob Akins](#)  
**To:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [district3](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 7:09:57 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups. I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the industry in the drafting. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable. It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and at the same time give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

Rob Akins  
Forestville  
[rob@olivequeen.com](mailto:rob@olivequeen.com)

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Stop the rape of Bennett valley  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:07:05 AM

---

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Waud <[smwaud@gmail.com](mailto:smwaud@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:03 PM  
To: Susan Gorin <[Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)>  
Cc: [craigspencerharrison@gmail.com](mailto:craigspencerharrison@gmail.com)  
Subject: Stop the rape of Bennett valley

EXTERNAL

We don't want or need dope in our valley!! My grandkids are 6th generation Sonoma county !! Nothing good comes from this push in our valley!! Go visit Covolo if you're still confused!! STOP!!

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis ordinance  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:24:38 AM

---

**From:** Tony White <tonwhite@sonic.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:47 PM  
**To:** Chris Coursey <courseyforsupervisor@gmail.com>; Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** Cannabis ordinance

## EXTERNAL

*Dear Supervisor Gorin and Coursey,*

*I have been closely following the amendments and revisions to the cannabis ordinance for Sonoma County, have read the letters in the newspapers and the information and analysis from neighborhood groups.*

*I'm unhappy that the County has not reached out to residents and has been influenced too much by the cannabis industry in drafting this policy. I have come to the conclusion that the Subsequent Mitigated Declaration is fatally flawed and unfixable.*

*It is time to return to the Board's earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR for Phase 2. Sonoma County needs an EIR, one which will protect our natural resources, will comply with CEQA requirements and, at the same time, give residents a right to their health, safety and peaceful enjoyment of their properties.*

***Now, of all times, following years of drought, water shortages and wildfires, we do not need more non essential uses of our precious groundwater, nor more traffic, noise and odors in urban or rural residential areas.***

*Please do not approve this proposed cannabis ordinance as written and restrict the number of permits or acreage for cannabis or more vineyards.*

*Thank you,*

*Tony White 538-9129*

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