

## Attachment O Addendum 8

Public Comment Received  
May 18, 2021 after 7:00 AM through  
Board of Supervisors Public Hearing

**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:16:13 AM

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**From:** Aidan Aarons <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 10:51 PM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <[Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment

## EXTERNAL

Susan Gorin,

My name is Aidan Aarons and I am a resident of Yucca Valley, CA 92284, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aidan Aarons  
[itsaidanaarons@gmail.com](mailto:itsaidanaarons@gmail.com)  
57552 Twentynine Palms Highway  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284, USA, California 92284

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**From:** [Andrew Smith](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:38:32 AM

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**From:** adam davidoff <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:34 AM  
**To:** Andrew Smith <Andrew.Smith@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment

## **EXTERNAL**

Andrew Smith,

My name is adam davidoff and I am a resident of Sebastopol, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

adam davidoff  
[adam.bruno.davidoff@gmail.com](mailto:adam.bruno.davidoff@gmail.com)  
2489 Gravenstein Highway South  
Sebastopol, California 95472

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**From:** [Ann L. Howard](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** Comment for BOS meeting 5-18-2021, 8:30am - agenda 14 - Proposed Comm Cannabis Cultivation-Gen Plan Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 9:15:27 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Your meeting 8:30 am, May 18, 2021, agenda 14

Regarding the newly amended cannabis Land Use Ordinance, Chapter 38, I oppose the new ordinance and request that the Board of Supervisors returns to its earlier decision to do a project-wide EIR before advancing any changes to the policy. I am a full-time resident of Dry Creek Valley. Ann L. Howard

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**From:** [Brandy Carrier](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** Sonoma county pot ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 8:57:55 PM

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EXTERNAL

My name is Brandy Carrier and I am extremely opposed to an ordinance change whereby Sonoma County is impacted by these drug farms in our neighborhoods... seriously, this is such reckless behavior for this to even be considered a good idea for the future of Sonoma County... millions upon millions of gallons of water are needed for these grows... during the worst drought since the 70's... the pot farms bring high crime to any area that allows such a disgraceful operation in a neighborhood let alone the incredible skunk smell that would permeate our homes and schools 24 hours a day ... we don't need the type of tourism that this type of drug operation would bring ... just ask Marin County and Napa County why they don't want it - it would make Sonoma County the disgrace of our state ... thank you for your careful consideration  
Brandy Carrier

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**From:** [Claire Burdett](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** re: cannabis growth in Sonoma County  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:16:06 PM

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## EXTERNAL

I vehemently oppose permitting cannabis farms in the wine growing area of Sonoma County, particularly along the scenic corridor. First, the crop is a water hog and that is the last thing this county needs at this time. In addition, the crop has a strong pungent odor that could drive tourists away. Please do not allow this to happen.

Claire Burdett

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:13:02 AM

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**From:** Charlie Dubbe <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:33 AM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <[Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment

## EXTERNAL

Susan Gorin,

My name is Charlie Dubbe and I am a resident of Sebastopol, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charlie Dubbe  
[charliedubbe@gmail.com](mailto:charliedubbe@gmail.com)  
2489 Gravenstein Highway South  
Sebastopol, California 95472

|  
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**From:** [Suzanne Corbett](#) <[suzanne.corbett@sonoma-county.org](mailto:suzanne.corbett@sonoma-county.org)>  
**To:** [Cathy Corbett](#) <[cathy.corbett@sonoma-county.org](mailto:cathy.corbett@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 20, 2020, 10:28:26 AM

**From:** Cathy Corbett <[cathy.corbett@sonoma-county.org](mailto:cathy.corbett@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 12:12:48 PM  
**To:** Chris Courtney <[Chris.Courtney@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Chris.Courtney@sonoma-county.org)>; David Rabbit <[david.rabbit@sonoma-county.org](mailto:david.rabbit@sonoma-county.org)>; Susan Gwin <[susan.gwin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:susan.gwin@sonoma-county.org)>; Caitlin Corneill <[Caitlin.Corneill@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Caitlin.Corneill@sonoma-county.org)>; Cameron Maunton <[Cameron.Maunton@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Cameron.Maunton@sonoma-county.org)>; Deborah Roberts <[deborah.roberts@sonoma-county.org](mailto:deborah.roberts@sonoma-county.org)>; Gina Bellforte <[Gina.Bellforte@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Gina.Bellforte@sonoma-county.org)>; Greg Carr <[Greg.Carr@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Greg.Carr@sonoma-county.org)>; Larry Reed <[Larry.Reed@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Larry.Reed@sonoma-county.org)>; Lynda Hopkins <[Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org)>; [sgwin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:sgwin@sonoma-county.org); Todd Tarsano <[Todd.Tarsano@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Todd.Tarsano@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** This can't be fixed on Pepper Road

EXTERNAL



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**From:** [Dawne Gilmore](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:31:36 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Sonoma County Cannabis Program,

My name is Dawne Gilmore and I am a resident of Sebastopol, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dawne Gilmore  
dawne@atlasseed.com  
2505 Gravenstein Highway South  
Sebastopol, CA 95472, USA, California 95472

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**From:** [Andrew Smith](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:24:17 AM

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**From:** Evan Sharpe <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 10:40 PM  
**To:** Andrew Smith <Andrew.Smith@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment

## **EXTERNAL**

Andrew Smith,

My name is Evan Sharpe and I am a resident of Santa Rosa, CA, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Evan Sharpe  
evsharpe@gmail.com  
3671 Moorland Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA, USA, California 95407

|

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**From:** [Gene Zingarelli](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** Comment for #14  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 6:11:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [Bd Supes 5-14-21 Ltr-Cannabis\(1\).pdf](#)

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## EXTERNAL

See attached comment from Board of Directors of League of Women Voters of Sonoma County.

I or another league member will be present of the meeting to read this statement.

Gene Zingarelli  
Advocacy co-V.P.  
League of Women Voters of So. Co.

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May 14, 2021

To: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

From: The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County Board of Directors

The Sonoma Co. Board of Supervisors is considering adopting a measure to greatly increase the accourage for the growth of cannabis. This issue has been brought to the attention of our league by several groups and persons.

Given that we are in another drought year with more such years predicted, water use comes under our position on Climate Change. It has been reported that cannabis cultivation requires considerably more water than other crops. It has been proposed by concerned nonprofit groups that the supervises do a full Environmental Impact Report and further water planning before any measure to increase cannabis accourage is further considered.

The Sonoma County League of Women Voters strongly supports the request that the So. Co. Board do a full Environmental Impact Report and further water use planning before any such cannabis measure be further considered, given the water shortage now and as more is expected in the further in our county and cities.

**From:** [Helen Greaves](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** environmental review  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:23:32 AM

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**EXTERNAL**

I cannot believe we are actually considering rolling back/minimizing environmental reviews when we are suffering the effects of climate change and a historic drought. In addition, the tax revenue benefits will continue to decline as the market becomes more saturated.

Kindest regards,

Helen Greaves

707-527-3321

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**From:** [Helen Sedwick](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#)  
**Subject:** No more cannabis facilities in Bennett Valley  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:40:56 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Cannabis farms in Bennett Valley will destroy a unique and special place.

Bennett Valley, with its rolling hills, is a rural escape close to home. The county has long recognized that beauty and took measures to preserve in the Bennett Valley Area Plan. Among other provisions, the Plan states:

- Commercial development is not considered appropriate to the rural character of Bennett Valley.
- Unique scenic, visually and environmentally sensitive, and historic resources are important to the character of Bennett Valley and shall be protected.

Now the County proposes destroying the unique character of Bennett Valley by allowing the construction of what are, in reality, factories.

We bought a home on Bardy Road in Bennett Ridge that we lost in the Nuns Fire. The view of Bennett Valley from our home was the defining feature of our home.

When we bought the home, we felt reassured that the Area Plan would preserve the rural beauty of our view. That has already changed. Where we once looked out to rolling hills and vineyards, we now look out at factory. Pot farming is a misnomer. What we see is a factory with hoops, thousands of feet of plastic, and equipment. It stands out like a sore thumb.

We hope to sell our lot one day. These factories are certain to reduce our selling price and the property taxes ultimately collected by the county. Multiple that hundreds of times and the county and long-time property owners take an economic hit.

Why would you do that?

Sincerely,

Helen Sedwick, Formerly of 2896 Bardy Road; now living at 9363 Ladera Rd, Glen Ellen

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:17:37 AM

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**From:** Isaac Haugen <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 8:37 PM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <[Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment

## EXTERNAL

Susan Gorin,

My name is Isaac Haugen and I am a resident of Santa Rosa, CA, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Isaac Haugen  
[isaacmhaugen@gmail.com](mailto:isaacmhaugen@gmail.com)  
11 Hull Street  
Santa Rosa, CA, USA, California 95401

|  
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**From:** [Alicia Bunce](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sonoma County Cannabis Permitting  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 6:37:25 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Greetings Board of Supervisors:

I am very concerned about the pending cannabis ordinance. My primary knowledge is from the newspaper and of course our experience with cannabis in rural residential.

My specific concerns are hoop houses. They can operate 24 hours a day all year with lights, noise and smell. The approval process for hoop houses should be very rigorous with full input from the community and a challenge process. There needs to be an approved countywide plan that designates the number and available locations for hoop houses.

Based on our experience of Guy Fieri and rural residential cannabis, I don't trust the county staff to represent the people.

Joe & Judy Tembrock

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**From:** [Jeremy Kreck](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda #14, Opposition to Cannabis Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 7:01:54 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to express opposition to the amended Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Chapter 38. An EIR is a necessary step that should be conducted before making a decision in such matters. Cannabis is a unique crop that can very much affect neighboring properties with chemical compounds that have the ability to travel great distances. The grape and wine industries are bedrocks in this community and contribute greatly to the economic health of the region. Cannabis has the potential to impact the area with unknown consequences.

At the end of the day, we have a great thing going. Over the last half century, the wine/grape industry has transformed this county into a world-class destination. With that comes economic prosperity, good jobs, and a solid community. Please help protect that unique identity.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Kreck  
Winemaker, Mill Creek Vineyards & Winery  
President, Winegrowers of Dry Creek Valley  
Board Member, Winegrowers of Westside Road

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed cannabis ordinance changes  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:22:27 AM

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

From: john7777777@yahoo.com <john7777777@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 5:22 PM  
To: Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>  
Subject: Proposed cannabis ordinance changes

EXTERNAL

Mrs. Gorin,

Thank you for your excellent leadership during this challenging time for our county and the world.

I hope it is OK that I email you to show my support for the Ag Commissioner Smith and his proposed cannabis ordinance. My wife Samantha and I and most people we know support the changes and pray that the Board of Supervisors will approve it.

We have been following and participating in the virtual town halls and all the planning meetings via zoom.

We think that the original proposal from the Ag dept was better in general but we also approve the redline version which was approved 3-2 by planning after a few meetings of public comment, discussion, and deliberation.

I feel like we are very lucky to have Commissioner Smith. After seeing how hard he has worked on this and how well he represents the Ag department I am a big fan of him.

We believe the vast majority of the county is pro-cannabis. There are opportunities for young people and locals to build businesses and provide jobs that are exciting for people to be inspired. I believe the cannabis industry will be a very good thing for this county for many reasons but I don't want to waste you time.

We have been following this extremely close for months and so have others with whom we email and discuss. We believe this is a great step in the right direction. It has already been fully redlined so we hope the planning commission support of this well-vetted ordinance is approved by your board.

There is a very vocal group that is opposed to cannabis. For instance, during this process I noticed that a neighbor made a public comment email complaining about cannabis smell. She moved into our neighborhood and dumps her horse manure all over her property. When you are anywhere close to her property all you will smell is from her horses. No one complains even though we have a new horsefly problem in the neighborhood now. There are people who will use every reason possible to stop cannabis. I pray I am not out of line here. I intend nothing but respect.

The local cannabis industry has some independent family businesses that are hanging on by a thread waiting for these important changes. Most are good hard working people. It's really hard to comply to ordinances and get permits. I have done it and it is a huge challenge. Commissioner Smith understands the industry and is compassionate to local family farms like mine and many others.

We thinks it's a good idea to start a full EIR.

In the meantime 38 and 26 would be a good compromise. It's critical timing. And it is so important to the fledgling industry that can do so much good for this county.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

With respect and admiration,  
John Lobro  
707-237-4751

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**From:** [Andrew Smith](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:24:30 AM

---

**From:** Justin Maloney <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 11:51 PM  
**To:** Andrew Smith <Andrew.Smith@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment

## **EXTERNAL**

Andrew Smith,

My name is Justin Maloney and I am a resident of Calabasas, CA, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Justin Maloney  
maxsk84life@yahoo.com  
23625 Summit Drive  
Calabasas, CA, USA, California 91302

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**From:** [Jeff Mann](#)  
**To:** [Christina Rivera](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 6:12:10 AM

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**EXTERNAL**

Christina Rivera,

My name is Jeff Mann and I am a resident of Oakland, CA, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeff Mann  
ogjefe@gmail.com  
3710 West Street  
Oakland, CA, USA, California 94608

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**From:** [Jim Masters](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Cc:** [Gene Zingarelli](#); ["Sue Jackson"](#); ["Leona Judson"](#)  
**Subject:** Request to speak at the May 18 2021 BOS meeting  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 10:02:50 PM

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## EXTERNAL

**I wish to speak on agenda item 14.** Proposed Commercial Cannabis Cultivation in Agricultural and Resource Areas Zoning 2021-0337 Ordinance and Zoning Code Amendments; General Plan Amendment.

Gene Zingarelli, Sue Jackson, or I would like to I would like to read this letter to the BOS that the LWV Sonoma County Board of Directors unanimously approved:

May 14, 2021

To Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

The Sonoma Co. Board of Supervisors is considering adopting a measure to greatly increase the acreage for the growth of cannabis. This issue has been brought to the attention of our league by several groups and persons.

Given that we are in another drought year with more such years predicted, water use comes under our position on Climate Change. It has been reported that cannabis cultivation requires considerably more water than other crops. It has been proposed by concerned nonprofit groups that the supervisors do a full Environmental Impact Report and further water planning before any measure to increase cannabis acreage is further considered.

The Sonoma County League of Women Voters strongly supports the request that the So. Co. Board do a full Environmental Impact Report and further water use planning before any such cannabis measure be further considered, given the water shortage now and as more is expected in the future in our county and cities.

By unanimous action of the Board of Directors  
League of Women Voters of Sonoma County

**Jim Masters**  
**Board Member**  
**League of Women Voters of Sonoma County**

Home:  
5555 Montgomery Drive (Spring Lake Village)  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
510.459.7570

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**From:** [Kim Gardner](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:02:43 AM

---

**EXTERNAL**

Sonoma County Cannabis Program,

My name is Kim Gardner and I am a resident of Petaluma, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kim Gardner  
Kimlichtergardner@gmail.com  
245 Paula Lane  
Petaluma, California 94952

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**From:** [sonomagoat@comcast.net](mailto:sonomagoat@comcast.net)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** BOS meeting 5/18/21 == AGENDA ITEM #14 Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 11:50:48 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

RE: Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Amendment - Agenda item #14

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I am strongly opposed to basically allowing unrestrictive permitting of commercial cannabis cultivation operations in Sonoma County.

Allowing individuals/businesses the freedom to install water-guzzling, air polluting operations that generally invite criminals into our neighborhoods, increases vehicular traffic and threatens endangered species is not what makes Sonoma County so special.

To allow rampant operations of this type will be the undoing of Sonoma County with families moving away to avoid all the problems created by large commercial cultivation of cannabis. I am not personally opposed to cannabis but I am completely opposed to seeing a commercial operation installed in a family oriented community, such as the one that hopes to set up shop at 984 Pepper Road in Petaluma's Liberty Valley.

Having these cannabis facilities in commercial & industrial zoned areas would seem to be more appropriate.

We want to make Sonoma County better for everyone who calls this region home and this is not a step in that direction.

Please do not vote for this ordinance that eases the restrictions for having a commercial cannabis operation in Sonoma County. Do not unleash this Pandora's Box of problems on our hardworking, rural

communities. Once this box is open there's no undoing the damage.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jack

194 Center Rd

Petaluma 94952

P.S. – Do we really need new businesses starting up with their water-guzzling crops during what will be one of the worst droughts Sonoma County has seen in a long time?

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: In this time of drought and fires  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:01:18 AM

---

**From:** Mike and Becci Greene <verdecasa2u@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>; Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>; David Rabbitt <David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org>; Andrea Krout <Andrea.Krout@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; Chris Coursey <Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org>; Sean Hamlin <Sean.Hamlin@sonoma-county.org>; district4 <district4@sonoma-county.org>; James Gore <James.Gore@sonoma-county.org>; Jenny Chamberlain <jchamber@sonoma-county.org>; district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>; Lynda Hopkins <Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org>; Leo Chyi <Leo.Chyi@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** In this time of drought and fires

## EXTERNAL

Hello Supervisors,

I would like you to Invest in a full Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to determine suitable areas for future cannabis grows. The existing SMND is fatally flawed and should be scrapped.

**WE ARE IN A DROUGHT. WE ARE IN A DROUGHT.WE ARE IN A DROUGHT.WE ARE IN A DROUGHT.WE ARE IN A DROUGHT.WE ARE IN A DROUGHT.**

**THERE WILL BE MORE WILDFIRES.THERE WILL BE MORE WILDFIRES.THERE WILL BE MORE WILDFIRES.THERE WILL BE MORE WILDFIRES.**

**WATER SUPPLIES ARE DWINDLING.WATER SUPPLIES ARE DWINDLING.WATER SUPPLIES ARE DWINDLING.WATER SUPPLIES ARE DWINDLING.**

I already live in a pot grow ghetto west of Petaluma.

**Do the right thing to preserve our precious**

**resources.**

**Sincerely,  
Becci Greene**

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Crime - Problems with your Sonoma County Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Update and General Plan Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:17:04 AM

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**From:** Matthew Brady <matthewbee54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 9:05 PM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>; David Rabbitt <David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org>; Chris Coursey <Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org>; district4 <district4@sonoma-county.org>; Lynda Hopkins <Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org>; Larry Reed <Larry.Reed@sonoma-county.org>; Todd Tamura <Todd.Tamura@sonoma-county.org>; Caitlin Cornwall <Caitlin.Cornwall@sonoma-county.org>; Cameron Mauritson <Cameron.Mauritson@sonoma-county.org>; Gina Belforte <Gina.Belforte@sonoma-county.org>; Greg Carr <Greg.Carr@sonoma-county.org>; Scott Orr <Scott.Orr@sonoma-county.org>; sgarner@migcom.com; senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Crime - Problems with your Sonoma County Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Update and General Plan Amendment

## EXTERNAL

Elected Sonoma County Supervisors,

Crime is a major concern with cannabis cultivation, and in our neighborhood it can take 30 to 45 minutes for a sheriff to respond. A retired peace officer during one of our Zoom meetings with the board stated the obvious when he pointed out that from the proposed commercial pot production on Pepper has a straight shot escape route to highway 101. Great planning sups! Why not propose a commercial pot production factory in your neighborhood?

A Voter,  
Matthew Brady

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Water - Problems with your Sonoma County Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Update and General Plan Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:17:18 AM

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**From:** Matthew Brady <matthewbee54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 8:47 PM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>; David Rabbitt <David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org>; Chris Coursey <Chris.Coursey@sonoma-county.org>; district4 <district4@sonoma-county.org>; Lynda Hopkins <Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org>; Larry Reed <Larry.Reed@sonoma-county.org>; Todd Tamura <Todd.Tamura@sonoma-county.org>; Caitlin Cornwall <Caitlin.Cornwall@sonoma-county.org>; Cameron Mauritson <Cameron.Mauritson@sonoma-county.org>; Gina Belforte <Gina.Belforte@sonoma-county.org>; Greg Carr <Greg.Carr@sonoma-county.org>; Scott Orr <Scott.Orr@sonoma-county.org>; sgarner@migcom.com; senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Water - Problems with your Sonoma County Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Update and General Plan Amendment

## EXTERNAL

Elected Sonoma County Supervisors et al.,

By all accounts, you are grossly underestimating the amount of water that will be consumed for the proposed commercial pot production factory on Pepper. This blatant disregard for the facts and the detrimental impact on hydrological and biological resources is unconscionable if not criminal.

A Voter,  
Matthew Brady

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Problems with your Sonoma County Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Update and General Plan Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:17:48 AM

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**From:** Matthew Brady <matthewbee54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 8:28 PM  
**To:** dontconfusemewithfacts@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Problems with your Sonoma County Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Update and General Plan Amendment

## EXTERNAL

Elected Sonoma County Supervisors,

How can you in all conscience go forward with any amendment to the general plan without complying with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act? This can't all be about the money from the commercial pot production lobby.

A Voter,  
Matthew Brady

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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:** [Meghan Durbin](#)  
**To:** [Christina Rivera](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 5:20:46 AM

---

**EXTERNAL**

Christina Rivera,

My name is Meghan Durbin and I am a resident of Comptche, CA 95427, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Meghan Durbin  
comptchegirl@gmail.com  
10675 Oak Knoll Drive  
Comptche, CA 95427, USA, California 95427

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**Warning:** If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected,  
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**From:** [Matt Pak](#)  
**To:** [Christina Rivera](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:35:26 AM

---

**EXTERNAL**

Christina Rivera,

My name is Matt Pak and I am a resident of Rohnert Park, CA, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Matt Pak  
mattpakfb717@yahoo.com  
1338 Megan Place  
Rohnert Park, CA, USA, California 94928

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**From:** [Manuel Rivera](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:47:09 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Sonoma County Cannabis Program,

My name is Manuel Rivera and I am a resident of Santa Rosa, CA, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Manuel Rivera  
practicaldistro@gmail.com  
400 East Todd Road  
Santa Rosa, CA, USA, California 95407



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**From:** [Nancy and Brantly Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Cc:** [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:** ADDENDUM: MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR IN OPPOSITION TO THE CANNABIS AMENDMENTS/PROPOSALS  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:50:23 AM

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**EXTERNAL**

**ADDENDUM TO LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** in opposition to the proposed cannabis amendments collected in the previous week.

## **PRESS DEMOCRAT 5/18/2021**

### **Setbacks and evacuation**

EDITOR: A 300-foot buffer zone between cannabis growing and processing sites from rural residential communities is wholly inadequate. I've listened in on the Planning Commission meetings and have never heard any rational or data-based argument for this seemingly shoot from-the-hip buffer metric.

In the event of a fire, either generated from outside of the grow or generated in the drying-and-processing facility itself, how can rural residents be expected to collect ourselves, family, pets, important documents, computers, etc. while being exposed to THC-laden smoke, driven by regular onshore winds that would push smoke directly into our neighborhood? After exposure, could I even legally drive for our evacuation?

There must be a minimum 1,000-foot buffer zone from rural residential property lines to allow smoke from such events to rise and diffuse into the atmosphere and allow us time to evacuate and protect our communities.

**JEFFERY MATTHEWS**

Bloomfield

## **Press Democrat 5/18**

### **Living near cannabis**

EDITOR: No one in Sonoma County's government understands what it's like to live 100 feet from 5,000 cannabis plants. Not the Board of Supervisors, not the Planning Commission, not the "cannabis team" who authored the new cannabis ordinances.

Sonoma County guesses the impacts on kids and families inundated by cannabis odor from June to November. They avoided scientific research or neighborhood input. The county guesses that shrubs and trees block odor and guesses that neighbors will benefit from inhaling odor-neutralizing chemical agents sprayed into the air to mitigate cannabis odor. Do you want to inhale a masking agent? These are shockingly outlined in the new cannabis ordinance, which the Board of Supervisors takes up on Tuesday.

We and other families live 100 feet from a commercial cannabis business. We live in a rural residential zone. We know what thousands of outdoor cannabis plants do

to our quality of life. It's a nuisance, and we've all complained repeatedly, but county staff firmly guesses we're wrong. And their word becomes law. As Sonoma County residents, you ought to know the use of opinions and unproven assumptions to frame an ordinance that allows commercial cannabis and tourism in your rural but populated neighborhood.

**ROBERT GUTHRIE**

Sebastopol

### **Press Democrat 5/14**

#### **'Sacred' water**

EDITOR: Yes, it is all about water from here on out. We will call water god. Other things will be sacred too, like the nourishment water provides. Sonoma County's herbs, food and wine are holy things that sustain us. Let us treat them that way.

Cannabis is a sacrament for many; not to be profited from. If it is part of your communion, then grow your own, or find a friend. If you intend to profit from this herb by depleting our county's scarce resources, then go somewhere else.

Wine likewise is sacred. Rivers of water are flowing uphill in Sonoma County to grow wine for export. As companies like Nestlé do, our wine industry is depleting our aquifers and sending water overseas.

We need to realize how our life is sustained. We need to hold those things sacred.

**ROLAND WIEBE**

Graton

-

### **Press Democrat 5/11**

#### **A drought fix**

EDITOR: We continue to read in The Press Democrat about the impending crisis resulting from drought at the same time that consideration is being given to permitting the growth of cannabis, which requires water on a scale greater than grapes or almonds. I have seen discussions about robbing Peter to pay Paul by shipping water from the north to the Central Valley. I have seen no mention of the obvious solution developed by the Israelis decades ago. We have plenty of sunlight, wave power and even thermal energy if needed. The obvious, but unmentioned, goal ought to be desalinization. Can anyone explain why we do not see this discussed, let alone implemented?

**PAUL S. TREUHAFT**

Santa Rosa

### **Press Democrat 5/11**

#### **Real estate and cannabis**

EDITOR: If the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approves the draft cannabis ordinance, some permits will be ministerial with no notice given to neighbors and no way to object to site-specific particulars. Health and safety protections and notice to affected neighbors will disappear. The presumption is that a cannabis operation is no different from a tomato crop. Real estate sellers will be unable to disclose if an application is pending, and

buyers could be making serious financial decisions without full knowledge. A county counsel at a recent town hall meeting said that owners could apply for a property tax reduction if they felt they were negatively impacted. Not much consolation if your property value has dropped substantially or if you have serious buyer's remorse. Besides the issues of 24/7 operation, noise and water consumption in a drought, there will be the additional impact on our scenic aesthetic, not to mention odor and crime.

It would benefit the county if our supervisors followed Napa County's decision to disallow commercial production. There is no particular cannabis shortage that I am aware of, but the much appreciated world-class aesthetic of Sonoma County is unique and deserves to be protected.

**CARY FARGO**

Graton

-

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:26:01 AM

---

**From:** Natasha Bacci <natasha.bacci@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 3:46 PM  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance BOS 5/18/21

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors:

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.

I am a member of 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. Our goal is to limit these cannabis grows to small areas away from residences, not in public view, and not spreading noise or odor. Unfortunately, this is not what has been proposed.

SPECIFICALLY, we want the County to change the following:

1. Invest in a full Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to determine suitable areas for future grows. The existing SMND is fatally flawed and should be scrapped.
2. Limit permit approvals during a state-declared drought to applicants that grow cannabis only using dry farming techniques.
3. Prohibit trucking of water or recycled wastewater under all circumstances.
4. Ensure that residential wells do not run dry due to cannabis operations.
5. Ban all cannabis cultivation in Community Separators.
6. Increase setbacks from the property line of all residences, schools, childcare facilities, and parks to 1,000 feet for outdoor and hoop house cultivation and 300 feet minimum for indoor cultivation.

Sincerely,

Natasha Bacci  
Sebastopol Resident 20+ years

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**From:** [Nina Keatley](#)  
**To:** [Christina Rivera](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 6:30:19 AM

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**EXTERNAL**

Christina Rivera,

My name is Nina Keatley and I am a resident of Fort Bragg, CA 95437, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nina Keatley  
n.a.keatley@gmail.com  
20350 Lyta Way  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437, USA, California 95437

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**From:** [Peter Bridge](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to the cannabis permitting process  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 6:27:40 PM

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## EXTERNAL

To the Board of Supervisors:

Please allow me to express my concern regarding proposed cannabis permitting.

- The character of the county will be changed by large-scale cannabis.
- Our water resources most likely will be drained by cannabis. Please do not allow cannabis growers to empty my well.
- County residents have made it clear that they don't want to live near cannabis farms.

I urge the following actions:

1. Invest in a full Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to determine suitable areas for future grows. The existing SMND is fatally flawed and should be scrapped.
2. Limit permit approvals during a state-declared drought to applicants that grow cannabis only using dry farming techniques.
3. Prohibit trucking of water or recycled wastewater under all circumstances.
4. Ensure that residential wells do not run dry due to cannabis operations.
5. Ban all cannabis cultivation in Community Separators.
6. Increase setbacks from the property line of all residences, schools, childcare facilities and parks to 1,000 feet for outdoor and hoop house cultivation and 300 feet minimum for indoor cultivation.
7. Require that cannabis processing take place only in in facilities in commercial and industrial zones.
8. Require fire inspection reports on all hoop houses.
9. Require that no odor will cross the property line for all indoor cultivation and processing.
10. Prohibit cannabis events near homes and in agricultural or resource zones.
11. Enforce code violations within two weeks, maximum, as County enforcement has been spotty at best and lousy at worst for existing permits.
12. Require posting of a \$50,000 mitigation bond upon issuance of each permit.
13. Update cannabis ordinance to comply with the County's tree ordinance and prevent removal of oak trees.
14. Limit acreage in any 10-mile square zone to prevent over-concentration of any one area.
15. Impose a local residency requirement, where "operators" are defined as owning at least 51% of the applying business.
16. Change the initial permits period to one year, to match the State and test this new policy.

Pushing through a major policy change like this — during a pandemic when so many people are struggling and distracted, during a drought emergency with inadequate water study, without a real environmental review, or listening to affected neighbors is an unnecessary rush to judgment. Please, slow down, listen to neighbors and the environmental community, and let's do this the right way.

**Thanks**

**Peter Bridge**  
**3043 Burnside Road**



**Sebastopol 95472**

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**From:** [Patricia Dahl](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: cannabis ordinance changes  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:37:23 AM

---

EXTERNAL

I have lived in Sonoma County since 1983 and watched the many changes taking place, good and bad. The proposed changes to loosen regulations re: cannabis farms would be a bad change. I am not anti-cannabis. However, I do live in Dry Creek and know there are already problems with some neighbors' wells running dry. We suffered huge changes with the fires especially last year. We are in the middle of a drought. I urge you to NOT pass this new ordinance. Wait. See what happens with drought, fire, rain over the next year or so. You can always readdress the issue. But once restrictions are loosened, land is planted there is no going back to the previous norm.

Thank you, Patricia Dahl

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**From:** [Ryan McKnight](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:30:15 AM

---

## **EXTERNAL**

Sonoma County Cannabis Program,

My name is Ryan McKnight and I am a resident of Santa Rosa, CA, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ryan McKnight  
rmcknight1996@gmail.com  
502 Tunney Place  
Santa Rosa, CA, USA, California 95403

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**From:** [Andrew Smith](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:39:01 AM

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**From:** Ryan Power <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:34 AM  
**To:** Andrew Smith <Andrew.Smith@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment

## **EXTERNAL**

Andrew Smith,

My name is Ryan Power and I am a resident of Sebastopol, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ryan Power  
ryan.s.power@gmail.com  
2489 Gravenstein Highway South  
Sebastopol, California 95472

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**From:** [roberta teller](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Subject:** Deeply distressed about the Cannabis Ordinance - NO on Chapter 38  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 8:06:55 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Honorable Supervisors,

I am deeply distressed and concerned about the passage of the upcoming Cannabis Ordinance. As a resident of west Sonoma County I am concerned and alarmed at the impact on my and other communities. The reasons are:

- The cannabis policy you will be reviewing will drastically change the look and feel of Sonoma County. It's bad for our environment, our limited water supply, our parks and of course its bad for our neighborhoods.
- According to a Press Democrat survey in 2018, 77% of respondents said they didn't want to live within a mile of cannabis operations.
- Please - vote yes to a full Environmental Impact Report. Please amend Chapter 26 to include 1,000' setbacks from the property line to help mitigate the neighborhood compatibility issues. A 1,000' setback from schools should apply to our homes where these same children live and play.
- Please vote no to chapter 38 because it relies on a broken and potentially illegal SMND.

SPECIFICALLY, I want the County to change the following:

1. Invest in a full Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to determine suitable areas for future grows. The existing SMND is fatally flawed and should be scrapped.
2. Limit permit approvals during a state-declared drought to applicants that grow cannabis only using dry farming techniques.
3. Prohibit trucking of water or recycled wastewater under all circumstances.
4. Ensure that residential wells do not run dry due to cannabis operations.
5. Ban all cannabis cultivation in Community Separators.
6. Increase setbacks from the property line of all residences, schools, childcare facilities and parks to 1,000 feet for outdoor and hoop house cultivation and 300 feet minimum for indoor cultivation.
7. Require cannabis processing in facilities in commercial and industrial zones only.
8. Require fire inspection reports on all hoop houses.
9. Require that no odor will cross the property line for all indoor cultivation and processing.
10. Prohibit cannabis events near homes and in agricultural or resource zones.
11. Enforce code violations within two weeks, maximum, as County enforcement has been spotty at best and lousy at worst for existing permits.
12. Require posting of a \$50,000 mitigation bond upon issuance of each permit.
13. Update cannabis ordinance to comply with the County's tree ordinance and prevent removal of oak trees.
14. Limit acreage in any 10-mile square zone to prevent over-concentration of any one area.
15. Impose a local residency requirement, where "operators" are defined as owning at least 51% of the applying business.

16. Change the initial permits period to one year, to match the State and test this new policy.

Pushing through a major policy change like this — during a pandemic when so many people are struggling and distracted, during a drought emergency with inadequate water study, without a real environmental review, or listening to affected neighbors — it's an unnecessary rush to judgment. Slow down, listen to neighbors and the environmental community, and let's do this the right way.

**Roberta Teller**  
**1263 Bing Tree Way**  
**Sebastopol, CA 95472**

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:17:29 AM

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**From:** Steve Cook <[steve.cook@terravesco.com](mailto:steve.cook@terravesco.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 8:41 PM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <[Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment

## EXTERNAL

Susan Gorin,

My name is Steve Cook and I am a resident of Petaluma, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Steve Cook  
[steve.cook@terravesco.com](mailto:steve.cook@terravesco.com)  
5 Lone Oak Court  
Petaluma, California 94952

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**From:** [Shaun Mordecai](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on cannabis ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:02:19 AM

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## EXTERNAL

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

Shaun Mordecai

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:10:04 AM

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**From:** Sica Roman <[sica@sonic.net](mailto:sica@sonic.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:54 AM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <[Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment

## EXTERNAL

Susan Gorin,

My name is Sica Roman and I am a resident of Sonoma county, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sica Roman  
[sica@sonic.net](mailto:sica@sonic.net)  
POB 534  
Cazadero, CA 95421, USA, California 95421

|  
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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tonight's meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:11:02 AM

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**From:** Shigeo N <[wackywobble@gmail.com](mailto:wackywobble@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:29 AM  
**To:** Susan Gorin <[Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** Tonight's meeting

## EXTERNAL

Good morning,

Your ears must be burning all the time! Lol.

My neighborhood has rallied a campaign against any growth in Bennett Valley. You are probably inundated with emails from the Ridge and the Valley.

Mostly based on fear and a lot of NIMBY. I am a 3rd generation Californian. I grew up in a California farmer family community. I live out here in the country to experience the energy of the farming community. The sounds, smells and seasons. I am a guest here.. The farmers are the primary residents.

I've tried to have conversation with my neighbors about not living in fear of change. I have studied the cannabis proposals up for dicussion and maybe vote tonight May 18. It all seems reasonable to me. It looks like your trying to streamline for progress. Change is constant.

I trust you all have put in a lot of work and thought into the proposals.

Please don't be swayed by a campaign based on fear. Vote your conscience. Let's all move forward together.

Thank you for your service.

Shigeo Nakatani

A parent and property owner...and Wildfire 2017 survivors.

2934 Bardy Road

Santa Rosa, CA

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**From:** [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#) on behalf of [Susan Gorin](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: YES - please support the Cannabis ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:22:05 AM

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**From:** Vesta Copestakes <vesta@sonic.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:33 PM  
**To:** Lynda Hopkins <Lynda.Hopkins@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>; David Rabbitt <David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org>; district4 <district4@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** YES - please support the Cannabis ordinance

## EXTERNAL

Sticking my neck out here...the other day I had the pleasure of taking a SOAR rubber kayak down the Russian River starting at Healdsburg Memorial Beach and ending at a vineyard along Westside Road. Where we left the river we rose into a large, open valley with vineyards as far as the eye could see to the distant hills. Doing a 360 turn we were literally surrounded by carefully tended vineyards with drip irrigation systems lining both sides of the Russian River.

I decided to do a Google Earth View to get an idea of how much of the Russian River Valley is home to mile after mile and acre after acre of vineyards.

I bring this up because Sonoma County is about to adopt our Cannabis Ordinance and people keep bringing up how water-hungry cannabis is. As someone said to me earlier today, "we cannot let this water-thirsty crop drink our water." So I bring up vineyards that have plants with deep roots drinking water from our watershed. She said, "we need to get rid of all the vineyards and plant vegetables instead." That's a lot of thirsty vegetables!

I had to pull myself out of the conversation as my fire started rising. I support the Cannabis Ordinance and I support vineyards, and I support vegetable crops. That's a LOT of water. These plants also serve our economy, provide agricultural greenery which cleans our air, and gives us much-needed breaks from the visual clutter of housing developments, shopping centers, and industrial parks...which ALSO consume a LOT of water. Shall we eliminate those as well?

Without knowing what well-users consume, we know that our water reservoirs serve 600,000 people at an estimated 120 gallons of water a day (that's conservative) which is 72 million gallons of water x 365 days = 26,280,000,000 gallons of water a year. This is a fraction of human consumption of water in Sonoma County annually.

Shall we compare water consumption of human beings vs. the vineyard crop, vs. the cannabis crop vs. the vegetable crop? Do we do this acre by acre as a basis for comparison?

According to a Google search, there are 63,000 acres of vineyards. Is that where the cannabis opposers are coming up with 65,000 acres of proposed cannabis to create an apples-to-apples comparison?

Out of a 10-acre parcel (minimum land-use for cannabis), only 1-acre is allowed to be planted in a cannabis crop allowing for setbacks between fences, trails, residences, etc., and the crop in order to mitigate odor, etc.

Am I correct about that?

Does that mean that 10% of 65,000 acres is actually 6500 acres of cannabis?

TOMORROW - Sonoma County Board of Supervisors is addressing the proposed Cannabis Ordinance starting at 8:35 am. This topic has been studied far more than any planned housing development, or industrial park, or proposed vineyard. But we have to address it because just like vineyards and vegetables, Sonoma County is an ideal environment for cannabis crops.

“The purpose of this Ordinance is to better accommodate commercial cannabis cultivation within the agricultural and resource zoning designations by allowing more viable and sustainable operations when environmental impacts can be mitigated and by expanding the streamlined ministerial

permitting pathway when proposed operations meet the most stringent environmental standards.” - Attachment D: Draft Ordinance with Exhibits (PDF: 2.2 MB) on the link provided for tomorrow's meeting.

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/.../Legisl.../County-Ordinances/>

IN MY OPINION, it's time this crop is included in our product line, right along with vineyards/wineries, tourism/hospitality, manufacturing, and all the other ways locals make a living. - which also uses LOTS of water.

Just like every other crop, or housing development, industrial park, or shopping center, we practice conservation and wise, ecologically sensible practices so that we preserve and protect our water while offering a financially viable crop that serves broad spectrums of people and animals.

This is one plant that has medical, manufacturing, and entertaining products all from a single plant of varying genetic structure. I doubt there is any one other kind of plant that can provide so many benefits to an economy and society in general:

Paper? YES

Building products. Yes?

Fabric? YES.

Pain relief? YES

Anxiety/depression relief? Yes.

Entertainment? yes.

Any other benefits you know of?

Vesta Copestakes  
VESTA Publishing, LLC  
[vesta@sonic.net](mailto:vesta@sonic.net)  
707-887-0253 landline  
707-889-0069 cell

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**From:** [Victoria Power](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:35:12 AM

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**EXTERNAL**

Sonoma County Cannabis Program,

My name is Victoria Power and I am a resident of Sebastopol, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Victoria Power  
victoria.c.power@gmail.com  
2489 Gravenstein Highway South  
Sebastopol, California 95472

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**From:** [Vince Scholten](#)  
**To:** [Christina Rivera](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 10:23:54 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Christina Rivera,

My name is Vince Scholten and I am a resident of Sebastopol, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vince Scholten  
norcalgrowers@hotmail.com  
Pleasant Hill Road  
Sebastopol, California 95472

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**From:** [William Hancock](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:30:09 AM

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**EXTERNAL**

Sonoma County Cannabis Program,

My name is William Hancock and I am a resident of Sebastopol, CA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

William Hancock  
liam@atlasseed.com  
2505 Gravenstein Highway South  
Sebastopol, California 95472

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**Warning:** If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected,  
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**From:** [Wendy Smit](#)  
**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](#)  
**Cc:** [Wendy Smit](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:33:12 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Thank you for choosing to look into a programmatic EIR. I look forward to working with the PRMD to add to the effort to make a legal path forward.

The applications for Cannabis farms will each have a different environmental impact. Commercial farms applications demand discretionary process. Cannabis is not farming, right now it is commercial. Once it is a federally legal crop and once the value is closer to other crops, then it would make sense to consider cannabis as an agricultural crop. Right now, because it is easily stolen and used by thieves and children, security and legality require infrastructure that other crops do not. For this reason, cannabis farms should not be considered under a ministerial process.

Discretionary project- Requires the exercise of judgement or deliberation by a public agency in determining whether the project will be approved, or if a permit will be issued.

Ministerial project- Requires only conformance with a fixed standard or objective measurement and requires little or no personal judgment by a public official as to the wisdom or manner of carrying out the project.

Further, when a project application is submitted under a ministerial process, any discretionary decisions invalidate the process.

Some arguments for adopting this process are to expedite applications and to improve the chances of approval of small legacy farms.

The PRMD is overwhelmed still after the building boom caused by recent fires, COVID-19 restrictions and a general housing boom. Please allow more staff to assist, hire some more planners. The County is willing to hire more in the Department of Agriculture, but this can be done at PRMD. Small legacy farmers do not need for larger commercial farm competition. In fact small farmers in Mendocino County are completely against making it easier for large well funded Cannabis corporations to come into the county.

Another argument is to improve diversity of agriculture in Sonoma County. This is not the diversity that is needed, it will undermine the wine country experience in agriculture. The Wine business is never publicly opposed to agriculture changes due to their belief in property owner rights. However cannabis will undermine the investment of wineries and tourism assets. Napa County wine growers and wineries understand this and the County has acted on this.

Another argument is that Cannabis farms can be located in distant areas where there are no neighborhood issues. This however threatens our forests and grasslands that have been undisturbed by agricultural cultivation. The County is taking on a process to discuss tree protections this afternoon. It is time to think about having more Cannabis in the County in the big picture. How will these operations affect water use, fire protections and our view shed. These will all be assessed in a project level EIR through the Discretionary process.

Thank you,

Wendy Smit

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**From:** [Zane Souder](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:16:28 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Sonoma County Cannabis Program,

My name is Zane Souder and I am a resident of Portland, OR, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Zane Souder  
zsatlas@gmail.com  
7050 Northeast Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard  
Portland, OR, USA, Oregon 97211

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**From:** [BOS](#)  
**To:** [Cannabis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: comments on 5/18/21 agenda item 14 (cannabis ordinance)  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 9:41:40 AM

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**From:** Brian Lamoreaux <brian.lamoreaux@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:48 AM  
**To:** BOS <BOS@sonoma-county.org>  
**Subject:** comments on 5/18/21 agenda item 14 (cannabis ordinance)

## EXTERNAL

Hi,

I am for the EIR.

I am against the mitigated negative declaration process when a cannabis operation impacts more than 5 properties in once instance. This bypasses the current ordinance and the general plan with respect to neighborhood compatibility.

I'm concerned about neighborhood compatibility and dramatic impacts that cannabis growing operations pose. Commercial cannabis will completely change the character of residential and mixed zoned neighborhoods. There are significant safety concerns with the high value of the crops, requiring security personnel, cameras, fencing, all which impact and reduce our privacy. Also with people coming in to sample, buy and visit these facilities it will impact the character, privacy and safety of our residential neighborhood.

In the past 3 years I know of two armed robberies involving cannabis grows on opposite sides of rural Petaluma. Putting this risk upon residents and families is not fair.

These facilities which are industrial in nature and require numerous large warehouse style metal buildings for processing, which permanently change the landscape. There is plenty of farmland acreage in the county appropriate for cannabis and it is not in rural residential zones!

Also concerned about visual pollution, and light pollution.

Also concerned about water demands - many in my area have intermittent or even dry wells. The current county water data is over 20 years old and needs to be looked at!

I am against the removal of setbacks for bike paths. Setbacks should be increased and maintained to a minimum of 1000 ft from ALL homes and public access. Cannabis can be grown much more uncontroversially in the vast farmland in the county. I am okay with cannabis on large ranches and >600+ acre farms.

Property values - many I know have the majority or even all of their retirement savings in their properties, hoping to sell a residential parcel in order to retire. With cannabis on their street, their retirement value will immediately decrease by 30% or more, which is not fair. Risk and uncertainty arising from concerns around safety, crime, privacy, smell and water/environmental impact as well as the high likelihood that out of county operators or residents will come in to

make a buck and not care about their impact on those who have committed their lives and finances to making Sonoma County their home. This will drive many away from our area who have lived here for generations and I don't want that. None of this would not occur if cannabis were only allowed on larger ranches in strictly rural zones with less than 10 neighboring properties effected.

Please do not allow for a mitigated negative declaration process until the EIR has sufficiently looked at the the real impacts of this ordinance. There will always be people who think government things take too long - and yet this is the job, and thank you for doing it, especially with consideration for the many many many who have expressed great concern of these impacts. There's plenty of land for cannabis, the growers will survive - they just need to do it in a way that does not impact too many residents.

thanks,

Brian Lamoreaux  
101 Pepper Lane  
Petaluma, CA 94952

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**From:** [Jody Starr](#)  
**To:** [Christina Rivera](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Cannabis Ordinance - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:00:08 AM

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**EXTERNAL**

Christina Rivera,

My name is Jody Starr and I am a resident of Sebastopol, CA 95472, USA. I am writing to submit my support for the most recent iteration of the Hessel Farmers Grange's public comment memo. This memo has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors as an official record of public comment by the Hessel Farmers Grange, concerning the 2021 Sonoma County Cannabis Draft Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jody Starr  
jody@hightidedistro.com  
2633 Blucher Valley Road  
Sebastopol, CA 95472, USA, California 95472

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