

Cannabis Ordinance Multi-Tenant Urgency Moratorium
Public Comment
Received
September 20, 2021 through September 21, 2021 9 AM

From: [Ann Arora](#)
To: lynda.hopkins@sonom-county.org; [Susan Gorin](#); chris.cousey@sonom-county.org
Cc: [Mary Plimpton](#); [Anil Arora](#)
Subject: Sept 21 2021 board meeting: agenda item consideration of a moratorium on the issuance of ministerial permits for small cannabis cultivation permits
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:04:46 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Chair Hopkins and Board:

We wish to voice our **support for** the Board's consideration of a **moratorium** on the issuance of ministerial permits for the cultivation of cannabis which is on the Board's agenda on September 21st. We are residents of [OR: property owners in] Franz Valley and are deeply concerned that the continued issuance of ministerial permits will have the effect of negatively and forever changing the landscape and livability of Sonoma County.

We understand the County's current approach is to allow for the issuance of these permits without review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and without a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). We understand the Board of Supervisors' intention in allowing these ministerial permits to be issued was to encourage small growers to legally cultivate cannabis on smaller plots of agriculturally-zoned property throughout the County.

Unfortunately, this approach has been exploited by commercial cannabis interests since the adoption of the small cannabis cultivation ordinance, especially in the last two years when the number of small permit applications went from 28 in 2019 to 94 in 2020 and a staggering 143 in 2021. In 2017 the number of CUPs requested was 113, which dropped to a mere 6 in 2020 and only 3 in 2021 which demonstrates that the commercial cannabis interests have determined how to exploit the County's ordinance. This trend started in 2020 shortly after the County began its ministerial permit program.

In the case of the Franz Valley, we understand that 11 ministerial permits have been applied for on three parcels adjacent to one another. The permit applications are all very similar to one another and were applied for by the same 4 individuals within a week's time of one another. It appears that these permits are all part of one large vertically integrated commercial cannabis operation. **They should be treated as one application for permit for a 110,000 square foot (2.75 acre) cultivation rather than as 11 permits for individual small (quarter acre) grows.**

The environmental impacts of this multi-parcel, multi-tenant approach must be evaluated under CEQA since the cumulative impacts of these 11 applications have the potential to have negative groundwater, air quality, noise, waste management and safety impacts, among many others.

Further, **the loophole in the County's ordinance which allows these types of multi-tenant operations to flourish must be closed.**

We urge the Board of Supervisors to **adopt a moratorium on the issuance of any new or renewing ministerial permits** until the County can fix its commercial cannabis ordinance. We would also urge the Board to consider the creation of inclusionary zones in which cannabis can be grown in a way that will not negatively impact other community and agricultural pursuits from an odor, safety, fire and pesticide standpoint.

Signed

Ann Arora

9800 franz valley school rd

cc: Sheryl Bratton, County Administrator [sheryl.bratton@sonoma-county.org]

Robert Pittman, County Counsel [robert.pittman@sonoma-county.org]

Andrew Smith, Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer [andrew.smith@sonoma-county.org]

Ann Arora, MFT

Bringing Mindfulness to Work

ann@annarora.com

C: 415-939-4728

O: 415-255-3221

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Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Bridget Beytagh](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Fwd: Moratorium on cannabis permits.
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:17:07 PM

EXTERNAL

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bridget Beytagh <beytagh@sonic.net>
Date: September 20, 2021 at 2:05:15 PM MDT
To: Bridget Beytagh <beytagh@sonic.net>
Subject: **Moratorium on cannabis permits.**

Dear Supervisors, I am writing to ask that you continue the moratorium on new cannabis permits being issued. At present there are too many existing problems that need resolving before before going forward.

Please close the loophole that the industry is using to have multi tenants on one parcel.

Issuing permits for a thirsty crop during a mega drought when wells are going dry and the County has stated that it does not have enough for new housing, would be counterproductive.

At present the County has not studied the cumulative impacts of commercial cannabis production, and so, please wait for the EIR to be conducted before moving forward.

And please, do not assume that neighbors are “old”, “don’t understand” or “ are afraid “ of cannabis. This Industry talking point is an excuse to not address the very real problems that commercial cannabis production brings.

No, I do not need to be “educated”.

Thank you
Bridget Beytagh

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From: [Brenda Putnam](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Moratorium on multi tenant cannabis grows
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:15:49 PM

EXTERNAL

Please vote yes on a temporary moratorium on multi tenant cannabis grows. The county has called for an EIR. Let's let that process play out fairly without these abuses of the ministerial process. Yes on the moratorium.

Thank you,
Brenda Putnam
5th district resident and property owner

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From: [Barbara Jean Veronda](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Temporary Cannabis Moratorium
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021 11:36:17 AM

EXTERNAL

As a life-long resident of Sonoma County, I want the Board of Supervisors to vote on a temporary cannabis moratorium for the following reasons

1. Multi-tenant applications on a single parcel should not be allowed. The intention was to help small growers of 10,000 square feet or less, but this grouping of permits is an abuse that needs to stop.
2. Water is in short supply for everyone in Sonoma County and the state as a whole. We don't need extremely thirsty cannabis grows during a drought.
3. The Board of Supervisors already voted to conduct an Environmental Impact Report on cannabis. Wait for that to be completed so we have a full, public picture of possible impacts of cannabis grows in our county.
4. The public deserves to know what's happening in their area. When it comes to odor, traffic, visual blight and waste from plastic hoop houses, groundwater depletion, fire and public safety, and all of the cumulative impacts, neighbors like us should be able to weigh in on each permit application. That's not happening with these multi-tenant large grows.
5. According to public records, the number of "small" permit applications has increased over 500% since 2019, going from 28 two years ago to 143 this year so far. Compare this to Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) — which allow for public comment — those have plummeted from 113 in 2019 to just 3 this year. The cannabis industry is exploiting the system and it needs to stop.

Barbara Jean Veronda
9422 Old Redwood Hwy
Penngrove CA 94951

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From: no-reply@sonoma-county.org
To: [BOS](#)
Subject: Issue: Cannabis Cultivation in Sonoma County
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 6:12:09 PM

Sent To: County of Sonoma
Topic: Issue
Subject: Cannabis Cultivation in Sonoma County
Message: Dear Board Members,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen regarding the cultivation of cannabis in Sonoma County and would request this Board to vote Yes on a moratorium for cannabis cultivation.

I am certain the pending EIR for the proposed cultivation of cannabis will highlight many detrimental aspects of this crop to our local communities, but it is the additional water use that concerns me the most. The scarcity of water is now at a critical point, we do not need to add additional taps into our already strained water resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Craig Benson

Sender's Name: Craig Benson
Sender's Email: craigbenson2020@gmail.com
Sender's Address:
1524 Sierra Dr
Petaluma, CA 94954

From: [Courtney Dyar](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Support of 45-Day Moratorium on Multi-Tenant Cannabis Zoning Permits
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 12:01:16 PM

EXTERNAL

Dear Susan,

I am writing to ask that you vote for the 45-day moratorium on multi-tenant cannabis zoning permits being considered on September 21st.

As you are keenly aware of, Bennett Valley is a rural residential areas that does not have the water, roads, infrastructure or life/safety resources for commercial cannabis operations. Knowing this, you have a duty and obligation to immediately cease all ministerial permits for commercial marijuana cultivation or processing in Bennett Valley and throughout Sonoma County.

I would also strongly urge you to permanently designate Bennett Valley as an exclusion zone ceasing all cannabis operations.

For once do the right thing and protect the law-abiding and tax-paying residents who voted for you to be our Supervisor and advocate on our behalf.

Thanks,
Courtney Dyar
3511 Matanzas Creek Lane, Santa Rosa

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From: [Christine Marie Field](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Cannabis
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 8:23:02 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

Living in Sonoma County we have not had sufficient rains and now with a drought, water supply is at an all time low. Those of us who live in rural areas serviced by wells are needing to consider if they will go dry as is happening in parts of this county. Because of this dire situation, my neighbors and I are calling for a county moratorium on any new agricultural growing which would include new permitting of cannabis.

The county's first priority should be taking care of existing water users. The time to reconsider new additional growing of any product is when the drought is over, or when the county's upcoming Environmental Review shows there is enough water to reinstitute permitting of additional agricultural growth.

Thank you,

Chris Field Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Cecile Isaacs](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Adopt an interim moratorium on cannabis permits
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 10:45:30 PM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Gorin,
Please stop granting new Cannabis permits until an EIR can be designed and completed.
Illegal multi-tenant operations should be shut down until they obtain conditional use permits.

Why? This drought is so hard on Healdsburg residents. Don't put the growers priorities ahead of our needs. Cannabis can be grown in other, water-rich areas. Don't let them compete with us for the water we need to live our daily lives.

Why? The ministerial process failed to keep grows in line with the code you wrote: the maximum aggregate cultivation area for a multi-tenant operation is 10,000 square feet. BUT Many ministerial permits are an acre (43,500 square feet), and some much larger because growers apply for an acre on several contiguous parcels.

Why? To take the noise out of the permitting process and allow science to speak.

Thanks for taking time to consider these points.

Yours truly,
Cecile Isaacs
Healdsburg, Ca

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From: [Cal Lewis](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Board consideration of adopting an interim moratorium on multi-tenant cannabis cultivation permits
Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 1:39:34 PM

EXTERNAL

Supervisor Goring - On September 21, the Board of Supervisors is to consider adoption of an interim moratorium on multi-tenant cannabis cultivation permits throughout the County. I understand the proposed moratorium does not consider the multi-year drought we're experiencing, our reservoirs are at an all-time low, and the Board has requested reduction of water usage throughout the County due to limited water supplies. I urge Supervisor Goring to vote for the adoption of this interim moratorium.

A question for the Supervisor - Why has the County asked the State to reduce its required housing allocation because of water supply problems, with government officials are saying residents should only use enough water for basic human health and safety needs when it has continued accepting new cannabis permit applications as well as continuing to issue new annual ministerial permits for an intensive water-thirsty crop?

Thank you in advance – Cal Lewis
5321 Wilshire Drive, SR 95404
(707)528-9617

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From: no-reply@sonoma-county.org
To: [BOS](#)
Subject: Issue: Moratorium of Weed Dispensaries
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 8:04:36 AM

Sent To: County of Sonoma

Topic: Issue

Subject: Moratorium of Weed Dispensaries

Message: I am asking you to support a Moratorium on Marijuana Dispensaries in Sonoma County.

We have more than enough to supply local and tourist populations and don't need more for economic reasons.

Sender's Name: Connie

Sender's Address:

CA 95409

From: commander1566@hughes.net
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Moratorium
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:32:37 PM

EXTERNAL

Hi supervisor Rabbitt

This was an email that I had sent out a while back I believe I cc to you also. I know you are aware of all of our concerns regarding this ministerial permit that was issued 4 years ago at 8105 Davis lane

I am glad the supervisors are bringing this moratorium up on any future pot grows in the county and we all hope it goes in our favor yes vote.

We are in a severe drought throughout California and especially here in Sonoma county where most that live in rural areas are on wells and where most pot folks want to grow this would have a great affect on all of us regarding water usage.

Also these ministerial permits are wrong, niehbor hoods and families should be able to voice our concerns when it comes to a pot grow in our backyard, and not just the boxes being checked by AG department for approval.

I hope the board of supervisors take in all of our concerns that have been brought up regarding these issues and it's Niehbor hood compatibility for all of us.

Thank you
Doug Cole
439 Davis lane
Penngrove
707-481-9825

- > Hi Crystal
- > Hope all is well with you a busy time most likely.
- >
- > Just checking in regarding the status of the review if any changes have come up.
- > I sure hope you guys at the permit department really take a good look at all of our past emails with our concerns that I assume are on file regarding the health, safety, quality of life changes the ugly fence that we all have to look at and take it into consideration with this review, this is just wrong and is not Niehbor hood compatible.
- >
- > Natasha after 4 years decided to plant some trees (not a good time with our severe drought that we are having and all of us being on wells) to try and make it look good before the zoom meeting she knows how to play the game with you guys. I unfortunately was gone couldn't make it, just heard she was trying to make it look good all BS sorry.
- >
- > The noxious smell again is back having these warm days nicest time of the summer around here that we have again after 4 years still can't enjoy any outside activities during the day going into the evening time.
- >
- > As you know my wife has asthma it affects her along with my granddaughter when they come over to swim or just hang around outside can't do it that. We also can't open the windows in the evening to cool our house down this is all wrong.
- >
- > I assume you don't live next door to pot a grow that's in your backyard I don't think you would like it ether.
- >
- > I hope and pray this will be the last grow that Natasha will be able to have.
- >
- > Take care Crystal

> Doug Cole
> 439 Davis lane
> Penngrove
> 707-481-9825
>
Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Diane](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Cc: [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)
Subject: Cannabis moratorium vote
Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:28:08 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Gorin:

I am emailing to ask that you vote for the moratorium on cannabis to cover *not only* the current multi-tenant situation which is threatening to become a flood of law-evading permitting, but ANY permits OR renewals, until the EIR is completed and neighborhood compatibility is taken into account.

My fence line resides directly in back of a proposed multi-tenant grow. Initially, their ministerial permit was withdrawn because of (among other things) the unstudied impact on us neighbors and the biotic resources on the site that made it ineligible for negative declaration of impacts. The LLC, four months later, then put forth numerous applications in hopes of getting a foot in the door that would allow them to begin grows irregardless of community opposition to the unstudied impacts and lack of compatibility.

Well permits were issued while the eight ministerial cannabis permit applications are still under review. One of these wells shows up on the site management plan map submitted with those eight applications. We were told that no site development work could happen while ministerial cannabis permit applications are under review. We were told that the biotic resources of this site precluded it from being eligible for a ministerial permit. We were told that our new neighbors were advised to seek a Conditional Use Permit because the scope of the project on their management plan required it. Nonetheless, they were allowed to drill an additional well that showed on their application as being directly for the purpose of growing cannabis, despite an edict that they not proceed with any grow-supported land disturbance until a conditional use permit and further EIR and neighborhood compatibility issues were addressed. Those who believe that the cannabis industry will be respectful of its neighbors should have been here for the 6AM well-drilling by the well drillers that took place over a number of days, disrupting the sleep of all the residents on our side of town, quashing the long-held backyard

wedding celebration plans of my neighbor, and affecting my homecare of my infirm and ailing husband.

Then they proceeded to drill yet another well on the other side of us. It took *5 days* for County Counsel and the Ag commissioner to put in a temporary stop order on the well drilling while they continue to deliberate whether or not it is legal to do site prep work while ministerial cannabis permits are under review. Both wells were permitted—the question is: why were the drilling permits issued while the ministerial cannabis permits are under review?

These are only two examples of what happens when cannabis grows are allowed to happen right on our property lines and up against our backyards; why we've been begging for a decent 1,000-foot setback, *at minimum*, beginning at our property fence lines; and why I am now urging the Board to **stop all cannabis permitting, including annual ministerial renewals**, until proper safeguards can be set in place for those of us homeowners who have spent decades here, valuing our peaceful abodes and enjoying much of the year outdoors in our back yards...especially with Covid's threats.

During this process, I have written several letters. Except for Supervisor Rabbit, all have appeared to have fallen on deaf ears. I don't even receive the courtesy of an acknowledgement of their receipt, much less being read. One would think elected officials would at least fire off a form acknowledgement.

I hear that some of you have your own rural Sonoma County homes where rest, rejuvenation, and peaceful living are valued. My home deserves equal consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane and William Donovan
Bloomfield

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From: [DeLaine Emmert](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Please vote Yes
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021 11:08:11 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Ms. Gorin,
Please vote yes !

Cannabis Ordinance Multi-Tenant Urgency Moratorium: Adopt an interim urgency ordinance establishing a moratorium on ministerial multi-tenant cannabis cultivation permits under the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Deborah Eppstein](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Cc: [Arielle Kubu-Jones](#)
Subject: Cannabis Moratorium
Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:08:39 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Susan,

I have 3 important points for your consideration for the Sept 21 BOS meeting:

1) Vote yes on the moratorium stopping new multi-cannabis zoning permits. These permits both violate our own Cannabis Ordinance as well violate state law in not conducting CEQA analysis (Sept 14 Block&Block letter).

The prior granting of 85 such zoning permits violates state law and our own ordinance - also for neighborhood rights; the Health and Safety requirement of the ordinance is simply ignored in all zoning permits. Those current multi-tenant permits should not be renewed. The state Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) has flagged this as wrong. Without the annual state license, all cannabis produced by these zoning application can only be sold on the Black Market. I trust that you do not endorse this.

2) Furthermore all cannabis produced under a zoning permit is only for **medicinal**, not recreational, use (Sept 14 Block&Block letter). I am not aware that any cannabis manufacturing facilities or dispensaries make that distinction- so how can the County enforce this? Without this enforcement, the County is supporting Black Market distribution of medical cannabis for the recreational market. For these reasons, **not even single tenant zoning permits should be renewed or granted**.

3) Finally and very importantly, we need a **moratorium on all new cannabis cultivation permits** until the EIR is completed and new ordinance in place. Two overriding reasons are the **Water (Drought Emergency)** and **Neighborhood Compatibility**.

- The EIR will include a county-wide analysis of water availability under continued drought (a likely scenario) and water needs across all uses- residential, agriculture, cannabis, other commercial and industrial uses, projected over 20 years. This was also requested by DCC (July 20, 2020 letter).

- The EIR will also address appropriate locations and setbacks from neighboring parcels. The County well knows that the current minimum setbacks are far too short to protect neighbors from odor, traffic, and other nuisance. Unless the best currently available research of at least 1000 ft setback to property line is adopted, issuing outdoor cultivation permits should cease as it violates the Health and Safety clause.

Thank you for your support.

Best,
Debby
Deborah Eppstein
801-556-5004

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From: [Dan Prince](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Cannabis growing in Rural Residential
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 8:23:21 AM

EXTERNAL

Supervisor:

Water is becoming a critical issue. We do not need an additional draw on this resource at this time. I live in Bennett Ridge. Looking south you can see an extensive area of cannabis cultivation and the plastic tenting. Aesthetically this appears as a blight on the landscape. I do not believe cannabis cultivation is compatible in a rural residential setting.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Dan Prince

PRINCE ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

50 Old Courthouse Sq. #608

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

707-526-7578

707-544-9074 Fax

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From: [Debbie Schneider](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Please vote yes on cannabis moratorium
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021 11:13:49 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Gorin,

Please vote “Yes” on the cannabis moratorium because of the reasons below:

- 1 Multi-tenant applications on a single parcel should not be allowed. The intention was to help small growers of 10,000 square feet or less, but this grouping of permits is an abuse that needs to stop.
- 2 Water is in short supply for everyone in Sonoma County and the state as a whole. We don't need extremely thirsty cannabis grows during a drought.
- 3 The Board of Supervisors already voted to conduct an Environmental Impact Report on cannabis. Wait for that to be completed so we have a full, public picture of possible impacts of cannabis grows in our county.
- 4 The public deserves to know what's happening in their area. When it comes to odor, traffic, visual blight and waste from plastic hoop houses, groundwater depletion, fire and public safety, and all of the cumulative impacts, neighbors like us should be able to weigh in on each permit application. That's not happening with these multi-tenant large grows.
- 5 According to public records, the number of “small” permit applications has increased over 500% since 2019, going from 28 two years ago to 143 this year so far. Compare this to Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) — which allow for public comment — those have plummeted from 113 in 2019 to just 3 this year. The cannabis industry is exploiting the system and it needs to stop.

We feel strongly about this issue and hope you will vote yes to protect our town and county from extreme cannabis cultivation.

Dr. George A. Schneider
Dr. Debra B. Schneider
4808 Ardyce Circle
Santa Rosa ca 95405
7075384160

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From: [Donna Wade](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Cannabis
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021 10:27:01 AM

EXTERNAL

Please use your power as our county representative to make Bennett Valley a commercial cannabis-free exclusion zone.

Thank you very much for your support on this matter

Donna wade

Sent from my iPad

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From: [Lisa Boyadjieff](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: yes on moratorium
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 7:50:11 PM

EXTERNAL

We're trying so hard to save water. This is not the time to issue permits for a very high water intensive crop. It's a slap in the face for those trying to save water.

Sincerely
Eleanor Boyadjieff

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From: [star-yunice](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Vote Yes Tuesday
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 7:08:31 PM

EXTERNAL

Dear board of Supervisor Susan Gorin.

I am asking you to vote yes on the marijuana growers dope moratorium this coming Tuesday Sept 21.

Thank you for your service to Sonoma County.

Eunice Edgington 990 Echo Ct

Rohnert Park, Ca 94928 (707) 588 8971

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From: [Libby Hutton](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: 9/21/21 hearing regarding interim moratorium on multi-tenant cannabis cultivation
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 9:20:07 PM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Gorin:

I strongly support the proposal for an interim moratorium on multi-tenant cannabis cultivation as well as a the further extension of that moratorium after October 26th.

The multi-tenant permits represent an end-run of the review process and a blatant attempt (unfortunately successful thus far) to evade public input and scrutiny. Just like the classic jigsaw puzzle, before you know it, the entire area will be filled with cannabis cultivation, all without any public notices scrutiny or approval. In the process you risk totally and permanently transforming our lovely County into a cannabis hotbed with the consequent noxious odors and illegal activity and deleterious social impacts. I am completely perplexed as to why the Board is so beholding to cannabis growers and the product when we live in an area that does not require selling our souls to this industry. We have beauty, fantastic wine growing, tourism, wonderful legal agriculture and healthy citizens - why is the Board so intent on spoiling it all? Our neighboring and competitive counties of Napa and Marin have brilliantly refused to sell out and they're doing wonderfully - what is the reason for Sonoma's embrace of the cannabis infection?

In addition to the foregoing, the current drought conditions mandate a moratorium on cannabis cultivation. It is well-established that cannabis sucks up huge amounts of water, far in excess of other agricultural products, including grapes. It would be irresponsible to endorse new and extended cannabis cultivation given the undisputed reality of gross water consumption inherent in any permits for that cultivation.

I ask and urge you and the entire Board to approve the proposed moratorium now and to extend it for at least two years after October 26th.

Thank you,

Libby Hutton
libbyshutton@yahoo.com

Elizabeth S. Hutton

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From: [Janet Talamantes](#)
To: [David Rabbitt](#); Linda.hopkins@sonoma-county.org; chris.corsey@sonoma-county.org; [Cannabis](#); [James Gore](#); [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Please Vote Yes on the Proposed Moratorium on Cannabis Permits!
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:53:07 PM

EXTERNAL

We ask you for a YES vote on the proposed moratorium on cannabis permits scheduled on the agenda Tuesday September 21: “Cannabis Ordinance Multi-Tenant Urgency Moratorium: Adopt an interim urgency ordinance establishing a moratorium on ministerial multi-tenant cannabis cultivation permits under the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance.”

1. Water is in short supply for everyone in Sonoma County and the state as a whole. We don't need extremely thirsty cannabis grows during a drought.
2. Multi-tenant applications on a single parcel should not be allowed. The intention was to help small growers of 10,000 square feet or less, but this grouping of permits is an abuse that needs to stop.
3. The Board of Supervisors already voted to conduct an Environmental Impact Report on cannabis. Wait for that to be completed so we have a full, public picture of possible impacts of cannabis grows in our county.
4. The public deserves to know what's happening in their area. When it comes to odor, traffic, visual blight and waste from plastic hoop houses, groundwater depletion, fire and public safety, and all of the cumulative impacts, neighbors like us should be able to weigh in on each permit application. That's not happening with these multi-tenant large grows.
5. According to public records, the number of “small” permit applications has increased over 500% since 2019, going from 28 two years ago to 143 this year so far. Compare this to Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) — which allow for public comment — those have plummeted from 113 in 2019 to just 3 this year. The cannabis industry is exploiting the system and it needs to stop.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,
Janet and Tim Talamantes
2968 Middle Two Rock Road
Petaluma



Virus-free. www.avast.com

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From: [Joy Anagnostis](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Vote FOR the moratorium
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:59:19 PM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

Please vote for the moratorium to stop any new or renewal applications for growing cannabis in this county. Also, please don't allow current ministerial permits to roll over again until the EIR is completed.

I concur with all points listed below:

1. Multi-tenant applications on a single parcel should not be allowed. The intention was to help small growers of 10,000 square feet or less, but this grouping of permits is an abuse that needs to stop.
2. Water is in short supply for everyone in Sonoma County and the state as a whole. We don't need extremely thirsty cannabis grows during a drought.
3. The Board of Supervisors already voted to conduct an Environmental Impact Report on cannabis. Wait for that to be completed so we have a full, public picture of possible impacts of cannabis grows in our county.
4. The public deserves to know what's happening in their area. When it comes to odor, traffic, visual blight and waste from plastic hoop houses, groundwater depletion, fire and public safety, and all of the cumulative impacts, neighbors like us should be able to weigh in on each permit application. That's not happening with these multi-tenant large grows.
5. According to public records, the number of "small" permit applications has increased over 500% since 2019, going from 28 two years ago to 143 this year so far. Compare this to Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) — which allow for public comment — those have plummeted from 113 in 2019 to just 3 this year. The cannabis industry is exploiting the system.

Thank you,
Joy Anagnostis

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From: [john galt](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Urgency moratorium
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:33:15 AM

EXTERNAL

To whom it may concern,

The urgency moratorium is a bad idea.

This will hurt the small farmers and make it impossible for landowners to work with multiple smaller farmers.

The county should not rush this and should wait to review just like the rest of the cannabis law changes that are being reviewed. This should not be rushed as it is far too damaging for the local small farmers the provision was meant to protect.

PLEASE VOTE NO

The small county farmers are counting on you to stand up for us.

If you need to address abuses that is ok but you should not limit the land owner from renting to multiple smaller farmers taking a ministerial path which is the only they can afford.

If you got yes to this you are putting the nail in the coffin of the local cannabis farmers that have been waiting for ordinance changes for years.

PLEASE VOTE NO.

This is a rush-job and is penalizing to the local small farmers who the county has mentioned many times it wants to protect.

VOTE NO.

Small county cannabis farmers and those who are benefitted from the local cannabis economy will be irreparably damaged and likely put out of business.

Don't rush this. VOTE NO NOW.

We are begging you. this is extremely damaging to the small farmers.

VOTE NO to save the local small cannabis farmers who have been here for generations. This is not the right this time do.

Sincerely,
John Galt

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From: [Jim Hyatt](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Supporting the Proposed Permitting Moratorium
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:04:31 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Gorin

I live in District 2, and have had several legal and illegal cannabis grows close to where I live.

As our supervisor has suggested from the beginning of this issue, the County needs to establish inclusion zones and consider the water issues in those zones.

Our well has dropped over 35 feet in the past month, please note that one approved cannabis farm above us put in a new well and our drop in water level is something new. How do I know that, well my grandfather had that well dug in 1925 and we have the history.

I recall when the whole cannabis grow program started, oh the money that the county would receive, the huge staff to be hired, well did not happen.

Please approve the moratorium, get community input on inclusion zones and get the illegal growers shut down. You might want to start with what is going on at the Spring Hill Cheese Farm at 4235 Spring Hill Road. No, it is not a hemp farm as the owner reports it is cannabis.

Jim Hyatt
3062 Middle Two Rock Road
Petaluma, CA 94952
Phone: 707-481-3767
Email: jrhyatt8@gmail.com

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From: [john l](#)
To: [Cannabis](#); [district3](#); [district5](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)
Cc: [Andrew Smith](#)
Subject: County-Empowered LIARS
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:20:54 AM

EXTERNAL

Please add this to the public record published today. I originally sent this letter last week and I didn't see it included in the public comments released today. We're there many other letters in opposition to this ordinance that were not included as well? I'm concerned the important voices of the small farmers will not be heard over the outright inflammatory LIES being told by people like Robert Nissenbaum, marshal Behling, and Kim Robert-Gutzman.

Someone please come tour my farm today before you vote on this emergency bill to stop multi tenant cannabis zoning permits.

Without this provision marks family and my family could not stay farmers after decades in this industry.

Come see how outlandish the neighbors comments are.

I'm available all day, please call me. I'll tour this farm and show you why you should ignore the dishonest cannabis opposers and VOTE NO.

Thank you.

Supervisors,

Thank you for you difficult work on the cannabis issues of our day.

This is a letter I sent to the cannabis department about the upcoming proposed moratorium which we are strongly against for many reason mainly that it hurts the small independent farmers like we.

Thank you again for you consideration. Have a beautiful day.

With Respect, Appreciation, and Gratitude,
John Loe

I have a ministerial permit and one other person had a ministerial permit on my property at [1700 barlow lane](#) in sebastopol.

The ministerial process gave the other owner and me a way to do a small outdoor cultivation where a cup would have been too expensive and uncertain.

I've heard some folks making up stories and negative things about my property and farm. It is extremely private, quiet, and professional. I live on site with my wife and two small children. The local neighbors are lying about me and have no problem making up stories about anything

inflammatory to get someone to stop my farm.

I am interested to invite you to my farm. You can meet my wife and also you can meet mark severe who operates the other ministerial permit. Our property and farm speaks for itself along with the straight A grades we have gotten from local and state inspections.

Those people who are saying that there is not enough enforcement have no idea what they are talking about. I can tell you that from a very high level of personal understanding. There are many surprise inspections and they are traumatic for small children and it very rigorous. Why do these people want to torture cannabis farmers and see them treated like criminals?

The setbacks already are too far. 300 feet from houses is too much for most farmers to use their land. The opposition knows that and will just ask for more knowing this will cripple many farmers.

This is a stressful nightmare to cannabis operators. One moment the ordinance was moving fwd to help cannabis operators who were holding on. The next moment the ordinance is dismissed after years of work including the public.

And now the emergency ordinance to stop ministerial permits with multiple tenants? That was setup that was to help people like me and mark. We are family operators and small independent hard working people. We are from this Industry and are trying to stay alive through this challenging transition.

How could all the momentum turn twds the very vocal anti-cannabis crowd? The pro-cannabis people have been exhausted out of this process from the years of work and dead ends. Now we start from scratch and an emergency ordinance is proposed to give the opposition what they want. What about the pro cannabis side?

Families like mine have trusted the county to be fair and now the opposition is getting favoritism by an emergency ordinance.

Come see my farm. See how a multi tenant operation looks. Meet me and my loved ones.

We are being run thru the mud and it's a terrible. It's not right what is happening to people like us. It is a travesty the life of a Sonoma cannabis operator. It feels like a torture chamber. This is our life. We don't bother anyone. Come see. You need to know how much these neighbors are lying.

Please be fair to cannabis operators who have invested their lives into their businesses. Nothing will ever satisfy the anti-cannabis crowd. The cannabis farmers need protections so we can live our lives without this torment.

We had neighbors harassing us with drones. we had trespassing neighbors. A angry woman named Tess intimidates and screams at my wife when she is walking our small child and baby. They have written in public comment that I "occasionally" shoot high powered guns. (There has never been a gunshot fired on this property in the 12 years I've lived here. Ever. This is an example of the outright lies). They said I commit elder abuse because I respond to defend myself from a screaming aggressive old lady while walking w my family. That same lady sent my dog to the pound and told them I beat me dog. You seriously could not make up the lies. They think I set off fireworks when it is the property accross the creek that has the large man made lake. It never is us and they continue to blame us.

These people loved me and my family before they found out I was a cannabis operator. The.

They turned on us and ganged up against us. It's hard to explain how this feels with a wife and small children. I won't let them bully us. And I hope you all understand how this process has created monsters in these people. Cannabis operators have been extincted and it's incredibly sad.

Please make things more ministerial and adhering to state law. Setback need to be minimized. Ag land should be protected from groups of lying and antagonistic opposition. We thought the ordinance that passed planning 3-2 was very good. I prefer the original proposer ordinance by commissioner Andrew smith. It created more ministerial which will create the certainty needed for cannabis operators and it also will DEACTIVATE these monsters doing and saying anything they can no matter how untrue or manipulative to achieve their goals to harm cannabis operators.

It's hard to be optimistic seeing the emergency ordinance proposal. It's such a bad idea. Leave the system alone for now. Enough damage has already been done to the poor independent cannabis farmers. We were counting on chapter 26 and 38. And now we have to wait 3 years. And now they want to end ministerial path for multiple tenants. It's so bad what is happening. I'm starting to feel like this is the county turning it's back on cannabis before we have even had a chance. The spiteful liars are laughing and families like mine are considering if we can live like this anymore.

Thank you for your work. I understand how difficult this is. I will do my best to trust this process.

Sincerely,
John Loe
Loe Cannabis

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From: [john l](#)
To: [Cannabis](#); [district3](#); [district5](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)
Cc: [Andrew Smith](#)
Subject: Re: County-Empowered LIARS
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:09:19 AM

EXTERNAL

Hello,

I'm extremely sorry (and embarrassed) I was mistaken and my letter was on the public record already. Thank you McCall Miller for correcting me. I'm sorry. We are fighting for our reputations, livelihood, and existence. It's impossible to explain what it feels like to defend yourselves from the minority viewpoint people who are so loud and aggressive. They are lying about me and my loved one. It's wrong and they should be quieted and minimized rather than what the current process have been.

I intend to compose another letter as thoughtful as I can muster later this evening after a long day of work.

My prayers of strength and peace to all of you. I'm sorry things are so dramatic lately. Cannabis farmers are the ones who want peace. Please consider deactivating these local hate groups by making cannabis a more ministerial process altogether. The CUP process creates neighbor vs neighbor conflict and I can tell you how much that sucks. They won't restrict themselves with honesty. If anyone is "abusing the system" it is the neighbors making false statements and creating a panic around cannabis at every discussion.

Come see my farm. We are in a valley. No one can see or smell us. New neighbor cuts dozens of tress to see my lane view and then complains and lies. Another new neighbor has horse ranch and there is crap from donkeys and horses all over. Flies, smell, etc. They say they smell pot. Come to my farm before you believe these people.

There have been studies about what people do to each other when given a lot of power. Well, now the county has, inadvertently, given this torturous power to people to torment the cannabis operators who are working hard to stay alive in this environment.

Samantha and I know that this is hard for the county staff and everyone involved.

But, please don't be fooled by the cannabis opposition creating this hysteria based on OUTRIGHT LIES and EXAGGERATIONS to achieve their goals to harm cannabis and cannabis operators.

Come see our small farm. Why do the Behlings, the Nessenbaums, and the Gutzman's get to abuse this process and make up lies about me and cannabis?

Respectfully with thoughtful consideration,
john Loe

On Sep 20, 2021, at 10:20 AM, john l <hoopdreams1700@gmail.com> wrote:

Please add this to the public record published today. I originally sent this letter last week and I didn't see it included in the public comments released today. We're there many other letters in opposition to this ordinance that were not included as well? I'm concerned the important voices of the small farmers will not be heard over the outright inflammatory LIES being told by people like Robert Nissenbaum, marshal Behling, and Kim Robert-Gutzman.

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Come see how outlandish the neighbors comments are.

I'm available all day, please call me. I'll tour this farm and show you why you should ignore the dishonest cannabis opposers and VOTE NO.

Thank you.

Supervisors,

Thank you for you difficult work on the cannabis issues of our day.

This is a letter I sent to the cannabis department about the upcoming proposed moratorium which we are strongly against for many reason mainly that it hurts the small independent farmers like we.

Thank you again for you consideration. Have a beautiful day.

With Respect, Appreciation, and Gratitude,
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farm speaks for itself along with the straight A grades we have gotten from local and state inspections.

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And now the emergency ordinance to stop ministerial permits with multiple tenants? That was setup that was to help people like me and mark. We are family operators and small independent hard working people. We are from this Industry and are trying to stay alive through this challenging transition.

How could all the momentum turn twds the very vocal anti-cannabis crowd? The pro-cannabis people have been exhausted out of this process from the years of work and dead ends. Now we start from scratch and an emergency ordinance is proposed to give the opposition what they want. What about the pro cannabis side?

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Please be fair to cannabis operators who have invested their lives into their businesses. Nothing will ever satisfy the anti-cannabis crowd. The cannabis farmers need protections so we can live our lives without this torment.

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These people loved me and my family before they found out I was a cannabis operator. The. They turned on us and ganged up against us. It's hard to explain how this feels with a wife and small children. I won't let them bully us. And I hope you all understand how this process has created monsters in these people. Cannabis operators have been extincted and it's incredibly sad.

Please make things more ministerial and adhering to state law. Setback need to be minimized. Ag land should be protected from groups of lying and antagonistic opposition.

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Thank you for your work. I understand how difficult this is. I will do my best to trust this process.

Sincerely,
John Loe
Loe Cannabis

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From: [Lorna Strotz](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Yes on moratorium!
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:21:35 PM

EXTERNAL

Lorna and Cris Strotz
5311 and 5321 Enterprise Rd.
Glen Ellen 95442

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Linda Barr](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Cannabis Moratorium
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 7:10:35 PM

EXTERNAL

I urge you to please vote yes for the cannabis moratorium.

It's ridiculous to consider allowing more Cannabis growing in Sonoma County with the ultra severe draught that is taking place here and may continue to burden us for years. You (the supervisors) are always urging us to "save water". Now is the time for you to put your vote where your mouth is.

The last thing we need in Sonoma County is more Cannabis agriculture!!!!

Sincerely,

Linda Barr

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From: [Lisa Salmon](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Please Vote YES on Moratorium
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 9:23:53 AM

EXTERNAL

Vote YES on this moratorium:

1. Multi-tenant applications on a single parcel should not be allowed. The intention was to help small growers of 10,000 square feet or less, but this grouping of permits is an abuse that needs to stop.

Thank you!
Lisa Salmon

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From: [Monica Boettcher](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: moratorium support
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 6:13:34 PM

EXTERNAL

It is no surprise that Napa, Solano, and Marin counties ban commercial cannabis growing. It is difficult trying to integrate this business into Sonoma County. Marijuana farms will always be a problem here for many reasons: environmental, water use, neighbor compatibility.

Multi use permits are "big grows". Please don't allow any permits, extension, or penalty relief without public comment and the ability of surrounding properties to influence decisions.

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From: [marylee guinon](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Vote Yes on Cannabis Multi-tenant Urgency Moratorium ministerial permits
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:33:54 AM

EXTERNAL

Vote Yes on Cannabis Multi-tenant Urgency Moratorium ministerial permits for many reasons not limited to: limited water supply, drought and climate change, inadequate environmental analysis of this industry endrun, fire and public safety, and egregiously inadequate code enforcement.

Regards,

Marylee Guinon

Marylee Guinon LLC

354 Bohemian Highway

Freestone, CA 95472

925-260-4346 cell

707-874-9663 land line

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From: [Maira Jacobs](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#); [Cannabis](#)
Cc: [David Rabbitt](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [district3](#); [district4](#)
Subject: Please vote for Moratorium!
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:44:16 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of the supporters of Protect Our Neighborhoods (PON) group of Bennett Valley, and Bennett Valley Residents for Safe Development, we collectively express our strong support for the proposed 45-day moratorium on multi-tenant cannabis zoning permits that is being considered on September 21.

We also strongly urge the County to cease all ministerial permits for commercial marijuana cultivation or processing anywhere in Bennett Valley.

Moreover, we strongly urge the County to **designate Bennett Valley an exclusion zone, where no commercial marijuana production facilities should be allowed to operate.**

The PON group of Bennett Valley citizens formed in 2020 to actively resist the City of Santa Rosa from forcing a marijuana retail operation into our community against overwhelming neighborhood opposition, placing it steps from the doors of private residences with families and children. PON remains completely opposed to this operation being forced into our family residential neighborhood against our wishes, and the number of our supporters continues to grow.

Bennett Valley Citizens for Safe Development formed in 2017 to urge the County to not place any large commercial cannabis production facilities anywhere within the Bennett Valley Area Plan (BVAP) protected area. These commercial facilities violate every article of the BVAP, including the strict limitation on no commercial facilities in this protected view shed area with many protected species of flora and fauna, as well as protected riparian corridors.

Both groups are tightly partnered with SOS Neighborhoods and the many other neighborhood groups now fully activated in mutual support of this moratorium.

These many groups are closely coordinating, supporting each other, growing in numbers daily and now poised for whatever it takes to achieve our objectives.

We now call on the County to respect the rights of the citizenry, and the BVAP, and not allow these large commercial operations to be placed in the sensitive PROTECTED view shed of rural Bennett Valley.

We all enjoy visiting the parks, open spaces, and Matanzas Winery in Bennett Valley. It remains one of the few serene areas with natural beauty located so close to town, where all residents nearby can enjoy. We wish this area to continue to be protected from unwanted commercial development, excessive traffic, all while protecting its special view shed status, which is a local treasure.

The rural Bennett Valley area has been protected under BVAP since 1979. The protections include strict limits on any commercial development there. These commercial marijuana facilities are clearly commercial developments and should not be allowed in Bennett Valley.

Furthermore, these facilities present new and significant wildfire safety threats to the citizenry, increasing traffic on our narrow rural lanes and roads and creating unsafe evacuation conditions.

It must also be noted how these commercial production operations release vast quantities of noxious terpene pollutants, which are dangerous to human health and destroy the quality of life for all residents and visitors to Bennett Valley.

Finally, we are in an extreme drought condition, and Bennett Valley is a Class 3 water zone, with severe and restrictive replenishment of aquifers here. Bennett Valley cannot sustain this significant increased depletion of our already stretched water resources.

Please, designate Bennett Valley an exclusion zone, do not place these ghastly commercial production facilities with noxious pollutants in this protected area.

Thank you,
Moir Jacobs
for Protect Our Neighborhoods
and Bennett Valley Residents for Safe Development

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From: [Mercy Sidbury](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Vote "Yes" on the Cannabis Ordinance Multi-Tenant Urgency Moratorium
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 6:56:48 AM

EXTERNAL

To Supervisor Gorin:

I am a resident in the Fifth District of Sonoma County. I strongly urge the interim urgency ordinance to establish a moratorium on ministerial multi-tenant cannabis cultivation permits.

My concerns are several.

- Any increased use of our precious and already stretched water supply is unthinkable. Generational farmers have had their water allotments curtailed drastically and in some cases for the first time ever, and we are thinking of making it easier to permit water craving crops that don't already draw from these limited resources? This makes no sense and certainly not at this time.
- The Environmental Impact Report is slated to be conducted and any permitting should be required to fall under the guidelines that are established from this. Waiting for it to be issued so that all permits are equitably rendered is the reasonable path.
- The grouping of growers to expand the square footage of planting is an obvious abuse of the intended limit to 10,000 square feet established through community and government conversations. This loophole needs to be stopped now.
- Multi-tenant permitting makes the scope of the business operation less transparent and therefore more easily outside of the restrictions that have been worked through by community participation for cannabis permitting. Communities should be allowed to fully know the impact each permitted business has the potential to inflict on its neighborhood so as to be able to weigh in on each application.
- The sheer number of these "small" permits that have been applied for that fall in this category (increasing 500% since 2019) compared to the number of applications for permits requiring public comment (decreasing from 113 in 2019 to 3 in 2021) shows that the industry is gaming this loophole. It must stop now for there to be any functional oversight of this nascent industry in this county.

Thank you for considering my concerns when making this important decision which will impact the well-being of our county going forward.

Sincerely,
Mercy Sidbury

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From: no-reply@sonoma-county.org
To: [BOS](#)
Subject: Issue: cannabis moratorium
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 8:17:50 AM

Sent To: County of Sonoma

Topic: Issue

Subject: cannabis moratorium

Message: Please vote YES on the moratorium Bennett Valley rd is already a nightmare & a business off it would be hell for those of us who live here already hell as it is

Sender's Name: marcia wagner

Sender's Email: marcia.wagner@sbcglobal.net

Sender's Home Phone: 7075455483

Sender's Cell Phone: 7077755281

Sender's Address:

4031 savannah trl

santa risw, CA 95404

From: [Matt Walters](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Cc: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Re: Sonoma County Cannabis Updates
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:06:13 PM

EXTERNAL

Hi Supervisor Gorin,

I wanted to write to you to let you know that we are very much in support of the proposed interim moratorium on multi-tenant cannabis cultivation permits.

Additionally, we are opposed to the proposed minor subdivision at 7200 Bennett Valley Road (APN 055-150-001) to subdivide one 80 acre parcel into one 49 acre parcel and three 10+ acre parcels.

We are fairly alarmed at the growing interest in growing cannabis in Bennett Valley. We are in strong favor of prohibiting commercial cannabis cultivation in Bennett Valley as a whole to preserve its scenic beauty and to protect its water supply.

Thank you for taking the consideration of your constituents into account when making your decisions.

Matt Walters
2856 Bardy Rd
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

On Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 8:36 AM Sonoma County, CA <casonoma@public.govdelivery.com> wrote:

Sonoma County Cannabis Program



You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to Sonoma County Cannabis Updates.

The County of Sonoma Cannabis Program is proposing an interim moratorium on multi-tenant cannabis cultivation permits.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider this item on September 21, 2021 at or after 1:30 PM.

Documents for this item are available on the Cannabis Program website:

sonomacounty.ca.gov/Cannabis

Contact us at: cannabis@sonoma-county.org



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This email was sent to mattwalters@gmail.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Sonoma County, CA · 575 Administration Drive · Santa Rosa, CA 95403



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From: [Pete Gonzalez](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:38:57 AM

EXTERNAL

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Pete Gonzalez <pete@accentbrazil.com>
To: bos@sonoma-county.org <bos@sonoma-county.org>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021, 10:33:39 AM PDT
Subject:

tember 7, 2021

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

RE: MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION IN SONOMA COUNTY

Dear Supervisors:

We represent the community of Bloomfield who are trying to preserve what makes Sonoma County special: our scenic beauty and precious natural resources. The solution County wide is small cannabis grows away from residences, not in public view and not spreading noise or odor.

In Bloomfield we specifically want to protect our four hundred and forty residents' health, safety and welfare and quality of life from commercial cannabis cultivation adjacent to multiple backyards and using our inadequate residential streets for access.

On May 18, 2021 the County Supervisors denied a Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration and Cannabis Ordinance and have initiated a process to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report.

The preparation and completion of the Environmental Impact Report and the resulting Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance is estimated for public hearings in mid-2024.

Publication of the estimated dates for public hearings of the EIR and Cannabis Ordinance to 2024 encouraged an influx of permit applications.

Commercial Cannabis Cultivation applications submitted during this multi year interim period would be reviewed under an existing ordinance and environmental documents that are insufficient and lacking in environmental and health, safety and welfare considerations.

In addition, the Sonoma County General Plan is over twenty years old and does not provide adequate or comprehensive land use policies for current conditions. The Petaluma Dairy Belt area Plan was prepared thirty-six years ago and modified over thirteen years ago. Cannabis was not considered in this plan.

The State of California has declared a Drought Emergency in Sonoma County due to a severe water shortage and lack of precipitation

Allowing continued Commercial Cannabis Cultivation has the following specific potential ramifications:

*Inadequate existing setbacks from rural residential neighborhoods and unincorporated towns that do not protect the health, safety and welfare of rural residents.

*Proliferation and over concentration of commercial cannabis cultivation in the Dairy Belt area of Sonoma County. A large cannabis grow recently appeared at the Neve Bros property to the east of Bloomfield in the same watershed as Bloomfield with 67 existing wells. There is an 80,000 sf proposal adjacent to multiple backyards in Bloomfield and a well being drilled over the last three days. There are also existing grows west and south of Bloomfield in the Dairy Belt.

*Diminished air quality and lack of information adequately analyzing odor emissions as they relate to public health impacts and mitigation measures

*Inadequate existing analysis and mitigation of impacts on
groundwater supply
Loss of Farmlands
aesthetic impacts
Wildfire safety and emergency access/evacuation
Climate change and the resulting impacts on fire hazards
Replacing open space lands with cannabis cultivation and processing
Emergency response and evacuations
Traffic impacts and increase in Vehicle Miles Travelled
Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Energy Use, Wildfire safety and utility services
New or Expanded electric distribution facilities
Noise impacts

*The California Environmental Quality Act prohibits an agency from piecemeal development or “chopping up” a large project into many smaller ones each of which might individually have minimal environmental consequences but collectively create significant environmental impacts. This is what is occurring in Sonoma County and has not been addressed. The submittal adjacent to Bloomfield for eight individual applications of 10,000 sf each has a cumulative total of 80,000 sf. An example of this loophole. These applications have been submitted for ministerial processing without environmental review or hearings.

*The Supervisors’ comments have indicated the Board is in sympathy with small growers and bringing illegal grows into the mainstream to establish viable legal businesses. The EIR and ordinance development now underway are the tools needed to determine suitable sites for cannabis and how protections are provided to rural residents and all the other valuable resources in the County.

Given that the County has already approved Commercial Cannabis Cultivation on narrow substandard roads an additional influx creates unsafe conditions for safe evacuation as well as impeding access for fire fighters and first responder during a fire and,

Given that the County has already approved a well permit and the well drilling is under way for eight applications submitted to the Ag Commissioner for proposed ministerial permitting of a 80,000 sf commercial cannabis cultivation project in Bloomfield where a biotic study was initially required and the scope of the project was originally deemed to require a Conditional Use Permit

We the undersigned, request the Board of Supervisors immediately institute a

A Countywide moratorium on Commercial Cannabis Cultivation. A moratorium on new and pipeline projects is imperative to protect the public health safety and welfare, to preserve the vanishing precious water resources and to protect natural environmental resources Sonoma County is known for until the Environmental Impact Report and new cannabis ordinance is adopted and in place.

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From: [Richard A Navarro](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Cannibus permits
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 7:29:31 PM

EXTERNAL

As a property owner in Sebastopol, I urge you to not allow further Cannibus permits.
Please help us protect our neighborhoods, as well as save our water for much more urgent needs.

R. Navarro, Sebastopol

Sent from my iPad

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From: [Rudy](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Urgent moratorium
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:19:02 PM

EXTERNAL

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to appose the upcoming urgency moratorium. This rushed cannabis ordinance is extremely harmful for poor small time farmers. It is difficult as it is with all of the anti cannabis opposition imposing strict unrealistic restrictions; but for the county now to decide to squeeze out small farmers, it's ridiculous. This is feeling like a ones sided battle and the farmers are getting the short end of the stick. Please take into consideration peoples lively hood in this upcoming vote. Thank you

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From: [shawn](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: Cannabis in Sonoma County
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:39:19 AM

EXTERNAL

e: September 21, 2021 Board Meeting

Agenda Item: Consideration of a Moratorium on the Issuance of Ministerial Permits for Small Cannabis Cultivation Permits

Dear Chair Hopkins and Board:

We wish to voice our **support for** the Board's consideration of a **moratorium** on the issuance of ministerial permits for the cultivation of cannabis which is on the Board's agenda on September 21st. We are residents of [OR: property owners in] Franz Valley and are deeply concerned that the continued issuance of ministerial permits will have the effect of negatively and forever changing the landscape and livability of Sonoma County.

We understand the County's current approach is to allow for the issuance of these permits without review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and without a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). We understand the Board of Supervisors' intention in allowing these ministerial permits to be issued was to encourage small growers to legally cultivate cannabis on smaller plots of agriculturally-zoned property throughout the County.

Unfortunately, this approach has been exploited by commercial cannabis interests since the adoption of the small cannabis cultivation ordinance, especially in the last two years when the number of small permit applications went from 28 in 2019 to 94 in 2020 and a staggering 143 in 2021. In 2017 the number of CUPs requested was 113, which dropped to a mere 6 in 2020 and only 3 in 2021 which demonstrates that the commercial cannabis interests have determined how to exploit the County's ordinance. This trend started in 2020 shortly after the County began its ministerial permit program.

In the case of the Franz Valley, we understand that 11 ministerial permits have been applied for on three parcels adjacent to one another. The permit applications are all very similar to one another and were applied for by the same 4 individuals within a week's time of one another. It appears that these permits are all part of one large vertically integrated commercial cannabis operation. **They should be treated as one application for permit for a 110,000 square foot (2.75 acre) cultivation rather than as 11 permits for individual small (quarter acre) grows.**

The environmental impacts of this multi-parcel, multi-tenant approach must be evaluated under CEQA since the cumulative impacts of these 11 applications have the potential to have negative groundwater, air quality, noise, waste management and safety impacts, among many others. Further, **the loophole in the**

County's ordinance which allows these types of multi-tenant operations to flourish must be closed.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to **adopt a moratorium on the issuance of any new or renewing ministerial permits** until the County can fix its commercial cannabis ordinance. We would also urge the Board to consider the creation of inclusionary zones in which cannabis can be grown in a way that will not negatively impact other community and agricultural pursuits from an odor, safety, fire and pesticide standpoint.

Signed

Shawn Fronterhouse - Sonoma county resident
8651 Franz Valley School Road
Calistoga, CA

cc: Sheryl Bratton, County Administrator [sheryl.bratton@sonoma-county.org]

Robert Pittman, County Counsel [robert.pittman@sonoma-county.org]

Andrew Smith, Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer [andrew.smith@sonoma-county.org]

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From: [Scott Seidman](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Moratorium on ministerial multi-tenant cannabis cultivation permits
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:27:39 AM

EXTERNAL

As a concerned stakeholder in West Sonoma County, I strongly urge you to adopt an interim urgency ordinance establishing a moratorium on ministerial multi-tenant cannabis cultivation permits under the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance.

There are many reasons to adopt a moratorium on these misleading multi-tenant permits. Some of these include:

- Awaiting the results of the promised EIR on cannabis
- Considering the current and projected drought, and the impact of cannabis water demands
- Prevention of the grouping of permits as a work-around to the intent of the Ordinance
- The loss of community constituent input into the permitting process
- The exploitation of loopholes in the permitting process

Considering the vast degree of community concern over this issue, it seems only reasonable to hit a brief “pause button”, while further comment and rational consideration of the consequences of this decision can be made.

Cordially,

Scott Seidman

Freestone, CA

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From: [Joanna Cedar](#)
To: [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [district3](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [district5](#); [Christina Rivera](#); [Tennis Wick](#); [Cannabis](#); [SONOMAAG](#); [Andrew Smith](#)
Cc: [Lauren Mendelsohn](#); [board](#)
Subject: Letter from SCGA to BOS - Proposed Moratorium 092121
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:51:22 AM
Attachments: [Letter from SCGA to BOS - Proposed Moratorium 092121.pdf](#)
[NFD-Cannabish2O.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL

Hello,

The Sonoma County Growers Alliance board and policy committee submit the attached comments for your review. Also attached is a report co-authored by the Research Innovation Institute, UC Berkeley's Cannabis Research Center, and New Frontier Data ("Cannabis H2O: Water Use & Sustainability in Cultivation") that analyzes water use practices in the cannabis industry.

Best regards,

Joanna Cedar
(707) 953-5829

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Sonoma County Growers Alliance submitted two documents to be included in public comment.

The following is document one - a letter from Sonoma County Growers Alliance.

The second document:

Cannabis H2O Water Use & Sustainability in Cultivation
is available via SoCoCloud link:

<https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/llt8gQR4VCw/>



September 20, 2021

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive, Room 100A
Santa Rosa, CA 9540

bos@sonoma-county.org

Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org

David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org

district3@sonoma-county.org

jchamber@sonoma-county.org

district5@sonoma-county.org

Sonoma County Administrator's Office

christina.rivera@sonoma-county.org

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department

tennis.wick@sonoma-county.org

cannabis@sonoma-county.org

Sonoma County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures

SonomaAg@sonoma-county.org

andrew.smith@sonoma-county.org

Re: Proposed Urgency Moratorium on Multi-Tenant Zoning Permits

Dear Honorable Supervisors and County Staff:

Sonoma County Growers Alliance (SCGA) respectfully submits the following comments in response to the proposed urgency moratorium on multi-tenant cannabis zoning permits, which **we oppose** due to the impact it would have on small farmers and on the success of the county's cannabis program overall. Furthermore, we agree that those who skirt the rules and take advantage of the permitting process should be held accountable, but believe that the County should enforce its current ordinance rather than eliminating a useful pathway for everyone else.

EQUITY AND ACCESS TO LICENSING



- **The option for multiple tenants to obtain a zoning permit for small outdoor gardens is essentially the only affordable way for less advantaged and self-funded farmers to participate in Sonoma County’s cannabis program**, given the land prices in the area and the requirement that cultivation properties be at least 10 acres in size. When the multi-tenant zoning permit option was adopted the stated intent was to help small farmers, so how would taking away this pathway and forcing small farmers through a more arduous and expensive CUP process help?
- **Shutting down an affordable pathway to licensure is not in line with the State’s or the County’s stated goals related to equity.** Furthermore, it would **perpetuate the existence of the unlicensed market**, to which the vast majority of opponents’ concerns are related.
- Sonoma County is eligible for a \$1+ million grant from the State to aid cannabis operators in obtaining an annual license. How would the proposed moratorium help this at all? What does the county plan to do with this grant? It seems that **the proposed action would make it harder for cultivators, particularly small farmers, to get licensed.**

APPELLATIONS

- **Zoning permits issued by the Agriculture Department are one of the main avenues for Sonoma County cultivators to participate in the state’s new Cannabis Appellations Program.** This groundbreaking program run by the Department of Food & Agriculture will formally recognize and provide protections for terroir-based appellations of origin for cannabis. This is similar to the AVA model for wine in the United States, but goes even further (and is therefore more similar to the European appellation system) as it requires that the plants be grown directly in the ground without any artificial light. Thus, only outdoor-grown cannabis will qualify for the appellations program, which will be a major draw for tourists and will help to distinguish Sonoma County grown products from cannabis grown in regions that lack our home’s unique environmental characteristics. Furthermore, the majority of cultivators statewide who indicated an interest in the appellations program are craft farmers who grow 10,000 square feet of canopy or less. A “yes” vote on the proposed moratorium would severely hinder local operators’ ability to take advantage of this opportunity, and hinder the County’s ability to benefit from it.

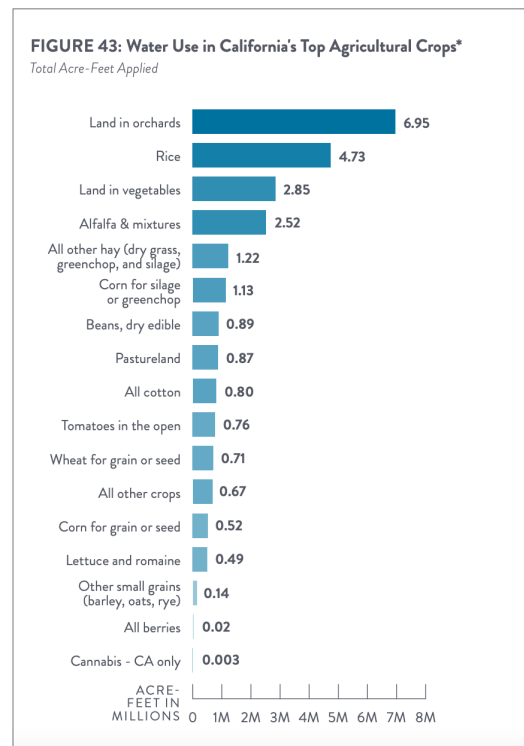
WATER & ELECTRICITY USE

- **Outdoor cultivation is more water-efficient** than greenhouse and indoor cultivation. By removing the multi-tenant outdoor zoning permit option, the County would be incentivizing



operators to grow in a less water-smart fashion, in the midst of a major drought and despite (unfounded) calls from opponents of the industry that cannabis uses too much water.

- **Outdoor cultivation is also more energy-efficient** than greenhouse and indoor cultivation. Eliminating the multi-tenant zoning permit track would make it less feasible for growers to choose this energy-smart option.
- Attached is a report coauthored by the Research Innovation Institute, UC Berkeley's Cannabis Research Center, and New Frontier Data ("Cannabis H2O: Water Use & Sustainability in Cultivation") that analyzes water use practices in the cannabis industry. **This report shows that cannabis is not a major contributor to agricultural water use in California compared to other types of farming operations, none of which have the value per acre that cannabis does.** The chart below is copied from this report.



* Water use estimates for non-cannabis use crops are from 2013. Cannabis water use estimates are from 2020.
Source: Johnson, R., Cody, B., California Agricultural Production and Irrigated Water Use, Congressional Research Service, June 30, 2015, New Frontier Data



IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

- Cannabis cultivators have contributed a significant amount of revenue to Sonoma County in the form of taxes, fees, and related charges. **The proposed moratorium would cut off a large chunk of this critical revenue.**
- Cultivation facilities provide much-needed employment opportunities for local residents, but **the proposed moratorium would eliminate many of these jobs overnight**, leading to unemployment and a strain on the economy.

NEED FOR CONSISTENCY

- Cannabis operators in Sonoma County are **tired of the county's permitting system being a moving target with changing rules**. Despite what seems like a straightforward process on paper, cannabis applications have faced roadblocks and endless staff review cycles since the program started, and even once our permits are issued there is no certainty that they will be renewed or that the regulations governing us won't change. This is not a healthy business environment; existing operators are giving up and dropping out, and potential operators are not encouraged to apply for permits here when they see the county's track record.
- We believe that **the rules which are in effect when a zoning or use permit application is submitted ought to govern the review and approval of that application**, and **the rules that are in effect when a permit is issued ought to follow that permit thorough renewal**. If a less restrictive rule is adopted, a permit holder could choose to conform to that at their option. This would provide much-needed certainty over the future of our livelihoods, and would help to re-establish trust and confidence in the program and in County staff and leadership.
- We also believe that cannabis operators ought to have **vested rights in their permits** once issued, just like other types of agricultural permits. Sonoma County would not be the first to do this; for example, cannabis permits in San Luis Obispo County run with the land.

SUGGESTIONS

- We agree that those who skirt the rules and abuse the system should be held accountable, but think that rather than removing a key pathway to licensure for small and less advantaged



operators, county staff should dedicate their efforts to **ensuring the rules that are already in place are enforced fairly.**

- Rather than placing additional restrictions on an agricultural industry that's already heavily regulated by the state and existing county rules, the Board of Supervisors should take action that would benefit both operators and the community by naming a **dedicated Cannabis Program Manager** and **reconvening a Board of Supervisors committee focused on cannabis issues.**
- Furthermore, the County should **work to align our cannabis ordinance in line with state laws and regulations.**

The opponents of the cannabis industry make it seem like all growers are out-of-towners with unlimited funding, but this is not true. The majority of operators here are locals -- *neighbors* -- who are trying to run small businesses in a nearly impossible regulatory environment with extremely high compliance costs. Our patience and our wallets are wearing thin. If this limited moratorium is adopted, then what's next? A ban on all cultivation, or a pause on the entire program? We urge the County not to head down that slippery slope, and to **vote no** on the proposed moratorium.

Sincerely,

Sonoma County Growers Alliance (SCGA)
Board of Directors & Policy Committee

From: [Thomas Menzies](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#); [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Cannabis Permits
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 12:34:39 PM

EXTERNAL

Dear Ms. Gorin,

I am a resident on Enterprise Rd., Glen Ellen, and I would like to add my voice to those encouraging a moratorium on cannabis grow permits. I think with the present drought it is not in our best interests to allow the potential large industrial scale operations that seem to be in the offing. There has been too little oversight of the ministerial permits that have already passed, as well as current applications.

Until a full review of all the implications of these activities can be performed, including environmental, water use, and neighbors' concerns, there should be a halt to any allowance of further cannabis growing in the county.

Please vote in favor of the moratorium.

Sincerely,
Thomas M. Menzies
elite14@outlook.com
6820 Enterprise Rd., Glen Ellen

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From: [Virginia Hair](#)
To: [David Rabbitt](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [district3](#); [district4](#); [district5](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Klein](#); [Scott Orr](#); [Christina Rivera](#); [Cannabis](#)
Subject: We respectfully urge you to support the Cannabis Moratorium
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:25:15 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors Rabbitt; Hopkins; Gorin; Coursey and Gore

Please Vote in Favor of the Cannabis Moratorium for the following reasons:

1. Multi-tenant applications on a single parcel should not be allowed. The intention was to help small growers of 10,000 square feet or less, but this grouping of permits is an abuse that needs to stop.
2. Water is in short supply for everyone in Sonoma County and the state as a whole. We don't need extremely thirsty cannabis cultivation during a drought.
3. The Board of Supervisors already voted to conduct an Environmental Impact Report on cannabis. Wait for that to be completed so we have a full, public picture of the possible impacts of cannabis cultivation in our county.
4. The public deserves to know what's happening in their area. When it comes to odor, traffic, visual blight and waste from plastic hoop houses, groundwater depletion, fire and public safety, and all of the cumulative impacts, neighbors should be able to weigh in on each permit application. That's not happening with these multi-tenant applications.
5. According to public records, the number of "small" permit applications has increased over 500% since 2019, going from 28 two years ago to 143 this year to date. Compare this to Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) — which allow for public comment — those have plummeted from 113 in 2019 to just 3 this year. The cannabis industry is exploiting the Ordinance and it needs to stop.
6. A Moratorium will allow County Staff time to prepare a Report on this Important Issue for your Evaluation of the Issue.

Thank you for your service to our County.

Sincerely,
Virginia Hair
Darrell Klein

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From: bspiri@aol.com
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Subject: MORATORIUM ON POT
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 6:13:31 PM

EXTERNAL

Enough! This is crazy! We are stuffing more and more people into the same square mile section of land. We don't have the water to support more development or more pot farms or more wineries. The police department don't have the man power to maintain order or safe driving. The quality of life for people who have lived here for years is just about destroyed. Cannabis farms are popping up bringing crime, smell, and crowds to people in rural areas with no input from the public (although no one is listening). We have a serious water crises with no guarantees it will get better with climate change. Enough!

We strongly support a moratorium for permits for more pot farms.

Walter Roger Spiridonoff
bspiri@aol.com

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From: [john 777777](#)
To: [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [district3](#); [district5](#); [district4](#); [district2](#); [Cannabis](#)
Cc: [Andrew Smith](#)
Subject: perspectives from the trenches of the fight for our lives and future in the Sonoma county cannabis industry
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:35:46 AM

EXTERNAL

Board of Supervisors and Commissioner Smith,

Please let all permits that are currently in the system and paid for to be processed as ministerial. The applicants have spent a lot of time and money applying for these permits. Then give them a transition to CUP with CEQA if but do not require public notice. Cannabis operators should not be subject to what these hate groups do to family cannabis farmers like mine.

The current provision allowing multiple ministerial permits is in place to help the small local cannabis farmers who have been here in the industry for years. It was to give them a chance. It was a purposeful loophole to protect the small independent county cannabis farmers. And it allowed landowners to select to work with multiple small independent farmers rather than one corporate outsider group that was well funded enough to get through the relatively impossible CUP process.

The planning department passed 3-2 a ordinance revision that allowed more ministerial permits. There were years of work and public comment. Since that was rejected by the Board of Supervisors a lot of the cannabis supporters have dropped out of the discussions including the new visioning sessions.

After years of time spent on the Chapter 38 and the many publics meetings and outreach sessions the planning department passed chapter 38 after they redlined and reviewed every line of the original chapter 38. Compromises were made on both sides and the ordinance passed planning. Since Chapter 38 was rejected by the Board the cannabis operators and groups have dropped out of the discussion and the new "visioning sessions" are filled with lopsided over-represented minority anti-cannabis neighborhood groups. Can you blame the cannabis community for giving up on the process after the dead ends over the last 5 years including just recently? Now all the vision groups are talking about more and more restrictions and roll-backs of laws favorable to the local cannabis farmers trying to stay alive. The vision groups are filled with lawyers who get paid well to organize opposition and throw their weight around. The process we are restarting is not fair. The opposition is the only group participating. That is why you see things like 1000 feet setbacks being proposed seriously. This would disqualify almost every single farm in the county. There is no effort to be honest or compromise. That was what Chapter 38 was. But since then the cannabis community has left the discussion to tend to their farms and the lawyers and anti-cannabis groups seem to be winning the day. Sticking to state law and making things ministerial is the only real solution. It's time for the next generations to be able to flourish in this county.

The stated goal was to bring the many legacy sonoma farmers into the fold. through all the changes these farmers are being broken by a broken system. Neighborhood hate groups have made their minority opinion heard and small cannabis farmers are not heard because we have to work in our

fields. After years of effort we passed a 3-2 ordinance at planning and it included protections for small cannabis farmers. Now this new emergency ordinance may be the last straw for the small farms with multiple ministerial permits and the agriculture landlords who rent to them.

Agriculture land was where the ministerial permits are used. That is how it should be. The neighborhood hate groups should not be empowered to threaten and defame farmers on their 10+ acre agriculture land.

Ministerial permits like mine require extensive Biologic Assessment studies and Archaeological studies. the setbacks from wetlands and sensitive areas are already more restrictive than any other crop even though cannabis has to be the cleanest crop due to its rigorous testing. Cannabis is by far the cleanest crop.

Already the hemp ordinance allows more of a true agriculture path for a plant that looks and smells exactly like cannabis with thc. and soon the federal government and state government will declare cannabis an agriculture crop. at that point these agriculture properties have the right to farm. Giving neighbors 2-3 years to spitefully harm their neighbor is not the answer.

Neighborhood groups want no ministerial and all CUP so they can be empowered to ruin the lives of small family cannabis farmers like my family. Cannabis operators want peace through ministerial. Neighborhood hate groups want to defame, exaggerate, and lie to bully cannabis operators so they want CUP with public notice.

what if wine was treated like this? how can we be so damaging to an industry that has been a part of sonoma county for decades?

This impossible process is contributing to the "traditional" or "black" market. no one should have to endure what sonoma cannabis farmers endure through the past 5 years. The county and the hate group members should focus on stopping the dangerous illicit activities like hard drugs and human trafficking.

what about all the jobs that will be lost when all the remaining legacy cannabis operators finally throw in the towel and leave the county? what about the arts? the restaurants? the vibrant county cannabis culture? do we forget how the cannabis industry kept the small towns in sonoma county recession-proof? do we forget the good days of large parties at hopmonk and jasper o farrels in sebastopol? the culture. the people. its not too late to turn back and embrace the cannabis community who have made this county a special place to be.

the neighbor hate groups should not be allowed to make public lies and defamation to get their way. cannabis operators dont behave like that. we are honest and only want to be left in peace so we may spend our energy farming and not emailing to save our industry from haters with an disproportionate amount of influence on the law.

my wife samantha reminded me that i have never met nissenbuam or roberts-gutzman. and i only met marshall behling once or twice years ago. he is an entitled snob of a man who likes to wear

inappropriate stretch spandex shorts around in public. He is gross and quite disturbing. well, even though i never met the two and haven't seen the latter in years they are all repeating some story about me allegedly threatening my neighbors and "occasionally shooting high powered weapons". there has never been a gun fired on this property ever in the 12 years I have lived here. Not once. So is that lie that defames me going to be addressed? and when do they suggest i threatened anyone? i literally haven't seen them or met them. another woman called my 4 pound dog to the dogcatcher and said i beat my dog. and we have nissenbaum caught on video illegally menacing us and invading the privacy of my young family with a drone. marshall behling has coached elderly neighbors like the abrams to turn against me and my family after being friends for years. we did so many favors for these neighbors but now they all join with behling and the two new rich neighbors who just moved to my neighborhood in the last couple years. they have never met me in person so its crazy how they can say these defaming things about me and my family. marshall behling is a dishonest manipulator and is hustling this process. nissenbaum and roberts-gutzman are cannabis haters that just moved to my neighborhood in the last year or two. its sick what the local cannabis farmers have to deal with. There is no one holding these spiteful and manipulative opposition groups accountable for their outright lies.

my farm will pass CEQA and so will the other ministerial permit operated on the property. we just dont want to be subjected to these jerks anymore. for the love of God please consider what it is like for us to be bullied by people like these.

this emergency ordinance should be rejected and we should take our time to make a better process like what was done for chapter 38. there isn't a rush. allow this provision to remain while we work together to pass something like Chapter 38 passed. giving this moratorium to the opposition is no way to treat this industry that has worked in good faith in years to get a smart ordinance revision to pass planning only to be rejected by the board in favor of an EIR. please leave things as they are for now. dont make it worse.

most properties surrounding agriculture properties were once part of the larger ag property and were split off. same with the easements for roads etc. now the smaller properties are ganging up on the original large ag properties farming rights. these ag properties and easements have served the other agriculture crops well for generations. there is no reason to restrict them based on the specific plant or crop. the properties should not have to beg their neighbors to farm. and the roads should not need to meet a new standard that will disqualify properties that have been used for agriculture and have used the same roads for years.

i am told that that there were no cannabis zoning permits for indoor issued this year. so there must not be a problem with multiple indoor zoning permits in a ministerial path. please allow them all to continue as the provision currently allows. or at least allow the currently submitted apps to continue through the ministerial path until renewal when they would be subject to the transition to CUP without hate groups.

we appreciate the issue with CEQA potentially needed by the state for certain large multi-tenant ministerial operations. allow the permits in process to proceed without neighborhood bully groups through the ministerial process that they signed up for. give them a chance to get started and try to

stay alive. create a path for them to start achieving their CEQA with the county's help with an assistance program. process all applications ministerially as they were submitted but make them satisfy CEQA within a reasonable period. DO NOT make these operators subject to neighborhood bully squads.

Please consider a system that calms the neighborhood groups before they become more and more aggressive. these neighborhood conflicts are a result of giving too much power to the minority opposition. they are turning into monsters and it is ruining our neighborhoods' fabric. cannabis is the future and these minority spiteful haters are stuck in their ways. and some just get off on abusing the system and damaging their neighbors any way they can. they probably brag about it to their friends like its the most righteous thing they have achieved in their lives.

i have built things, been forced to tear them down and continued on with optimism into new frontiers to lead and protect my family and loved ones. I am not some pothead screwing up the neighborhood. i have the biggest house and property in my neighborhood and it stays clean and quiet. we haven't had any disturbances in 12 years I've been here. the people men who defame me have no honor and will lie to manipulate this process. families like mine are tired of being pushed around by these immoral and dishonest people.

please protect the endangered sonoma county legacy heritage cannabis farmers. allow the ministerial path for all permits that are submitted. issue permits and allow for a pathway to do CEQA to stay local and state compliant. protect families like mine from spiteful liars and lawyers who enjoy this process because they can do or say whatever they want whether true or lies and never be held accountable.

The county seal says "Agriculture, Industry, Recreation". Ask anyone under 50 what they think about for opportunities in these three things and they will likely mention cannabis. Sonoma County should look towards the future and stop allowing the dishonest minority cannabis haters ruin the cannabis operators lives and future in this county. Agriculture land is where the cannabis cultivation belongs and it needs to be ministerial to protect the rights of the agriculture land owner and the small independent cannabis farmers.

I appreciate the Board and Commissioner Smith. This is a tough task. We pray for your strength and wisdom.

Respectfully with Exhausted Hope,
John Loe
Loe Cannabis
Loe Firehouse Glen Ellen

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From: [Janet Waring](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#); Arielle.Krout@sonoma-county.org; [David Rabbitt](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#); [James Gore](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Leo Chvi](#); [district3](#); [district4](#); [district5](#); [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Vote yes today on the Cannabis Ordinance Multi-Tenant Urgency Moratorium
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:16:19 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

I urge you to vote yes today on a moratorium on all new or renewing commercial cannabis permits (ministerial and CUP). Due to the extreme drought as well as a pending EIR study it is important to wait before any more permits are issued.

Thank you,
Janet Waring

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From: [Noelle Francis](#)
To: [district3](#); [Sheryl Bratton](#); [Debbie Latham](#); [Andrea Krout](#); [Lynn Morton-Weil](#); [Tina Thomas](#); [Jennifer Mendoza](#); [Jenny Chamberlain](#); [Keith Roberts](#); [Elise Weiland](#); [Jason Wilson](#); [Leo Chyi](#)
Cc: [Marcie Woychik](#); [Darin Bartow](#); [Kyreen Gonzalez](#); [Cannabis](#)
Subject: FW: pass the moratorium
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 8:00:43 AM

From: Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Noelle Francis <Noelle.Francis@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: FW: pass the moratorium

From: Laurie Capitelli <laurie@redoakrealty.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Susan Gorin <Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org>
Cc: Arielle Kubu-Jones <Arielle.Kubu-Jones@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: pass the moratorium

EXTERNAL

Ms.Gorin,

I urge you to pass the moratorium on cannabis permits at your Tuesday meeting.

I served on the Berkeley City Council for 12 years and, during that period, I served on a Council ad hoc committee creating regulations for the cannabis industry. It was a process that took almost a year. Many concerns were raised during that period...concerns that we would not have addressed if we had rushed to a policy.

Today the issues are even more complex. Witness that we are in the midst of a severe drought and we are dealing with a water hungry industry (and, believe me, it is an industry).

We also learned in Berkeley how the industry will game the system...and the industry is already doing so if the current permitting process (aggregation) is any measure.

Please, please go slowly on this and consider all the implications of your decision. I know there is big money involved but caution is dictated here given the unintended and unforeseen consequences.

I now have a home in Franz Valley where we are already seeing the gaming of the system with unpermitted grow facilities and attempted aggregation..

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to speak with you about my cannabis experiences while serving on the Berkeley Council.

Laurie Capitelli
7699 Franz Valley Road
510-593-9178

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From: [rmulato22](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Moratorium
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:11:51 AM

EXTERNAL

To whom this may concern,

I want to start off by saying I highly disagree with this movement of the moratorium. I would love to vote NO. I work on a small family owed farm that was only able to establish its foundation by having multiple partners team up together to pass their permits. It is very hard for small farmer at this point in time. If we wish to see big money take over this industry, similar to what we see in the wine industry, than voting yes on this movement will allow this. Please consider the repercussions this will have on our small family businesses.

Thank you for your time, Ricardo Mulato

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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From: [Samantha Smith](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Please Vote NO on Cannabis Moratorium
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:09:54 AM

EXTERNAL

To the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:

Please vote **no** on tomorrow's proposed cannabis moratorium. The moratorium will be detrimental to many of our county's small cannabis farmers.

My name is Samantha Loe. My Husband and I own a small cannabis farm along side a dear friend of ours using these ministerial permits. Achieving the permits was a year long process, incurring many costs with no income. If we had to follow the CUP process we would not have been able to afford it.

Allowing these multi tenant permits through a ministerial path has been the only way to make this process affordable for many small farms. Reversing this path will end many small farms and not make it possible for many others to start their businesses.

We recently had a project make it through the CUP process. It took 4 excruciating years at tremendous expense. Please protect our small farmers from having to go through the same experience. A majority of them cannot withstand the process.

The last proposed ordinance took years to compose and would have offered our small struggling farmers a lifeline. It is not right that it was shelved after all the hard work put into it and now an emergency ordinance is being rushed to further satisfy the opposition at the expense of our small farmers.

The law was written to allow our small local farmers to stay in the industry with out being shut out by unrealistic barriers. The vast majority of small farms are operating under the intent of this law. Please do not put many small farmers out of business to punish the few not operating under the intent of this law.

I understand what you have been tasked with is not easy. I greatly appreciate your hard work on this matter.

Samantha Loe

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