Public Comment Regarding Cannabis Ordinance and Program Update

Received October 2021

From:	Kent Dellinger
То:	Susan Gorin; David Rabbitt; Chris Coursey; district4; Lynda.hopkins@sonoma-county-org; Marcie Woychik; Cannabis
Subject: Date:	No to Commercial Cannibis Cultivation on Bennett Ridge Thursday, October 7, 2021 2:44:37 PM

The Bennett Ridge Community Association (BRCA) strongly opposes any action and legislation by the Board of Supervisors to allow any commercial cannabis cultivation in the Bennett Ridge neighborhood and adjacent properties in Bennett Valley.

The BRCA is a not-for profit organization that works to maintain the quality of life on Bennett Ridge. Bennett Ridge is a residential neighborhood consisting of 136 homes and properties on Old Bennett Ridge Road, Bardy Road, Rollo Road, and Bennett Ridge Road. Bennett Ridge is a true neighborhood in every sense of the word. We have residents of all ages including young children. Commercial Cannabis Cultivation simply is not appropriate in or compatible with our neighborhood and would have significant adverse impacts on resources and our quality of life for a number of reasons including, but not limited to:

(1) Visual and Aesthetics: the configuration, size and topography of lots results in homes being in close proximity to neighboring lots and other residences and therefore cannabis structures and any attendant lighting would be in violation of the Bennett Ridge Architectural Review Committee guidelines and would have significant visual and aesthetic impacts on residents.

(2) Water: our water is from a mutual water company with two wells for the entire neighborhood. Any non-residential use and pesticides would have a significant impact on the quantity and quality of our residential water supply

(3) Odor: given the configuration and the proximity of lots and homes if commercial cannabis cultivation with its odor was allowed in the Bennet Ridge neighborhood it would adversely impact the quality of our life and the enjoyment of our properties.

(4) Zoning, Area Plan, CC&Rs: would be contrary to the purpose of the Rural Residential zoning district, the Bennett Ridge CC&Rs and the Bennett Valley Area Plan of which the Ridge is a part. Further, the Bennett Ridge CC&Rs prohibit conducting any type of business in the neighborhood.

(5) Safety: Bennett Ridge (a) has only one narrow and winding road in and out (b) is in a high fire risk area (c) abuts Annadel State Park with hiking trails open to the public in close proximity to homes (d) has a Sheriff response time of over 30 minutes

We invite any member of the Board of Supervisors to visit the Bennett Ridge neighborhood to see for yourself how clearly incompatible commercial cannabis cultivation is with our neighborhood.

Therefore the BRCA, on behalf of the Bennett Ridge residents, strongly urge the Board of Supervisors prohibit commercial cannabis cultivation on Bennett Ridge either by prohibiting such activity in the Rural Residential Zoning Districts, placing an Exclusion Combining District on the Ridge, or by any other legislative mechanism.

We ask that you include these comments in the official record for this issue.

Respectfully Submitted: Bennett Ridge Community Association Board members: Les De La Briandais Kent Dellinger Marilee Jensen George Mangan Kathie Schmid David Southwick, M.D. George von Haunalter

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There are only less than 50 vocal and threatening anti-cannabis people who have been discriminating against their neighbors and threatening the county for far too long.

There is no way to satisfy these jerks. It has nothing to do with any smell. It has only to do with the county giving this kind of perceived power to hateful and spiteful pathetic jerks.

When will the county figure out they are getting bullied by a group of 50 vocal jerks who hate and lie?

These are the same "concerned neighbors" who will threaten and intimidate Mexican immigrants when they are only hard working painters. These racist haters are the same people who are on these public record emails making up exaggerations and using scare tactic LIES.

My painter Lizardo came to me one day and said that a woman from my neighborhood was threatening and intimidating him when he was parking to come to work on my house. It was sad to talk with him about this topic. Neighbors like this are active in these public comments LYING about everything they can in order to bully me and my family.

We have NEVER even met this LYING old lady in our lives. NOT ONCE.

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But she continues to lie on the public record about her cannabis neighbor who she names and

defames.

When will the county figure out that this is who these people are????!!!!!

These jerks know that if a 1000 foot setback is adopted that there will be zero eligible parcels and every small independent farmer will lose their livelihood. That is why they talk about 1000 feet. If the setback was already 1000 they would go for 3000. They will never be satisfied. 300 feet to a permitted residential structure is already too far. The smell is no worse (I think way better) than the crap all over the place on my fat lying spoiled neighbor's property.

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Look online and you will see that some of these washed up old lawyers are pothole lawyers who sue the county when old folks cant ride a bike on rural roads without falling in a pothole. Ambulance chasers turned cannabis haters.

Look into this topic and you will see crowd-funded legal funds that get a lot of money for hacks like these pothole lawyers to threaten the county and use intolerance and discrimination.

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It is time for the county to push back against the bullies or the county is the one to blame for it all.

Please take a look at the fine work done in CHAPTER 38. That is the last time the cannabis community was engaged in this process. Since then the 50 jerks have threatened the county enough. Push them BACK and stand behind your own PLANNING COMMISION APPROVAL that recommended CHAPTER 38 for approval.

PRMD and staff has ZERO bandwidth for any CUPs for cannabis farming. The CUP process is tragically BROKEN. How can anyone believe a local family heritage farmer could withstand 5 years and \$100k+ of expense on too of the lease or mortgage? How can the county politicians and policy makers get to say that they want to protect the family farmers and then let this all happen for years on end? When politicians say that they should be held accountable when their actions and inaction has empowered the most divisive 5 years in this county in decades at the expense of the small local farmers.

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are none left? Why do you give so much power to the mean and racist grandparents who never adapted and are stuck in their hateful ways against others who do not think or live like them?

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From:	Alice Simpson
To:	district4
Cc:	Susan Gorin; David Rabbitt; district3; district5; Cannabis
Subject:	Cannabis
Date:	Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:32:59 PM

Dear Supervisor Gore,

I reside on Wood Rd. in Fulton, in the 4th district of Sonoma County. I submitted the comments below to the Board of Supervisors at a meeting about cannabis regulation on April 10, 2018. Since I can't afford to take time off from work to attend Zoom meetings, I am sending them again now just to remind you because my views have not changed. I don't want you to think my absence at meetings or silence on the matter is a tacit approval of cannabis farming.

The only thing that has changed since I wrote these comments (aside from my derogatory opinion of the DMV - it has become much more efficient since I wrote this) is the availability of water in Sonoma County. The major storm three days ago will not likely end what is the worst drought in the known history of California. When wells and pastures are drying up and dairy farmers are having to truck in water and hay and sell herds, when city dwellers are not allowed to wash their cars or water their landscaping and face mandatory water rationing, when affordable housing projects are stymied by the water shortage, when rural residents may soon have to submit to the monitoring of ground well usage, it is the height of insanity to encourage the growing of a notoriously thirsty crop with no nutritional value. Cannabis is NOT just any other agricultural crop, and should NOT be regulated as such. With the exception of Big Pot, potheads and users of medical marijuana, the cannabis industry will NOT benefit Sonoma County residents and instead WILL cause them harm. It will NOT be a financial windfall and may cost more to regulate than it provides in tax money, and it WILL bring increased crime and misery to those residents unfortunate enough to live near a pot farm. Sonoma County should NOT attempt to be the Cannabis Capital of California.

Alice Simpson 1503 Wood Rd. Fulton, CA 95439 (707) 528-8656

Comments on Sonoma County Cannabis Land Use Ordinance

April 10, 2018

As an employer and non-pot-smoker, I voted against Prop 64 because I didn't believe it would reduce cannabis-related crime and would just lead to an increase in the number of stoned drivers on the road and stoned employees in the workplace. If you liked the sloth characters at the DMV in the animated movie "Zootopia," you'll love waiting in line at the DMV to be served by an employee stoned on pot.

As long as cannabis is still illegal at the federal level, legalizing it for recreational use in CA will not reduce crime and is likely to even increase it. My main concern is that pot farms are crime magnets that endanger every other resident in the neighborhood, as proven by recent armed home invasion robberies in which one resident was wounded and another, the father of a family, was killed. That murder occurred only about a mile and a half from where I live, too close for comfort. And now I've got a big pot farm, so far unpermitted, operating only 0.2 miles down the country road where I live, in a Diverse Ag area, with only two houses between us. I certainly don't want somebody breaking down my door in the middle of the night and waving a gun in my face because they mistook my place for the pot farm down the road. The current ordinance requires only a minimum of 300 ft from occupied residences for outdoor and mixed light greenhouses, and I don't think that's enough. I don't think commercial cannabis cultivation should be allowed anywhere even remotely near occupied residences. How far is far enough, I don't know, but far enough that there is no possibility the criminals could mistake one house for another. But there's no guarantee they will have the correct address, in which case nobody is safe.

And then there's the stench. The odor from the pot farm in my neighborhood is noticeable if you're downwind from it. Add to that the pollution of local waterways from pesticide use, possible groundwater depletion from the pumping of water required to grow cannabis, the visual blight of high, opaque fencing, and an increase in the crime rate, and I can't think of any reason why anybody would want a pot farm in their neighborhood unless they really love pot. Cannabis farms do not have a history of being good neighbors.

The only other rationale for legalizing the recreational use of pot was the argument that it would be a huge cash cow for cities, counties, and states that would profit by taxing it. But legalizing and regulating commercial cannabis cultivation isn't going to be as big a financial bonanza as governments think it will, because there will continue to be a huge black market in pot to evade taxation and regulation. The taxes are too high and the regulations, although necessary, are too onerous, especially for small farmers who will likely be driven out of business by Big Pot, just like they cannot compete with Big Ag. I'm not a fan of pot farmers, small or large, but the little guys have a genuine reason to fear they will be forced out of the legal market and will have no choice but to remain underground.

The benefits of the legalization in CA of the recreational use of marijuana are dubious. The best that can be said is that it's similar to the repeal of Prohibition. If we can't stop people from making themselves stupid by smoking pot, we can at least stop throwing them in jail for it.

The medical use of cannabis is another matter entirely, and I think the DEA should reclassify it so that the NIH can conduct clinical studies on it. While most claims of medical benefit remain unproven, and in many cases there are FDA-approved drugs that would be just as effective, I believe there is promise in the medical use of THC, CBD, and other cannabinoids. But let's get real here. We all know that most of the so-called "medical" cannabis that will be grown under any ordinance Sonoma County passes will be sold for recreational use, just as it is now. And given that commercial cannabis cultivation is likely to result in increased crime, any revision of the existing Sonoma County Land Use Ordinance should significantly increase the minimum distance between cannabis grow operations and occupied residences. And given all the negative consequences of cannabis cultivation, I don't know of any reason why the County should be in any hurry to issue permits for it. I don't think Sonoma County should emulate Mendocino County. I don't want Sonoma County to become known as the pot capital of California. I don't want criminals and potheads coming here because Sonoma County is THE place to go to get marijuana.

Alice Simpson

1503 Wood Rd.

Fulton, CA 95439

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All of a sudden our most intolerant citizens are now the ones who are making the policy and threatening our elected leaders to apply double standards that will damage their younger neighbors. When will the county stick up for the local cannabis farmers before there are none left? Why do you give so much power to the mean "senior" who never adapted and are stuck in their intolerant ways

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Have a beautiful day everyone, Adjusted with "Free Speech Filter"

THIS EMAIL ORIGINATED OUTSIDE OF THE SONOMA COUNTY EMAIL SYSTEM. Warning: If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected, do not click any web links, attachments, and never give out your user ID or password. Please add to public comment for cannabis ordinance update. My voice speaks for many and we have the right to be heard.

Ok thank you.

I believe it is important to identify the opposition and their dishonest tactics.

They seem to be allowed to say anything including exaggerations, prohibitionist scare tactics, intolerant accusations, and outright lies.

It is important that my emails give a clear alternative perspective and opinion to challenge them so they can be help responsible for their intolerance and discriminations.

The opposition and their motives should be able to be challenged on the public record to have this be slightly more fair.

I have already been targeted with direct emails and harassment by some who disagree with my public comments. But that is part of the reason why it is essential to allow for anonymous input to protect the safety of the participants.

I want my comments about the opposition posted in public comment for the ordinance update please. I want it to be on the record who these people are. We would never allow this modern day witch hunt or lynchings to continue if the victims of this discrimination were any other protected group.

Since the old timers are stuck in their ways about cannabis they act just like old timers who were stuck in their ways about blacks, Mexicans, homosexuals, Jews, etc.

It is critically important to make this case. And I believe it is my constitutionally protected right to do so.

This public comment section should not have a filter except for direct threats or criminal activity. Everything else should get to be seen and heard in the public square.

I will continue to write these important elements of the discussion and I request that they all be added to the public record for the cannabis ordinance update.

If my letters are not used I will need to have a letter to explain why. And I want to know what is the written statutory rules for the comments to be included or rejected. It doesn't matter how anyone feels when they read my work. It is my right to submit my information and opinions to challenge the intolerant opposition.

Thanks for you time.

Have a beautiful sunny day.

Henry F.

On Oct 27, 2021, at 1:37 PM, Cannabis <Cannabis@sonoma-county.org> wrote:

Not a bother.

Those comments are collected and reviewed, but have not been published online. It is not a typical practice to publish them online when not related to a hearing body item. I will take back to the team to discuss.

<!--[if !vml]-->

<image001.png> <!--[endif]-->McCall Miller Department Analyst | Cannabis Ombudsperson Sonoma County Administrator's Office E: <u>cannabis@sonoma-county.org</u> | <u>sonomacounty.ca.gov/cannabis-program</u>

Sign up for Cannabis Program Updates

The County Administrator Office's mission is to build a sustainable and equitable future for our community by making collaborative, transparent, and informed policy recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

From: Hank Ford <henryfordlutherburbank@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Cannabis <Cannabis@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: Re: FREE SPEECH & DISHONEST DISCUSSION

McCall,

I'm sorry to bother you.

I saw the letter in the public comment for the emergency moratorium already and thank you for adding that.

I could not find the original unedited letter added to the public comment for the ordinance update. I will look again. If you can please send a link.

Thanks for the work you do. I'm sure it seems thankless at times and I am sorry for that.

I don't mean to waste your time and I appreciate your help.

Have a beautiful day, HF

> On Oct 27, 2021, at 12:57 PM, Cannabis <<u>Cannabis@sonoma</u>county.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

The attached email was in the public comment packet located here (page 25) as the subject line included the multi-tenant moratorium: <u>https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/View.ashx?</u> <u>M=F&ID=9915139&GUID=DDAA45FB-A693-4C23-AD52-34F884FBF3EF</u>. The previous comments (including the one below) were included as public comment for the ordinance update and not the multi-tenant moratorium as they did not include a reference to the multi-tenant moratorium item in the subject nor the text of the email.

<image001.png>

McCall Miller Department Analyst | Cannabis Ombudsperson Sonoma County Administrator's Office E: <u>cannabis@sonoma-county.org</u> | <u>sonomacounty.ca.gov/cannabisprogram</u> <u>Sign up for Cannabis Program Updates</u>

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From: Hank Ford <<u>henryfordlutherburbank@gmail.com</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Cannabis <<u>Cannabis@sonoma-county.org</u>>
Subject: Re: FREE SPEECH & DISHONEST DISCUSSION

EXTERNAL

Hello McCall,

I reviewed the public comment for the cannabis EIR and ordinance and did not see the unedited letter or the revised letter. Would you mind sending me a link to where that has been posted?

I'd prefer the unedited with my original language and content be included in that public comment if possible.

Thank you, Hank Ford

On Oct 26, 2021, at 8:59 AM, Cannabis <<u>Cannabis@sonoma-county.org</u>> wrote:

You are welcome. I would also like to confirm that this one will also be added to the comment received for the cannabis ordinance update and not Item 19 on the 10/26/2021 agenda. Thank you,

<image001.png>

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From: Hank Ford <<u>henryfordlutherburbank@gmail.com</u>>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Cannabis <<u>Cannabis@sonoma-county.org</u>>
Subject: Re: FREE SPEECH & DISHONEST DISCUSSION

EXTERNAL

Thank you for the reply and information. Have a nice day.

On Oct 26, 2021, at 8:54 AM, Cannabis <<u>Cannabis@sonoma-county.org</u>> wrote:

Good morning,

Your previous email was not published with public comment for Item 19 on the Board of Supervisors Agenda for 10/26/2021 because it did not include a reference to the item: Extension of Urgency Ordinance No. 6354 – Cannabis Ordinance Multi-Tenant Moratorium. It was added to the comments we have been receiving with regards to the cannabis ordinance update and will be reviewed by the project manager. Let me know if you have any additional questions. Thank you,

<image001.png>

McCall Miller Department Analyst | Cannabis Ombudsperson Sonoma County Administrator's Office E: <u>cannabis@sonoma-county.org</u> | <u>sonomacounty.ca.gov/cannabis-program</u> <u>Sign up for Cannabis Program Updates</u>

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From: Hank Ford <<u>henryfordlutherburbank@gmail.com</u>>

Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:10 AM To: Cannabis <<u>Cannabis@sonoma-county.org</u>> Subject: FREE SPEECH & DISHONEST DISCUSSION

I'd like this posted to the public record. I have adjusted it because my original post was not posted. It was probably for language or some other the filter. Cannabis opposition make claims thats are lies about me but God forbid I say anything inflammatory in defense of myself. Please tell me why my email was not posted and what is the criteria for not including a public statement. Thank you very much. Be well.

It is really unfortunate how dishonest the cannabis opposition is.

There are only less than 50 vocal and threatening anti-cannabis people who have been discriminating against their neighbors and threatening the county for far too long.

There is no way to satisfy them. It has nothing to do with any smell. It has only to do with the county giving this kind of perceived power to people.

When will the county figure out they are getting bullied by a group of 50 vocal people who discriminate, use scare tactics, and lie?

These are the same "concerned neighbors" who will threaten and intimidate Mexican immigrants when they are only hard working painters. These racially-intolerant folks are the same people who are on these public record emails making up exaggerations and using scare tactic LIES.

My painter Lizardo came to me one day and said that a woman from my neighborhood was threatening and intimidating him when he was parking to come to work on my house. It was sad to talk with him about this topic. Neighbors like this are active in these public comments LYING about everything they can in order to bully me and my family.

We have NEVER even met this LYING "senior" lady in our lives. NOT ONCE.

The neighbors have a sloppy and smelly property and moved into my neighborhood a couple years ago. The are a lot like the neighbors from the Bloomfeild area. They just feel entitled to tell people what to do. Their property has donkeys and sloppy temporary crops that never seem to grow very well. Maybe they are so mean-spirited because they are no good at growing plants. Maybe the girl's horses are bummed for whatever reason. I don't know. But in any case we never did anything to bother these manipulative liars. We have never met them. Their lies keep getting progressively more ridiculous. Next comment Kim sends will probably be more fiction about her cannabis neighbor leaving a horse head on her bed like she saw in a movie. she will continue her lies with no accountability further and further.

We have lived in this neighborhood for a long time. She just moved here.

We have NEVER even met or talked to this dishonest lady in our lives. NOT ONCE.

But she continues to lie on the public record about her cannabis neighbor who she names and defames.

When will the county figure out that this is who these people are???!!!!!

These people know that if a 1000 foot setback is adopted that there will be zero eligible parcels and every small independent farmer will lose their livelihood. That is why they talk about 1000 feet. If the setback was already 1000 they would go for 3000. They will never be satisfied. 300 feet to a permitted residential structure is already too far. The smell is no worse (I think way better) than the horse droppings all over the place on my neighbor's property.

300 feet setback is too far already. Don't try to appease them.

Everyone should plant hemp next to neighbors like these.

Maybe someday the county will stand up to these kind of people who typify the 50 loud and angry "senior" people who have been given the power to destroy so many hard-working young family cannabis farmers and make them live like they are in "HECK" in SONOMA COUNTY.

It is SICK what the county is allowing to be done to honest good cannabis people.

Chapter 38 was passed by planning and it was a step in the right direction after years of work by stakeholders. After that intense effort and approved compromise was PASSED for APPROVAL by the planning commission with 3 extended public meetings and comments the BOS threw it out like it was worthless. Now the cannabis families are having the hardest year in the industry to stay alive at their farms while the intolerant 50 opposers dominate the discussion about 1000 setbacks, smell, water, roads, or any other double-standards that they can propose.

When will someone stand up for the cannabis farmers? Why do we get treated like this?

Is it so the politicians save face for the 50 threatening and manipulating dishonest folks?

Is it so that county counsel can ensure no lawsuits by 50 threatening and dishonest folks?

From the top players down to the trimmers and support staff the cannabis industry is being damaged so bad by this whole mess. We have a tough industry and difficult challenge to success without this extra garbage going on forever. That's why anyone paying attention will see that all the cannabis supporters and operators have dropped out of the new ordinance "crafting" process. The remaining 50 intolerant opposers including pothole lawyers are having the time of their lives applying this torment.

Look online and you will see that some of these anti- cannabis lawyers are pothole lawyers who sue the county when "seniors" cant ride a bike on rural roads without falling in a pothole. Ambulance chasers turned cannabis haters.

Look into this topic and you will see crowdfunded legal funds that get a lot of money for lawyers like these pothole lawyers to threaten the county and use intolerance and discrimination.

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