



SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT


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MEMO

REPORT DATE: July 16, 2020

TO: San Juan County Planning Commission

CC: Erika Shook, AICP, DCD Director

FROM: Adam Zack, Planner III 

SUBJECT: Draft Ordinance Regarding the Regulation of Marijuana Production and Processing

PUBLIC HEARING: July 17, 2020

ATTACHMENT: Public Comments Received by Noon, July 16, 2020.

PURPOSE: To provide the public comments on the draft Ordinance regarding the regulation of marijuana production and processing that were received before the public hearing on July 17, 2020.

COMMENTS: Written public comments received at marijuanacomments@sanjuanco.com before noon on July 16, 2020, are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Marijuana Ordinance Written Public Comments Received Between July 1 and 16, 2020.

Comment #	Commenter	Summary of Comment	Staff Response
1	Elisabeth Robson	Ms. Robson supports a ban on both marijuana production and processing. She is opposed to growing marijuana at an industrial scale due to environmental concerns.	<p>The draft ordinance does not propose a ban on either the production or processing of marijuana.</p> <p>The proposed regulations seek to minimize environmental impacts by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring the control of fan noise and odor output, • Categorizing the use as an industrial use rather than an agricultural use; and • Requiring the applicant comply with federal state and County standards for hazardous substances.
2	Carol Deckelbaum	Ms. Deckelbaum supports the regulations in the proposed ordinance.	

Adam Zack

From: Elisabeth Robson <bethrobson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 8:00 AM
To: Marijuana Comments
Subject: Marijuana Ordinance

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Dear Adam,

I am writing to comment on the upcoming SJC hearing on marijuana production and processing regulations.

I would like to express my support to ban both marijuana production (at the farm/industrial scale) and processing in SJC completely.

When WA state voted to legalize marijuana, I voted against it, not because I have an issue with people smoking pot now and then or with home grown pot (i.e. a very small amount in someone's back yard). The issue I have is that legalizing marijuana encourages the growth of marijuana at industrial scale, as a cash crop. We have seen this happen in other places, even where it is illegal (e.g. northern CA), as well as where it is legal.

Industrial agriculture, no matter where it takes place and no matter what crop is grown, is terrible for the environment. Prior to the state vote on marijuana, I studied the impacts of industrial marijuana growth on the environment in other locations and quickly came to the conclusion that it is unsustainable for the environment, terrible for wildlife, and pretty awful for the humans that live nearby too. So, I voted against it for the state at the time.

Since that time I have seen more proof that industrial marijuana farming and processing is bad for the environment. For instance, northern CA populations of various wild animals and birds have been dramatically impacted by water pollution, light pollution, and pesticide and herbicide use associated with industrial marijuana farming.

I also think that industrial marijuana farming in this county will encourage some nefarious characters to move here. Certainly not everyone associated with the business is "nefarious" but I think some are, and I would be very sad to see our communities be impacted by that.

Thank you,
Elisabeth Robson

Adam Zack

From: Carol Deckelbaum <carol@caroldeckelbaum.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 7:27 AM
To: Marijuana Comments
Subject: Marijuana Ordinance

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the San Juan County Planning Commission :

I am writing today to express my full support and gratitude for the proposed marijuana production and processing regulations. As written and if codified, our county will have taken some of the most basic and important safeguards to ensure that this new industry does not overtake agricultural food production in our small communities, as well as protect our environment from chemicals, over water-usage and odors.

Thank you all for your hard work and for remaining diligent on this issue. It is truly appreciated.

Carol Deckelbaum
111 Gallanger Place
Lopez island, WA. 98261

Sent from my 