



# County of Santa Cruz

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ  
FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS  
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT  
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS  
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST  
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 5/18/99

April 29, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: COUNTY POLICIES REGULATING THE STORAGE AND FREQUENCY  
OF INSPECTIONS OF AGRICULTURAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is a letter from Michael Theriot, President of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, regarding the County's policies regulating the storage and frequency of inspection of agricultural hazardous materials. Specifically, the Farm Bureau believes that with recent changes in State law, the County's policies go beyond those required by the State. Therefore, the Farm Bureau is requesting that changes be made in Santa Cruz County policies to mirror the requirements of the State.

In response to their request, I recommend that the Board direct County Counsel to review the relevant provisions of State law, consult with the Environmental Health Department and the Agricultural Commissioner, and return to the Board on or before June 22, 1999, with any recommendation for Board consideration.

Sincerely,

JEFF ALMQUIST, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

JA:ted  
Attachment

cc: Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
County Counsel  
Environmental Health Department  
Agricultural Commissioner

1446A6



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
*Farm Bureau*

April 20, 1999

Jeff Almquist, Chair  
 Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
 701 Ocean St.  
 Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Members of the Board:

In 1988, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance regulating the storage of hazardous materials. The adoption of this ordinance was a result of potential exposure to the public, emergency response personnel and the environment due to fire or natural disasters.

This program is financed by fees and its provisions are enforced by the Environmental Health Department. An amendment to this ordinance became effective in January of this year. At the same time, state legislation was phased in that essentially covers the same areas as the county ordinance. There are, however, some areas where the county ordinance is more stringent than the new state requirements.

Our concern is in regard to the frequency of inspections required by the county ordinance. The state law requires an inspection every three years while the county ordinance requires them on an annual basis. A survey of a number of agricultural counties reported that they are governed by the California standards.

Several Santa Cruz County growers have stated they believe that the ordinance is excessive regulation and increased their costs in comparison to other agricultural counties. In fact, the common practice of changing motor oil and storing it on the premises will be discontinued by many.

Those who would choose to participate in the Monterey County proposed Regional Used Oil Recycling Program would find themselves in violation of the Santa Cruz County ordinance.

We are requesting that the Board of Supervisors consider rescinding those portions of the county ordinance that concern the storage and frequency of inspection for agricultural hazardous materials and conform with the new requirements that are provided for in the state law.

We would be pleased to work with the Environmental Health Department in implementing the requested changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Theriot". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "M" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Theriot,  
President

MT/mkw

cc: Diane Evans, Environmental Health