

Dear Michael Sapunor,

June 1, 2022

Shortly ago I received in the mail the county's notice of Item #4. 211130, which is Matthew Huse's application for a 6,000 square foot cannabis cultivation facility on Hawk Crest Road. I am writing as a resident who would like to voice their objection to the permitting of this cannabis facility. I know several other neighbors are similarly worried. And I hope they choose to speak out as well.

The cultivation of marijuana and the manufacturing of drugs is a risk to our community, and is at odds with our otherwise peaceful neighborhood of families. While there are many concerns with this proposal, I wish to highlight only a few in a clear and concise manner.

The production of drugs attracts crime and violence. While we all know this to be intuitively true, we also don't have to look far for concrete examples. Not long ago Tushar Atre was kidnapped at gunpoint in the middle of the night, bound, robbed, and then brutally murdered. His kidnappers brought him to his grow operation (which is just down the street from us) where he was killed. There is no question that these pot farms deal in large quantities of cash and drugs, which inevitably attract a dangerous criminal element that would otherwise be entirely absent from our neighborhood.

Violent crime is not the only immediate risk. In 2017, we watched a fire from our backyards rage across the Santa Cruz mountains, burning thousands of acres of wilderness, destroying a dozen homes, and forcing many to flee. That fire was started from a grow operation which was a very short distance from us. Had the winds blown a different direction, it would have been our homes that were lost. And while fires are a real risk for anyone in the Santa Cruz Mountains, they are of particular concern for all of us who live on a long dead end road with only one way out, (as we do on Long Ridge Road). Like the robbery and murder Tushar Atre, the risk of a catastrophic fire from a grow operation is not just hypothetical; it is real and has already happened in our community.

Beyond the immediate risk of violence and fire, there are many other environmental concerns. Grow operations are notoriously detrimental to the environment: there are dangerous pesticides, erosion and water-run off, etc... What confidence should neighbors have that environmental concerns are a priority for this proposed facility?

For years, Hawk Crest has been the home of illegal rentals, and illegal grow operations - that hurt property values and objectively made the neighborhood less safe. Please do not encourage this behavior by formalizing a 6,000 square foot cannabis operation in our neighborhood, but instead enforce the laws that already exist along Hawk Crest.

- A Concerned Neighbor

Michael Lam

From: Meyerhofer, Peter <Peter.Meyerhofer@kimley-horn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:55 AM
To: Michael Sapunor
Cc: Darci Meyerhofer
Subject: RE: Notice of Public Hearing: Item #4. 211130

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Thank you Michael for the quick response and background information, much appreciated. Look forward to seeing the accompanying staff report and exhibits when available.

Thanks,

Peter

From: Michael Sapunor <Michael.Sapunor@santacruzcounty.us>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 12:39 PM
To: Meyerhofer, Peter <Peter.Meyerhofer@kimley-horn.com>
Cc: Darci Meyerhofer <darcerina@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Notice of Public Hearing: Item #4. 211130

Hello Mr. Meyerhofer,

Yes, the owner of 500 Hawk Crest Rd. (Matthew Huse) is applying for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to cultivate, process and distribute commercial cannabis. A remote/Zoom hearing before the Zoning Administrator is scheduled for June 3rd. The staff report for and exhibits for the proposal are being finalized this week, and a link to these documents will be posted on the ZA website (<https://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/planning/plnmeetings/ASP/Display/ASPX/DisplayAgenda.aspx?MeetingDate=6/3/2022&MeetingType=2>) on Friday, May 27th. You are most welcome to participate in the hearing; there will be time to address questions and concerns to the Zoning Administrator and/or Project Planner during the hearing on this item.

In advance of the hearing, I encourage you to review the staff report and project plans, including the site and project description, the "Best Management and Operations Plan (BMOP)", the CEQA documentation and staff determination, and the "Conditions of Approval". Please note that a review of physical and operational security measures specific to the location, type, and extent of the proposed operation has been conducted by the Sheriff's Office and a security plan accepted by the Cannabis Licensing Manager. Although the operational details are kept confidential, the attached .pdf files include a description of the security requirements (form 1008a. "Outdoor Cultivation Operations Outside USL") pertaining to the proposed licensed cannabis business at 500 Hawk Crest Rd. Also note that CUP applicants for cannabis businesses, following discretionary permit approval, are required to apply for any necessary building and/or grading permits and County and State-issued cannabis business licenses. In addition to meeting the specific "Conditions of Approval" of the discretionary permit, cannabis cultivation licensees must comply with the County-adopted "compliance conditions for cannabis cultivation projects" (attached) and the State's requirements for commercial cannabis cultivation.

Since February 2018, Mr. Huse has been legally cultivating cannabis outdoors under a temporary County authorization and a State-issued provisional commercial cultivation license. The County Cannabis Licensing Office has, to date, conducted quarterly compliance inspections of Mr. Huse's operation and found no

deficiencies. Please note that the Sheriff's Office and CLO Code Compliance staff have twice abated illegal cannabis grows on a neighboring property (to the west of 500 Hawk Crest Rd.) in 2020 and 2021. If you observe or suspect illegal cannabis activity in your neighborhood, please contact our Code Compliance staff at 831-454-3833 or file an online complaint here: (<https://www.sccocannabis.us/Home/Compliance.aspx>).

Feel free to contact me by e-mail if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Michael Sapunor

Resource Planner IV
Cannabis Licensing Office
(831) 454-3405
michael.sapunor@santacruzcounty.us



From: Meyerhofer, Peter <Peter.Meyerhofer@kimley-horn.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 6:51 PM
To: Michael Sapunor <Michael.Sapunor@santacruzcounty.us>
Cc: Darci Meyerhofer <darcerina@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Notice of Public Hearing: Item #4. 211130

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Good afternoon Mr. Sapunor,

I am contacting you in regards to the notice we received by mail today in regards to the proposal to operate a "Class CU" outdoor cannabis facility (max. 6,000 SF of canopy) located at 500 Hawk Crest Rd., Los Gatos 95033. This is the first time we have been made aware of this proposal.

Myself and family live in a single family home directly adjacent to the subject property. Other cannabis operations along Hawk Crest Rd further away (legal or illegal I'm not sure) already create odors during processing that are very unpleasant. Having a larger cannabis operation directly adjacent to us has us very concerned, both due to noise, light, and odor. We are further concerned that said issues due to noise, light, and odor will have a negative impact on both our quality of life as well as potential severe negative affect on our property value. Note – noise, light, and odor are key issues required to be addressed by CEQA and I don't see that this process has been performed or is currently being required to be performed by the County with this proposed development.

Please let me know what actions can be taken on our behalf to address this situation and our concerns regarding this proposal and what we can do personally to address these concerns. I understand there is a public hearing on June 3rd and will attend and comment if you feel this will assist in addressing our concerns.

Thanks in advance,
Peter Meyerhofer

Peter Meyerhofer, P.E.

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