

# W.E. WATCH

Women's Environmental Watch. P.O. Box 830, Solvang, CA 93464  
Serving the Santa Ynez Valley community since 1992

October 8, 2009

Joseph Centeno, Chair  
Salud Carbajal  
Janet Wolf  
Doreen Farr  
Joni Gray  
Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
205 East Anapamu Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Case No. 09CUP-00000-00021, Crossroads

Dear Chairman Centeno and Supervisors,

The request before you is a CUP, essentially special events permit, for up to 25 events each with 250 attendees plus the ability to apply for a separate Land Use Permit for larger special events.

In 2007 when the original request for 32 events was put forth by the previous owner, W.E. Watch was opposed, and we remain opposed to the current CUP request.

In this particular instance the parcel is approximately 54 acres with 11 of those acres planted in grapes. Planning and Development has found that the requested events would not interfere with this proportionately small agricultural activity. This is true; but, then one must ask is the proposed commercial activity subordinate to the agricultural activity or are we endorsing a "tail wagging the dog" scenario. By granting the requested CUP, would this property become a special events site with a few grapes?

The County needs a comprehensive policy covering special events on agriculturally zoned lands. There are literally hundreds of AG zoned parcels which are eligible for special events CUP's. Without a cohesive policy structure, both property owners and the community are vulnerable to the vagaries of a disjointed permitting process.

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Crossroads - Special Events CUP  
October 8, 2009

W.E. Watch requests that you withhold the issuance of this and any other pending CUP for special events until a clear policy reflecting today's realities can be formulated.

These questions are not exclusive to Santa Barbara County. San Luis Obispo is wrestling with these issues. There are many viable approaches to insuring special events are inferior to agricultural activities. All of these should be explored in the development of a cohesive policy devoted to special events on agricultural land. We urge you to initiate this process. Should you desire community involvement in such an effort, W.E. Watch would welcome the opportunity to participate.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Cathie McHenry  
President