



For Immediate Release – November 8, 2019

Press Contact:

Tricia Piper-Bennett

E: info@goodfarmersgreatneighbors.com

M: (415) 914-5511

After Lengthy Appeal Process, North County Cannabis Farm Prevails

Following two days of deliberations, Busy Bee Organics received a unanimous approval from County Planning Commissioners

Buellton, CA- After an appeal hearing on October 30th that resulted in a continuation on November 7th, Sara Rotman and husband Nate Diaz can finally get back to farming. Sara and Nate have operated Busy Bee Organics, a legal cannabis farm in Buellton, since 2015. But their farm, both business and sole source of income, as well as their family home, became jeopardized by an appeal against the farm's land use permit.

Over thirty farmers, neighbors, and industry professionals joined Sara and Nate at the planning commission hearings, providing public comment in support of their farming practices and workings with nearby farmers and neighbors.

Ray Amby, who is a conventional farmer and a neighbor to Busy Bee Organics, said, "I've known Sara and Nate since they came here in 2014. We've been farming next to one another, our crops not more than fifty feet apart, for five years with zero conflicts. Their farm is compatible with ours. My family and I support their project and their right to farm here in Santa Barbara County."

Following almost ten hours of deliberations across two hearing dates, the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve their project.

"I'm deeply touched by the overwhelming support of the community at large, with so many fellow farmers, neighbors, friends, women business leaders, and local public officials who took the time to affirm the work that my husband and I invested into developing an exceptional organic cannabis farmland," stated Sara Rotman, CEO of Busy Bee Organics and Co-chair of Good Farmers Great Neighbors.

Good Farmers Great Neighbors (www.goodfarmersgreatneighbors.com) is a collective of Santa Barbara County cannabis industry leaders who believe that Cannabis farming is good for County jobs and our local economy. We promote best practices for sustainable growing, a healthy community and environment, and advocate for good neighbor community engagement to dispel the myths surrounding cannabis and cannabis production to help the industry thrive.

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