

From: [Tom Deardorff II](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Ordinance to Prohibit Camping near Agricultural Fields
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:50:01 AM
Attachments: [McWane Blvd, Oxnard CA on January 21, 2025 - Small.mov](#)

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We strongly support a clear and enforceable prohibition to camping and homeless encampments adjacent to farming operations (and "adjacent" needs to include both sides of the street).

We have attempted for years to get the City of Oxnard, the Oxnard Police Department, the Ventura County Sheriff or anyone to help us with this issue. Below is a recent email I sent to various of those entities. NOT A SINGLE PERSON REPLIED TO MY EMAIL. In the past, when they do reply they simply say they "cannot do anything about it". That is not leadership, that is a failure of government to take care of a clear and present danger to public safety. We applaud your efforts to make a change and fully support any efforts to eliminate the risk these encampments pose to public safety.

Interestingly, and not surprisingly, a fire broke out at very site I referenced in my email just two days after my email.



Brush Fire sparks concerns near Hueneme Road and Ormond Beach
keyt.com

This is a huge health and safety issue. In addition to the fire, we have had employees threatened, dog attacks, people sleeping in the fields, defecating in the fields, stealing, vandalism, rampant evidence of drug use, trash, and illegal dumping. This is Ventura County and it looks and acts like a third world country. We also have operations in Mexico and I can assure you that the conditions in Mexico are much cleaner than those allowed in Ventura County. That a very sad commentary on what our elected "leaders" allow to exist here.

Ventura County agriculture is a leader in food safety innovation and implementation. As a result, we enjoy a fantastic reputation in the global supply chain of fresh fruits and vegetables. On the troubled sites where the County allows these encampments, we use fencing, security patrols, and we increase scouting of fields as well as water, soil, and product testing. However, we cannot control those areas adjacent to our fields that are your responsibility - the

streets, water ways, and public lands. You need to match our commitment to the safety of our food and the people who produce it. If you don't, the reputation and sustainability of the entire \$2B ag industry in Ventura County is at risk. It only takes one food safety issue to ruin the reputation of Ventura County produce and uncover our local government's lack of commitment to the people and products that are part of our production system. Do not let that happen.

Thank you again for taking up this issue.

Tom Deardorff, II

Deardorff Family Farms | [Website](#)

Office: 805.487.7801 (ext 107)

Cell: 805.207.5200

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Deardorff II <tom@dff.farm>

Subject: McWane Blvd, Oxnard CA on January 21, 2025

Date: January 21, 2025 at 3:52:57 PM PST

To: "john.zaragoza@oxnard.org" <john.zaragoza@oxnard.org>, "jason.benites@oxnardpd.org" <jason.benites@oxnardpd.org>

Cc: "todd.johnson@oxnardpd.org" <todd.johnson@oxnardpd.org>, "jose.silva@oxnardpd.org" <jose.silva@oxnardpd.org>, "korinne.bell@ventura.org" <korinne.bell@ventura.org>, Pete Dixon <peter.dixon@TNC.ORG>, Ben Zanger <BZanger@spfarms.com>, Scott Deardorff <scott@dff.farm>

As most of know, we have been battling the difficult conditions along McWane Boulevard for years - homeless encampments, trespassing, trash, stealing tractors, vandalizing equipment, defecating in the fields, threatening our workers, and more. We have been farming in Oxnard for four generations and we always do our best to improve the areas we farm and protect the workers that help us run our business. The conditions that the City of Oxnard allow to exist along McWane have made that difficult for us to accomplish over the years, but we battled to do our best with the help of many of you.

Unfortunately, the conditions get worse over time - not better. I have attached a video from today to show you what Oxnard has turned into - a literal waste dump of trash (that you can also see they burn in the streets from the marks left behind) and a litany of RVs in a homeless encampment. The trash is blowing into our fields, the homeless are cutting holes in the fences to trespass into our fields to use them as restrooms, contractors are dumping dirt and rocks along the street, and birds, rats, stray dogs and other animals have come to eat the trash and then end up defecating in our fields. It is a mess.

Please let us know what we can do to help you clean this up. We can not exist like this. Oxnard can not exist like this. We are committed to helping, but need someone on this email to take the lead and fix the issue once and for all.

Thank you for your attention.

Tom Deardorff, II

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