



VENTURA COUNTY

Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee

Planning Division
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Mr. Ward,

We thank you again for your staff's March 13th, 2024 Ventura County Planner presentation on the proposed SOAR-enabled Local Food Processing Ordinance. The APAC supports the ordinance and the effort to increase local processing of agricultural products. To that end, APAC writes this letter to raise concerns regarding ordinance specifics that would limit the effectiveness of the ordinance and propose changes to address these concerns:

- The 2030 deadline for implementation of these facilities is not only restricting, but needlessly so. This could be addressed through a Board initiated SOAR vote to remove the 2030 deadline and make the provision expire along the entirety of SOAR.
- By prohibiting these facilities on lands with native vegetation or Prime, Statewide Importance, or Unique classified soils the ordinance as proposed would find few if any eligible lands. Especially as those potential lands are in mountainous areas that are unlikely to be able to support these facilities. Removing the absolute restriction on permitting these facilities on sites with native vegetation and/or classified soils would greatly increase the eligible acres and utility of the proposed ordinance.
- General Standards section b. is worded such that once a facility is constructed under this ordinance it may only source ingredients for processed commodities from Ventura County. Furthermore, the language would prevent construction of a facility which processes the same commodity as an existing facility permitted under this ordinance. These could be addressed by revising section b. to read:
 - "Locally grown food processing facilities shall include the processing of agricultural products that are grown or produced on the subject lot or locally."
- General Standards section g. places restrictions above and beyond what is currently permissible on agricultural properties through existing Zoning Ordinance restrictions. Removal of section g. would address this issue.

County of Ventura
Planning Commission Hearing
Case No. PL24-0027
Exhibit 7 – Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee Letter of Support

We respectfully request you accept these recommendations and incorporate them into your revisions to the ordinance prior to approval and implementation.



Sanger Hedrick, Chair,
District 2




Scott Deardorff, District 1

Josh Waters, District 4



Lisa Tate, District 3



Bobby Jones (Mar 27, 2024 09:55 PDT)

Bobby Jones, District 5