

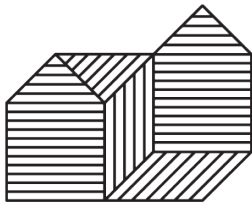
From: [licensing](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [licensing](#); [Retail Compliance](#)
Subject: Public Comment Letter - Proposed Ordinance Adjusting Tax Rates of Cannabis Business
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 11:26:24 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Farmacy SB Public Comment Proposed Tax Increase 2.24.2026.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

Please find attached a Public Comment Letter in opposition to the Proposed Ordinance Adjusting Cannabis Business Tax Rates from 6% to 8%, which is to be heard during the Finance Committee Meeting this afternoon (Agenda item #3).

Thank you for your time and consideration,



GLASS HOUSE
BRANDS

Katie Lea
Senior Regulatory Analyst
737-471-5011
3645 Long Beach Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90807
www.glasshousebrands.com

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From: Farmacy SB, Inc. dba The Farmacy
128 W. Mission St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

February 24, 2026

RE: Public Comment in Opposition to Proposed Ordinance Adjusting Cannabis Business Tax Rates from 6% to 8%

Dear Finance Committee and Members of the Santa Barbara City Council:

This letter is written on behalf of The Farmacy, a licensed cannabis retailer operating in the City of Santa Barbara, to formally oppose the proposed ordinance that would increase the local cannabis business tax rate from 6% to 8%. *While we acknowledge the Finance Committee's directive to explore revenue options in response to growing General Fund deficits, we believe this proposal is the wrong mechanism, applied to the wrong industry, at the wrong time. Instead, it is likely that unintended consequences will occur by forcing customers to purchase similar goods outside the City of Santa Barbara which in turn which significantly reduces the tax revenue of the City of Santa Barbara.* Increasing the rate from 6% to 8% reflects an effective 33% increase in the local cannabis tax rate. In short, we respectfully urge the Council to reject this proposal.

1. A 2% City Tax Premium Will Drive Customers Outside the City of Santa Barbara, Directly to Neighboring Jurisdictions

This is the most direct and immediate consequence the Council should consider. Licensed cannabis retailers operating in unincorporated Santa Barbara County are subject to a 6% local cannabis tax — the same rate the City of Santa Barbara currently charges.

Neighboring cities cannabis tax rates are even lower. If this ordinance passes, the City of Santa Barbara retailers will carry a tax disadvantage relative to neighboring competitors, some of whom operate within a short drive of the City of Santa Barbara's borders.

Consumers are highly price sensitive and therefore, any increase in price on products will cause customers to shift their behavior by seeking alternative sources at lower prices. The predictable result is not that the City of Santa Barbara residents stop buying cannabis — it is that they buy it at another store instead, taking their sales tax dollars and cannabis tax

dollars with them. In effect, the City of Santa Barbara would be taxing its own retailers, which would put businesses like The Pharmacy at a competitive disadvantage, while other local governments would receive the revenue benefit. This geographic competition risk has been predicted and proven in other California areas. There is no reason to expect a different outcome for the City of Santa Barbara. We respectfully request that the Council require its staff to present models which show the revenue impact of sales volume decline before voting on the change to account for this elasticity.

2. Higher Taxes Strengthen the Illicit Market and Erode the Tax Base the City Depends On

Beyond competition with county retailers, City of Santa Barbara customers also have access to unlicensed operators — delivery services and illicit sellers who pay no taxes whatsoever and face none of the compliance costs that licensed retailers absorb. Price is the primary variable driving consumer choice between the legal and illicit market. Every tax increase from a licensed retailer narrows the price gap between regulated and unregulated cannabis and redirects consumers towards the illicit market. The result is not additional revenue for the General Fund — it is fewer taxable transactions, lower sales volume for licensed operators in the City of Santa Barbara, and a stronger illicit market.

3. This Is the Wrong Time for a Rate Increase

Licensed cannabis retailers in California have faced significant headwinds over the past 2 years. Operators across the state have confronted rising inflation, oversupply conditions, persistent illicit market competition, and rising operational costs that cannot be passed on to consumers without further accelerating customer attrition to untaxed or lower tax alternatives. Many licensed retailers are operating on margins that leave little room to absorb additional tax obligations. *Imposing a 33% local tax rate increase in this environment will not produce a proportional revenue increase for the City and instead, is likely to accelerate store closures, loss of jobs, reduce the number of licensed operators in Santa Barbara, and shrink the taxable base the City of Santa Barbara is counting on for sustained revenue.*

4. The Recommended Approach: Foster Industry Growth and Protect the City's Long-Term Tax Base

If the Council's goal is to maximize the long-term fiscal contribution of cannabis to the City of Santa Barbara, the more effective path forward is by allowing licensed retailers to grow sales volume. To accomplish this, the City of Santa Barbara should not impose a rate increase because the direct effect will substantially reduce sales volumes. A healthy, competitive licensed market with strong and sustainable growth in sales revenue over time will result in increased tax revenue for the City of Santa Barbara.

Conclusion

We respectfully urge the Council to reject the proposed ordinance and support the City of Santa Barbara's reputation as a well-regulated cannabis municipality that attracts consumers rather than drives City customers toward alternatives. It is worth noting that City retailers are already operating at a competitive disadvantage relative to surrounding jurisdictions — Santa Barbara's prohibition on cannabis sales before 10:00 a.m. restricts revenue-generating hours that county competitors do not forfeit. Layering a higher tax rate on top of existing operational restrictions compounds that disadvantage.

We welcome a collaborative conversation with the Council and City staff about how retailers and the City can work together to grow the market and protect the revenue stream both depend on.

Sincerely,



Katy Hall, VP of Compliance
Farmacy SB, Inc. dba The Farmacy
Licensed Cannabis Retailer – City of Santa Barbara
License No. C10-0000293-LIC

From: [John M. Baucke](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Allison DeBusk](#); [Kelly R. McAdoo](#)
Subject: Item 2 Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District - City Council Finance Committee - February 24, 2026
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 9:54:22 AM
Attachments: [Establishing an Enhanced Finance District.pdf](#)

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Sarah:

Please find my written comments regarding Item 2 Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District attached. Please distribute to the Finance Committee and the other members of the City Council.

I would like to personally thank Allison DeBusk for bringing this matter to my attention on Thursday afternoon allowing me to spend the time this weekend reading the Staff Report and attachments.

The staff report provides a well written and good summary and analysis of the details of benefits and limitations and procedural steps required for formation of an EIFD.

I would have loved to attend and make my comments orally to the Finance Committee however I will be on the road tomorrow. I will try to join in remotely if the timing and logistics of such can be successful during my travels.

Sincerely,

John M. Baucke
Planning Commissioner
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

MEMORANDUM

AGENDA DATE: February 24, 2026

TO: Finance Committee

FROM: John M. Baucke

SUBJECT: Establishing an Enhanced Finance District

I would like to thank Finance Director Keith Demartini and City Administrator Kelly McAdoo and staff for bringing the consideration for establishing an Enhanced infrastructure Finance District (EIFD) before this committee.

A number of years back on April 28, 2022 at the Joint City Council and Planning Commission work session on the Housing Element I raised the idea of consideration of the concept of land value recapture and specifically the use of an Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District to fund affordable housing and other priority infrastructure.

This concept was brought forth based on my long experience with redevelopment agencies from the “glory days” when they provided significant amounts of housing and “Capital A” Affordable housing, and first hand experience of seeing the ramification of the demise of redevelopment in California.

The State Legislature for a number of years debated and tried to find a replacement for redevelopment agencies which were dissolved in 2011 (ABX1 26 Blumenfield). On January 1, 2015, Senate Bill 628 (Beall) established the ability of cities and counties to create an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD). As noted in the legislative analysis on SB 628 this was to be the answer to fill the post-redevelopment public financing void. Unfortunately, experience showed that it was hard to meet all the conditions and requirements contained in SB 628. Only a few cities and counties established EIFD’s. However during the last decade a number of amendments and clarifications have been made to the EIFD statute which has resulted in greater use by cities and counties in recent years.

The staff report provides a well written and good summary and analysis of the details of benefits and limitations and procedural steps required for formation of an EIFD.

The City’s record on meeting the production of Moderate, Low, and Very Low income units required under the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) has clearly not been successful. The private sector under the State’s Density Bonus Law will only provide a very small fraction of the affordable housing the City is required to produce under RHNA. This reality requires a structural change to the business as usual, mandating direct funding to the City’s Housing Trust Fund for the creation of “Capital A” affordable housing. Leveraging funds captured from future growth in tax increment through an EIFD with Tax-Credit Financing through the Housing

Authority is the only hope the City has to actually address the fundamental economic realities of affordable housing.

As shown in the Appendix "Summary of Development Assumptions" a significant amount of development is in the pipeline and if an EIFD is in place **millions of dollars** can be collected to be used for affordable housing and other infrastructure projects with community-wide benefits. This list is just the currently identified development projects, it is reasonable to expect with the mandates from the State there will be many more projects in the coming years. Having an EIFD in place will also capture the assessed value increases from future projects.

The establishment of an EIFD is the one and only and best method that currently exists that can be used to capture significant land value changes that will be headed the City's way now and in the future.

I strongly recommend that the Finance Committee recommend that the City City authorize staff to return with a resolution of intention to establish an EIFD and initiate the required statutory steps.

From: [PAUL LEO FRY-AMBROSE](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [Sheena.Blair@gmail.com](#); [admin@ctparanormal.org](#); [adminastation@sbod.com](#); [New5](#); [New9](#); [beth](#); [New](#); [david](#); [Bill Macfadven](#); [New](#); [New14](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#)
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9:06:35 AM

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From: [Barbara Andersen](#)
To: [Aron Ashland](#)
Cc: [Kelly R. McAdoo](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [Nicole Grisanti](#)
Subject: RE: Faro Center Operations and Drop In Services
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 6:56:41 AM

Good morning Aaron,

As a follow-up to my communication last night, and given the amount of documentation that you're requesting, can you please submit a formal Public Records Act Request here: [Home - OneRequest](#).

This will assist the City Clerk's Office in tracking the information and data requested and having it readily available for reference.

Thank you so much,
Barbara

Barbara Andersen
Senior Assistant to the City Administrator
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, City Administrator's Office
(805) 564-5302 | bandersen@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

From: Barbara Andersen
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 10:02 PM
To: Aron Ashland <aron@thecruisery.com>
Cc: Kelly R. McAdoo <KMcAdoo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Santa Barbara City Council <SBCityCouncil@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Subject: Re: Faro Center Operations and Drop In Services

Aron,

I can provide you the information that you requested, but it will take some time to pull it all together as well as to include additional background on the primary objectives for the City's investment in the Downtown Navigation Center and why the City needed to limit public access due to poor site management. Though, you'll see in the data that has been provided by SB ACT that although the FARO Center staff is seeing less clients, the housing outcomes remain the same (8-10% of total clients served are placed into interim or permanent housing).

I'm facilitating focus groups this week and next week regarding the proposed rent stabilization ordinance and program that is one of the highest priorities for Council so I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Thank you for your interest and engagement,
Barbara

On Feb 24, 2026, at 7:24 PM, Aron Ashland <aron@thecruisery.com> wrote:

Hi Barbara,

Thank you for reaching out. Yes, I'm open to a conversation, and I appreciate the offer.

Before we meet, I'd like to make sure we're working from the same set of facts. The City originally described FARO as walk-in access during core hours (with additional appointment meetings later in the day). But as of August 1, 2025, the model shifted to appointment-only/referral-based, and public reporting indicated daily visits dropped from roughly ~70/day to ~20/day. That's a major change in both accessibility and throughput.

Could you please share (or point me to) the City's most recent FARO performance reporting for the periods **before and after Aug. 1, 2025**, using the same performance categories the City later listed in its RFP? For example: unduplicated clients served per month, housing connections/placements, and the number/type of neighborhood complaints and law-enforcement-related calls for service. I'd also appreciate the associated operating costs (City lease + City-funded operations/security) so we can discuss outcomes per taxpayer dollar in a transparent way. The City has documented material facility costs tied to FARO's lease, so utilization changes directly affect cost-per-engagement.

On your question about my day-to-day observations downtown: I'm happy to share what I've seen, with the caveat that any individual business owner's observations are anecdotal. That's one reason I'm requesting the objective before/after metrics and definitions (what counts as a "visit," "served," "unduplicated," etc.) so we can evaluate changes fairly. I put them after my signature if you'd like to read them.

My core request remains: please reconsider restoring **true drop-in access** (even if only for part of the day) with clear guardrails and neighborhood mitigation. The purpose of locating services downtown was to meet unsheltered people where they already are; appointment-only structures inherently exclude the least stable—something USICH explicitly warns about when it notes how difficult it can be for people without housing to schedule/remember/travel to appointments and recommends flexible scheduling like walk-in or same-day availability.

If you're open to it, I'd like our meeting to focus on a specific, measurable pilot proposal (e.g., a 60–90 day pilot of drop-in hours with enhanced security, a clear neighbor-communication protocol, and published monthly metrics on both outcomes and neighborhood impacts).

I'm available Mondays in the afternoon or mornings on Tuesday or Wednesday. If you let me know what times work on your end, I'll make it a priority.

One other thing I wanted to bring up. I asked the Robot if I was crazy thinking that I had been pitched the idea or if I was remembering things incorrectly and It said this:

"You also have unusually strong documentation that the City "pitched" the concept directly to downtown food-and-beverage stakeholders before launch. Downtown Santa Barbara's Food & Beverage Committee minutes (Jan. 18, 2024) list you as an attendee and record that Barbara Andersen (City) and Rich Sander (SB ACT) presented a proposal for a daytime space, identified 621 Chapala as the property, and said the lease would go to Council on Feb. 6."

To keep the conversation productive, I'm specifically requesting:

- FARO metrics pre- and post-Aug. 1, 2025: unduplicated clients/month; visits/day; housing placements; connections to behavioral health/substance treatment; benefits/employment linkages; and any client-engagement measures you track.
- Neighborhood impact metrics pre- and post-Aug. 1, 2025: documented complaints, calls for service, and any downtown cleanup/pressure washing/hazardous waste metrics used by the

City to evaluate impacts.

- A cost snapshot (City lease + City-funded operations/security) for the same time windows.
- Clarification on why the City's FARO webpage currently lists walk-in hours while SB ACT lists appointment-only, so the public is not receiving conflicting information.

I feel that there might be some council members interested in the metrics so I've included them in the email, maybe we could meet with a couple of them so they are up to date on how things have changed. I also wonder if there shouldn't be a representative from the FARO house to present their data because it sure feels like I hear different numbers depending on who's making the case and putting everyone in the same room would bring some clarity to those metrics?

Best regards,

Aron Ashland
(720) 341-5859
Owner- The Cruisery, Wine Therapy + Unbearable Skee Lodge
TheCruisery.com

Last Monday, on a day we're closed, a homeless man tried to write with paint or marker on my patio tables. I had to stop working and turn off the music, move tables and ultimately couldn't leave work until he was gone because I really don't have money to replace or refinish all my patio tables.

This weekend a woman fell asleep laying with her head near the bike lane in front of Hana Kitchen. I called dispatch on the woman in the street and she was still laying there an hour later.

Today, a homeless guy dropped his trash bag full of his belongings on the front patio and decided to dance. Which is great that he likes our music and hopefully it brought him some joy but we put out menus and play music in the hope the people might see something they like and come by tomorrow when we're open. That isn't really possible with Peter Pan on my patio. I was forced to turn off my music and after a couple of minutes he finally picked up his bag and left.

My neighbors up at Cuso's bike said wrote a letter yesterday to the mayor about how he was forced to get protection from a homeless person so that his business didn't get urinated on like his neighbor, Night Lizard. As I recall, they said they called the police but they showed up an hour and half later or couldn't do anything.

Those are within the last week and I probably can't count how many things I'm just used to now that don't even rise to a level that I notice or remember but I'm pretty calloused at this point.

On Feb 24, 2026, at 12:59 PM, Barbara Andersen
<bandersen@santabarbaraca.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Aron,

I understand that your communication was directed to Mayor and Council, but if you're open to a conversation about the City's investment in the FARO Center and what it has yielded in regards to measurable outcomes for taxpayer dollars, I'm available to meet with you.

I would also like to hear from you as a downtown business owner, if there

was a significant change in your day-to-day observations of people experiencing homelessness downtown from when the FARO Center transitioned from public, drop-in access to a referral-based system on August 1, 2025.

Please let me know if you're up for a conversation.

Best,
Barbara

Barbara Andersen

Senior Assistant to the City Administrator
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, City Administrator's Office
(805) 564-5302 | bandersen@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

From: Aron Ashland <aron@thecruisery.com>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 11:56 PM
To: Santa Barbara City Council <SBCityCouncil@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Kelly R. McAdoo <KMcAdoo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Barbara Andersen <bandersen@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>
Cc: Joshua Molina <joshuamolina1@gmail.com>; John Palminteri <johnp1250@aol.com>; Robin Elander <robin@downtownsb.org>; tristent@mac.com
Subject: Faro Center Operations and Drop In Services

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing because I am genuinely confused about the current direction of the Faro Center and our broader downtown homelessness strategy.

When this concept was first presented, many of us were told that a daytime navigation center located near where people are actually living on the streets would make a meaningful difference. The city presented this at one of our restaurant meetings. Accessibility was central to the pitch. People experiencing homelessness often do not have cars, phones, or the ability to manage appointments. The model was supposed to meet them where they are.

I attended the Faro Center open house and did not see a single council member there to hear their side. What I heard was that there had been a series of broken promises, including increased police patrols, construction of a fence, and timely communication when issues arose. If those supports were not fully implemented, that matters when evaluating what worked and what did not.

At a recent DSBI committee Zoom meeting, I listened to a report that included tracking how much human waste is being found on State Street. It made me question whether returning the Faro Center to true drop in service could help reduce some of what we are seeing downtown. We have very limited restroom access. If fewer people are being served at the center, those individuals are still somewhere, and often that somewhere is right outside our businesses.

My understanding is that when the Faro Center operated as a drop in facility, it saw significantly more people each day than it does now under an appointment only model. Whether the previous number was 70, 80, or higher, the difference between that and roughly 20 to 25 per day is substantial. That gap represents dozens of people who are no longer being engaged by trained professionals. During the Zoom call, Barbara Andersen stated clearly that the Faro Center would not be returning to drop in service. I would like to understand why that decision is firm, given the impact.

The individuals who are the most unstable are the least likely to keep appointments. They may not have phones. They may not know what day it is. If we structure services around appointments, we risk prioritizing those who already have some level of organization, while leaving the most vulnerable on the street.

As a downtown business owner, I can tell you those individuals do not disappear. When someone is in crisis outside my business, I call the police or the ambassadors. But they are not experts in long term stabilization. The professionals at the Faro Center are.

I understand there were concerns from neighboring properties. But any location downtown will have neighbors. If the center is close enough to serve the population it is meant to help, there will be impacts. The real question is whether we manage those impacts while helping more people, or reduce services and shift the burden to businesses, visitors, and residents.

Has anyone recently checked in with Jodi House or the surrounding properties to see how things are going now? It sounds like conditions may have stabilized. If that is the case, perhaps it is time to take the handcuffs off and allow the center to expand access again, even if only for part of the day.

What do we have to lose? Helping 50 or 70 more people every day, many of whom likely need the most help. It would be good to let the experts do their job. Our role should be to support them with appropriate security, consistent patrols, clear communication, and the infrastructure that was originally discussed. That gives us a real chance to make two to four times the impact we are currently making.

If we are spending similar public dollars but serving a fraction of the people, that deserves serious review, especially in light of our budget challenges.

I would appreciate clarity on why broader access is not being reconsidered.

Maybe one of two of you should stop by the FARO or send a couple emails to some Jodi House people on your own. It sure seems like you might be getting a filtered version of the truth which you may have sensed from the last meeting. Me too.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Aron Ashland
(720) 341-5859
Owner- The Cruisery, Wine Therapy + Unbearable Skee Lodge
TheCruisery.com

From: [Rudy Lucena](#)
To: [Randy Rowse](#); [Wendy Santamaria](#); [Mike Jordan](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Eric Friedman](#); [Meagan Harmon](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [Nicole Grisanti](#); [Kelly R. McAdoo](#)
Subject: Support Strong Community Stabilization for Santa Barbara
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 2:39:17 AM

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Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to you as a concerned Santa Barbara tenant to urge you to support the implementation for a strong rent stabilization ordinance in our city.

Santa Barbara is becoming increasingly unaffordable—especially for working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and renters from historically marginalized communities. Without immediate action, we will see even more displacement, more homelessness, and deeper economic strain on our city and region. This isn't just a housing crisis, it's a direct threat to the diversity, stability, and long-term economic health of Santa Barbara.

Rent stabilization is a proven, practical policy that protects tenants from sudden and excessive rent hikes, keeps families in their homes, and ensures landlords continue to receive steady and fair returns on their investments. By stabilizing rents, our city can:

- Safeguard the local workforce so essential workers can afford to live where they work.
- Support small businesses that rely on stable communities and local spending.
- Invest in long-term solutions for new affordable and innovative housing options.
- Strengthen trust and transparency between tenants and landlords.

It is also important to note that community stabilization ordinances are typically cost-neutral for cities after initial implementation investment. Across California, no cities currently fund their rent boards through the general fund or Local Housing Trust Fund. Instead, they are paid for by modest per-unit fees shared between landlords and tenants.

Housing is a basic human right and ensuring its stability is essential for a thriving and resilient local economy.

Please take action and support a strong rent stabilization ordinance and other necessary measures to prevent the displacement of working families. Our community depends on it – and you – to make it happen.

Thank you for your leadership,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sarah Veeck](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Kelly R. McAdoo](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Wendy Santamaria](#); [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Eric Friedman](#); [Randy Rowse](#)
Subject: SBPD's duty is to protect the community, not ICE
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 6:14:47 PM

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Hi all,

Santa Barbara is generally a safe, sleepy town. Right now, the greatest local threat to public safety is a federal government that has gone off the rails, with masked agents grabbing people and separating them from their families. So is SBPD going to protect us, or them?

If SBPD is on the side of the ICE, why should we be giving them so much city money? Remember, this is the agency celebrated in real White House social media posts like [this](#) and [this](#).

The defining feature of police is that they are empowered to use force when necessary to protect and serve the community. If officers felt called to physically intervene to protect people from lawless, chaotic ICE actions, that would be morally upright and perhaps even legally defensible. Of course, I understand that may be too much risk to reasonably expect. At a minimum: if they hear something, the hotline number is (805) 870-8855. They should be able to figure out how to make the call discreetly.

Instead, SBPD has been spotted staging in the SB Bowl parking lot, with the comical addition of the tiny airport police force, coinciding with, and one might suspect, preparing to respond to ICE activity. The Bowl is closed for the season, so maybe they thought this would draw fewer onlookers than, say, a school parking lot. It is possible the stated rationale may be de-escalation, it certainly gives the appearance of protecting ICE from the community rather than the community from ICE.

This also connects to the massage ordinance soon to be discussed. Police have been unable to investigate, prosecute, or provide evidence for alleged trafficking in the local massage industry. Given that only a couple of homicides occur annually in SB, aside from crimes against children this would be among the most serious offenses taking place in this town. Yet because police cannot effectively investigate or prosecute this presumed crime, SBPD is advocating regulations meant to push supposed traffickers elsewhere—but only imposing equal burdens on all immigrant or less-resourced massage businesses. There must be a way of addressing actually existing forms of exploitation (as opposed to the orientalist fever dreams peddled by dubious anti-trafficking organizations), but the proposed ordinances will only move the problem elsewhere.

Some time ago, there was discussion of SBPD officers going to LA to engage in mutual aid (a crass appropriation of the left's term) to help put down anti-ICE protests. Ms. McAdoo responded with an email explaining that since police departments help each other out with natural disasters they should go in this situation. But surely we can grasp the difference between going somewhere to help people who really need it versus going to join in police brutality being documented by the media in real time against protestors with a very legitimate grievance? I can't be the only person who doesn't think these situations are comparable.

We spend a great deal on policing. If police cannot meaningfully address the most serious threats to community well-being, how can they justify that disproportionate expense? Traffic safety matters, and speeding and DUI are dangerous, but even here the evidence that stops help is mixed.

Of the recent stories I've heard about police, one was positive—they prevented an unlawful eviction—but many were negative: responding to a domestic violence call and arresting the victim rather than the perpetrator, towing a car from someone who could barely afford it, and harassing homeless people who are already struggling. How much of what we pay police to do actually keeps us safe? How often are we funding our own stress, hassles, and far, far worse, without clear benefit? This deserves more study, and what has been studied should be applied in policy.

If police cannot effectively address the most serious dangers facing the community, we need other approaches. The scope of policing should be narrowed to situations where police genuinely help. Beyond that, funding should be redirected to useful and ideally evidence-based solutions. And these solutions should extend and share power. As city funding belongs to the whole community, it should not be turned into an alien, coercive force aimed against the public, as when SBPD appears to protect ICE.

Nobody says “eff the fire department.” All public agencies should aspire to that standard. Of course, the role of the police is complicated by their duty to stand between those behaving badly and those they intend to harm. But if SBPD fails to protect the community or even joins in the harm, we need to redirect funding away from SBPD and toward projects to defend our city from ICE.

Sincerely,

Sarah Veeck

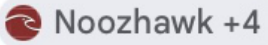
From: [Christel Barros](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Cc: [Kelly R. McAdoo](#); [Barbara Andersen](#); [Anthony E. Valdez](#)
Subject: Time for our City to follow the County's leadership.
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 5:17:05 PM

On March 4, 2025, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted 4-0 to create a multi-agency task force aimed at cracking down on unpermitted, illegal street food vendors. The task force will coordinate with local cities, law enforcement, and health officials to address safety, sanitation, and compliance.  Noozhawk +3

Key Details Regarding the Action:

- **Action Taken:** Formation of a multi-agency task force to enforce health codes and regulations against unlicensed food vendors.
- **Vote:** Approved 4-0, with 1st District Supervisor Roy Lee recusing himself due to owning a restaurant.
- **Goal:** To address public health risks, such as unsanitary food conditions, and to create a more uniform enforcement strategy across the county.
- **Structure:** The task force will involve Environmental Health Services, Sheriff's Office,

District Attorney, and local cities.

- **Focus:** The task force is expected to focus on both enforcement and education, with a review scheduled in six months. 

This action follows increased complaints from local businesses and a 2025 Grand Jury report

Ask anything



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hilary](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public comment 2/24/26
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 2:02:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from peacetreehealing@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the City Council,

I moved here from Los Angeles five years ago and on the very first night that I slept in my new SB home, I called the police.

I had just come inside from talking to a man at 10pm who was taking tires off cars just outside my bedroom window. He said he was, "doing a job." As I tried to sleep, I wondered if he wasn't just stealing tires instead. I called the non-emergency line and was told officers would investigate. To my great surprise I received a call back from SBPD. They informed me that the man was in fact working, but that they had asked he stop because of the noise. This peaceful and respectful interaction made a great impression on me. The SBPD seemed very different from LAPD, for sure.

Now we are in a different era, it would seem, where local and federal alliances are being tested. I hope SBPD will continue its community policing and stand up to the violence ICE brings with them. I am counting on officials to create plans and systems that support residents, not the far right, and definitely not ICE.

Sincerely,
Hilary Licht

From: [Toni Flenniken](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Police and ICE
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 1:56:23 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from toniam@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Councilmember,

I am writing today as a constituent of Santa Barbara of twenty five years. I have become increasingly distressed at the cooperation and collaboration of SBPD with ICE, something they agreed not to do. The recent violence against our community by ICE was awful and caused trauma to the entire community. The SBPD officers who cooperated and protected ICE did not go unnoticed.

I am demanding that SBPD stop collaborating with ICE in our community. This most recent example shows how SBPD is currently letting ICE vehicles park inside the SBPD lot, showing up and protecting ICE instead of standing with community they are supposed to serve. By doing so they are using our tax money which would be better spent toward actual support systems and community defense efforts that actually keep people safe. This needs to stop and they need to direct their efforts towards protecting the people they serve.

Sincerely,

Toni Flenniken she/her/ella

From: sbnick@cox.net
To: [City Clerk](#); [Randy Rowse](#); [Wendy Santamaria](#); [Mike Jordan](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Eric Friedman](#); [Meagan Harmon](#)
Subject: Subject: Process and Considerations Related to Establishing an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 11:41:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

You Don't Fix a Structural Deficit by Segmenting Revenue Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District

February 24, 2026

By: *Nicholas Sebastian*

Santa Barbara City Council Candidate, District 6

sbnick@cox.net

Santa Barbara is projecting long-term operating deficits. That should be the starting point of this discussion, not the footnote.

When a city faces structural imbalance, rising pension costs, inflationary service pressures, constrained staffing, the first responsibility of elected

officials is simple. Spend within our means.

Instead, we are considering carving out decades of future property tax growth and locking it into a siloed infrastructure financing structure.

An Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District does not raise taxes. It does something more subtle and potentially more dangerous in a deficit environment.

It segments future revenue growth away from the General Fund. Growth is not surplus. Growth is what keeps the lights on.

When property values rise, that incremental revenue funds police and fire staffing, library operations, pension obligations, inflationary cost increases, and reserve stabilization. Divert that growth into a long-term debt pledge and the operating side tightens.

If we were flush with recurring surpluses, this would be a different conversation. We are not.

You do not fix structural imbalance by creating parallel financing authorities. You fix structural imbalance by controlling spending growth, prioritizing core services, preserving fiscal flexibility, and protecting long-term operating capacity.

Infrastructure matters. Solvency matters more.

If we accelerate capital projects while slowing operating revenue growth, we risk future service cuts, fee increases, or new taxes to fill the gap. That is not fiscal stewardship. It is wishful budgeting.

Before we pledge decades of growth to infrastructure debt, we should stabilize the foundation of the house. When the operating budget weakens, no amount of new concrete will save it.



From: [Bryan Lam](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comments on Proposed Single-Use Plastics Ordinance
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 2:24:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[Santa Barbara Letter 02.24.2026.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bryan@cfca.energy. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached CFCA's testimony regarding Santa Barbara City Council's proposed amendments to the City's single-use plastics ordinance.

Kind regards,

Bryan Lam

Policy & Engagement Analyst

2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833

Main: (916) 646-5999 | Fax: (916) 646-5985 | www.cfca.energy



Advocates for the fuels and convenience store industries since 1952

 [Book time to meet with me](#)



The California Fuels + Convenience Alliance (CFCA) is aware that fake email messages can be used to trick members into making payments to fraudulent bank accounts. CFCA will NEVER ask you to change our bank account details by email only. Should you receive an email from CFCA advising you of new bank account details, please contact CFCA immediately **by phone** to confirm that the request is genuine. Do not use the contact details provided in the suspicious email. Please remain vigilant of fraudulent activity.

February 24, 2026

Santa Barbara City Council

736 Anacapa Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Comments on Proposed Single-Use Materials Ordinance

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

The California Fuels & Convenience Alliance (CFCA) represents a majority of California’s 12,000+ retail fuel and convenience store operators, including in the city of Santa Barbara. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the potential revisions of the City’s ordinance to regulate single-use materials. However, as representatives of locally owned small businesses, we are respectfully expressing our concerns regarding the potential policy changes.

While we understand and applaud the City’s direction to safeguard community and environmental wellbeing, concerns arise when considering the potential impact on the small “mom-and-pop” operators within Santa Barbara. One potential consequence is the additional burden that enacting this ban could put on a retailer base that already faces a litany of operational challenges. In an industry that is majority family owned and operated, expending additional bandwidth to accommodate the proposed bans could push businesses closer to their functional ceiling. Additionally, these amendments could put further economic strain on businesses – forcing them to tighten belts that are already on their last notch. Unfortunately, alternatives to petroleum-based plastics are multitudes more costly and might not be practical for a small business operator’s budgetary constraints. Despite a portion of Santa Barbara’s businesses already making the switch, we strongly urge City Council to delay this ban until an eco-friendly approach becomes more fiscally practical for all businesses.

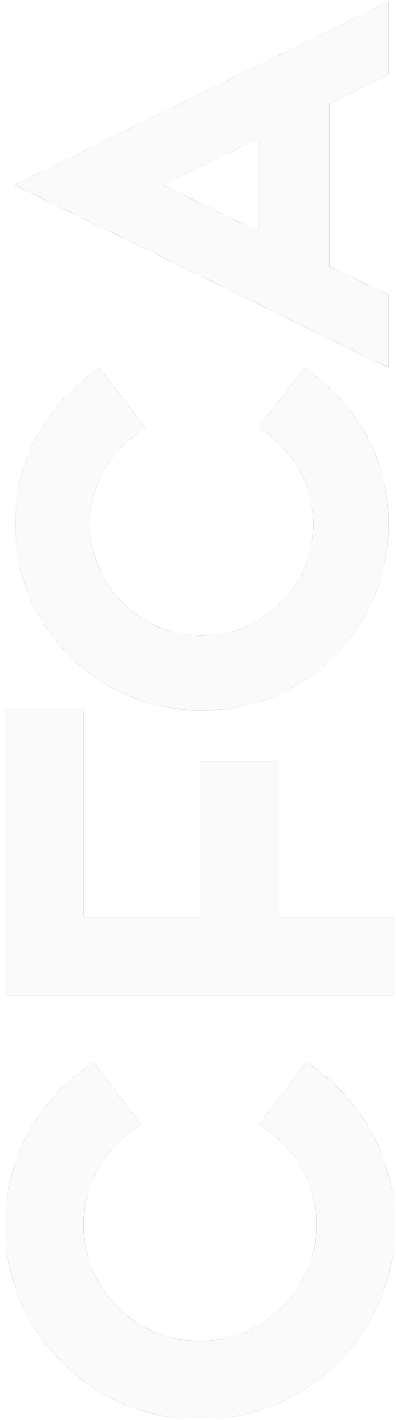
Another potential pain point is consumer leakage into neighboring jurisdictions as a result of an 8 oz. plastic water bottle ban. Limiting consumer choice on an item such as small 8 oz. bottles could drive the local customer base to stores in adjacent areas; bringing valuable tax and sales revenue with them. As has been demonstrated in jurisdictions where outright bans have been enacted, consumer leakage is a very pertinent ramification to consider.

As advocates and stakeholders in the local business environment as well as the environment at large, we are committed to working with City Council to find a practical solution that achieves the City’s mission, while considering the small businesses of Santa Barbara. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Bryan Lam, Policy & Engagement Analyst
California Fuels & Convenience Alliance



From: [James Toner](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: IBWA Comments on Ordinance Regulating Single-Use Materials
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 10:06:23 AM
Attachments: [IBWA Testimony Santa Barbara BW Ordinance 0022426 FINAL.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jtoner@bottledwater.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Attached please find comments from the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) regarding the proposed ordinance that would prohibit the sale and distribution of plastic water bottles of 8 ounces or less.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James P. Toner Jr.
Senior Director of Government Relations
International Bottled Water Association (IBWA)
1800 Diagonal Road
Suite 600 – PMB #1125
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
P: 703.647.4616
EM: jtoner@bottledwater.org
www.bottledwater.org



1800 Diagonal Road
Suite 600
Alexandria, VA 22314
Ph: 703-647-4616
Web: www.bottledwater.org

**City of Santa Barbara
City Council
Hearing on Single-Use Plastic Reduction Ordinance
February 24, 2026**

Written Testimony

**James P. Toner, Jr.
Director of Government Relations
International Bottled Water Association**

Mayor Rowse and members of the City Council, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on the proposed ordinance, which would prohibit the sale and distribution of bottled water in “single-use” plastic bottles 8 ounces or less.

The International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) strongly opposes the ordinance. This legislation is not in the public interest, and IBWA urges the City Council not to support it. IBWA opposes this legislation for the following reasons:

- Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottled water containers have the lowest environmental footprint of any packaged beverage containers, including those made with glass, aluminum, or paperboard cartons.
- PET plastic bottled water containers are not “single-use” products. They are 100% recyclable and the recycled material can be used over and over again to make new products.
- It would negatively impact existing recycling streams in the state, as PET plastic is one of the most sought-after materials in resource recovery markets.
- Switching from PET plastic to other materials, especially aluminum, would add a significant cost increase to bottled water.
- Restricting access to bottled water in any way would hinder individuals searching for a healthier beverage alternative.
- Being strictly regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a food product makes bottled water a safe choice for consumers.
- The bottled water industry has a strong presence and commitment to the state of California.

PET Plastic Is the Most Environmentally Friendly Packaging

Attempts to eliminate the availability of PET plastic bottles of water would remove the most environmentally friendly beverage packaging option. PET plastic bottled water containers have the smallest environmental impact compared to all other drink packaging types.^{1, 2, 3}

Trayak LLC, a sustainability consulting firm, conducted a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for IBWA that measured several variables to determine the overall environmental impact of specific packaging types, including PET water bottles, PET soda bottles, glass bottles, aluminum canned water, and paperboard beverage cartons. The assessment shows that PET water bottles have a lower environmental impact than all other containers across each of the considered variables.

Environmental Impact of Drink Packaging

(Weights are for individual 16.9 oz containers. Other values represent 1 million 16.9 oz bottles, cartons, or cans each.)

Resources Used to Make Packaging	PET Water Bottle	Aluminum Can	Beverage Carton	Glass Bottle	PET Soda Bottle
Avg. Container Weight	8.3 grams	19.7 grams	21.8 grams	300.6 grams	22.2 grams
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	50 Ton CO ₂ eq.	155 Ton CO ₂ eq.	75 Ton CO ₂ eq.	383 Ton CO ₂ eq.	141 Ton CO ₂ eq.
Fossil Fuel Use	958 GJ Consumed	1342 GJ Consumed	1056 GJ Consumed	4320 GJ Consumed	2639 GJ Consumed
Water Use	4.6 million gallons	7.5 million gallons	13.7 million gallons	29.9 million gallons	12.5 million gallons

In addition, McKinsey & Company, a well-respected consulting firm, issued a report that supports the Trayak assessment's findings. That report shows that "PET bottles have the lowest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions because of their lightweight properties and the low amount of energy required to produce them. By contrast, aluminum cans have two times the emissions of PET bottles, and emissions from glass bottles are three times higher." It is important to note that this report compares PET soda bottles, rather than PET water bottles, with other packaging types. If McKinsey & Associates had included PET water bottles in this report, it is highly likely that the report would have found an even greater disparity between GHG emissions when compared with aluminum cans and glass bottles.

As shown in the Trayak assessment and supported by findings in the McKinsey & Company report, GHG emissions are less for PET plastic packaged bottled water than other packaged beverages. As a comparison, if the industry were to switch from bottling water in 16.9-ounce

¹Life Cycle Assessment of Common Drink Packaging – Prepared for the International Bottled Water Association by Trayak, LLC. 2021. Executive Summary available at: https://bottledwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Trayak-LCA_2021.pdf

² Climate impact of plastics. McKinsey & Company. July 2022. Available at:

<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/mckinsey/industries/chemicals/our%20insights/climate%20impact%20of%20plastics/climate-impact-of-plastics-v2.pdf>

³ Life Cycle Impacts of Plastic Packaging Compared to Substitutes in the United States and Canada. Prepared for the American Chemistry Council and Canadian Plastics Industry Association by Franklin Associates. April 2018. Available at:

<https://www.americanchemistry.com/better-policy-regulation/plastics/resources/life-cycle-impacts-of-plastic-packaging-compared-to-substitutes-in-the-united-states-and-canada>

PET plastic containers to the equivalent size aluminum cans, paperboard cartons, or glass bottles, the increased GHG emissions would equate to:

- more than 1.9 million more cars on the road annually for aluminum cans;
- over 422,000 more cars on the road annually for cartons; or
- nearly 6 million more cars for glass bottles.

Producing bottled water in PET plastic also consumes less energy. The amount of energy saved by producing bottled water in PET plastic bottles compared to other packaging is equivalent to:

- powering over 844,000 more homes each year for aluminum cans;
- powering over 253,000 more homes each year for cartons; or
- powering 7.6 million more homes each year for glass bottles.

A similar report by the American Chemistry Council (ACC), conducted by Franklin Associates, examined the overall impact of plastics on the environment, compared to other materials. The study looked at energy demand, water consumption, solid waste, global warming potential, eutrophication potential, smog formation potential, and ozone depletion potential. Yet again, this report concluded that, when comparing materials throughout the entire life cycle of a package, plastics leave a much smaller environmental footprint than alternatives, such as glass, aluminum cans, and paperboard cartons.

Lastly, a recent study from the Berkeley Research Group reveals, “substituting aluminum cans for single-serve plastic containers will substantially increase the amount spent by individual consumers in the US on bottled water.” The study uses the concept of “elasticity of demand,” which is basically how much less a consumer would buy a product if the price increased. The researchers studied data from around the United States including Washington, Oregon, Idaho and several cities in California to figure out how sensitive consumers are to these price changes. They concluded that if bottled water utilizes aluminum instead of plastic, the increased cost would be passed onto consumers who can expect a three-fold increase in cost over time. The study found that a switch to aluminum would increase what consumers spend on bottled water by 405% in the short term, settling down to 174% over time. That would mean a grocery bill increase by over 7% immediately and 3% over the long term.

The industry recognizes that there is room for improvement and is always looking for ways to strengthen existing recycling programs, expand recycling efforts, and reduce the use of virgin plastic. But the data are clear that PET packaging is best for single-serving sized bottled water. Preventing the purchase of bottled water in plastic packaging and instead purchasing water in packaging alternatives like aluminum, glass, or cartons would increase GHG emissions and result in increased use of resources.

PET Plastic Bottled Water Containers Are Not Single-Use Products

Describing plastic bottled water containers as “single-use” isn’t accurate because they are 100% recyclable. This distinguishes bottled water containers from other common plastic products that are truly “single-use,” such as non-recyclable plastic items (e.g., straws, cutlery, and plates); certain food and goods packaging (e.g., film, heat-sealed and multi-layered laminate bags); and other containers (e.g., non-PET, non-HDPE, and non-PC bottles and tubs). “Single-use” plastic

items that do not have a recycling symbol are not recyclable. However, individual-sized bottled water containers and larger-sized bottles, such as 1-, 2.5-, 3-, and 5-gallon containers, are all 100% recyclable. By recycling plastic bottled water containers, the plastic can be used over and over again to make new beverage bottles or products.

Bottled Water in Plastic Containers Uses Less Water Than Other Packaging Types

In addition, the Trayak report shows that it takes much less water to produce PET bottled water containers than all other packaging types, including PET soda bottles. Choosing water packaged in PET plastic produced specifically for bottled water instead of the other packaging types saves:

- almost 245 billion gallons of water each year if packaged in aluminum containers, or the equivalent of over 38 million people showering every day for an entire year;
- over 768 billion gallons of water annually if packaged in cartons, or the equivalent of over 122 million people showering every day for a year;
- over 2 trillion gallons of water annually if packaged in glass bottles, or the equivalent of over 326 million people showering every day for a year; and
- almost 667 billion gallons of water annually if packaged in PET soda bottles, or the equivalent of over 105 million people showering every day for a year.

Using packaging other than PET plastic for bottled water will result in the increased use of water. To support sustainable sourcing, the bottled water industry uses plastic packaging to ensure that the least amount of water is used to produce our industry's products.

When addressing water use, IBWA would urge Council members to recognize that the smaller size 8-ounce bottled water is often used for children and hospitality - instances where a smaller serving size is appropriate and needed. Forcing these drinkers to consume water from larger 16.9-ounce bottles will lead to more water waste when bottles are not fully consumed.

Plastic Bottled Water Containers Are Not a Major Source of Ocean Pollution

Bottled water containers account for 1.58% of all the plastic items produced in the United States. If the United States were to completely eliminate all plastic use, the effort would only result in a 0.25% reduction of ocean plastics.⁴ This means that if all bottled water in plastic packaging were removed from the U.S., it would lead to a reduction of about 1.58% of 0.25%, or 0.00395%.

Research on microplastic particles in oceans reveals that they primarily originate from wastewater from washing machines, not bottled water production.⁵ It is important to note that there is currently no scientific consensus on the potential health impacts of microplastic particles, which are found in all aspects of our environment—soil, air, and water.

⁴ Our World In Data, Plastic Pollution. Oxford University. Available at: <https://ourworldindata.org/plastic-pollution>

⁵ The contribution of washing processes of synthetic clothes to microplastic pollution. Scientific Reports. April 2019. Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-43023-x>

Bottled Water's Role in Healthy Hydration

For those who want to eliminate or moderate calories, sugar, caffeine, artificial flavors or colors, and other ingredients from their diet or simply wish to opt for a convenient beverage with refreshing taste, reliable quality, and zero calories choosing water is the right choice – no matter what the delivery method. Bottled water is a smart decision and a healthy choice when it comes to beverage options. Efforts to eliminate or reduce access to bottled water such as this legislation only hinder attempts to encourage people to choose healthier drink options.

In fact, since 1998, approximately 73% of the growth in bottled water consumption has come from people switching from carbonated soft drinks, juices, and milk to bottled water. One of the simplest changes a person can make is to switch to drinking water instead of other beverages that are heavy with sugar and calories. According to the Institute of Medicine and the American Journal of Preventative Medicine, two-thirds of American adults are overweight with one-third of those individuals being obese, and over the last 30 years, children's obesity rates have climbed from 5% to 17%. Drinking zero-calorie beverages, such as water, instead of sugary drinks is regularly cited as a key component of a more healthful lifestyle, and promoting greater consumption of water from all sources, including from bottled water, can only benefit those efforts.

In today's on-the-go society, most of what we drink comes in a package. Attacks on bottled water only help to promote less healthy options among other packaged beverages, like juices and soda, which have *more packaging, more ingredients, and greater environmental impacts* than bottled water. Research shows that if bottled water isn't available, 72% of people will choose soda or another sugared drink – not tap water. And, Of the bottled water drinkers who have a packaging preference, almost 8 out of 10 (78 percent) prefer bottled water packaged in plastic bottles (14 percent said glass, 4 percent said metal cans, and 4 percent said paper cartons or box).

Bottled Water Is an Economic Force in California

Companies in California that manufacture, distribute, and sell bottled water employ as many as 24,434 people in the state and generate an additional 40,557 jobs in supplier and ancillary industries. These include jobs in companies supplying goods and services to manufacturers, distributors, and retailers, as well as those that depend on sales to workers in the bottled water industry. The jobs currently generated by the bottled water industry in California are good jobs, paying an average of \$76,800 in wages and benefits.

Not only does the manufacture and sale of bottled water create good jobs in California, but the industry also contributes to the economy as a whole. In fact, the bottled water industry is responsible for as much as \$18.15 billion in total economic activity in the state. The bottled water industry generates sizeable tax revenues in the state. In California, the industry and its employees pay over \$1.01 million in business taxes, while sales drive another \$746.88 million in consumption taxes.

On top of these everyday economic numbers, the state receives a large sum of dollars from the existing bottle deposit program. And this money goes beyond what the state takes from

unclaimed deposits but impacts money generated and received by businesses through the handling fee and the non-refundable container fee. With a substantial amount of that money being produced by the purchase and return on single-serve plastic beverage containers, the state and businesses tied to the deposit program can expect a significant reduction in monies delivered.

Thank you for your consideration of IBWA's opposition to the ordinance, and please do not hesitate to contact IBWA with any concerns or questions.

From: [Missy Zeitsoff](#)
To: [S. Monique Limon](#); [hannahbeth.jackson@gmail.com](#)
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Fwd: BREAKING NEWS: Full Video Shows What Led to Friday's Violent ICE Arrest in Santa Barbara
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 3:50:13 PM

No words-----

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Santa Barbara Independent** <webmailman@independent.com>

Date: Sat, Feb 21, 2026, 3:28 PM

Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Full Video Shows What Led to Friday's Violent ICE Arrest in Santa Barbara

To: <missyzeitsoff@gmail.com>

Santa Barbara Independent



COURTS & CRIME

Full Video Shows What Led to Friday's Violent ICE Arrest in Santa

Barbara

Eight minutes of unedited footage, provided exclusively to the *Independent*, captures the entire chaotic scene.

— Tyler Hayden

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Independent



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From: [Eat This, Shoot That!](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Opposition to Proposed 2% Transient Occupancy Tax Increase
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 7:02:02 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from info@eatthisshootthat.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Santa Barbara City Council,

As a local travel industry business owner in Santa Barbara, I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed 2% increase to the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT).

Our tourism economy is highly competitive, and visitors compare destinations carefully based on overall cost. An additional tax increase risks making Santa Barbara less attractive than neighboring coastal communities, particularly at a time when travel remains price-sensitive.

This proposal would also directly impact my ability to keep tour prices reasonable. Like many small businesses, we increased wages at the start of this year to meet rising labor costs and remain competitive employers. If lodging taxes increase and visitor demand softens, we will be forced to absorb additional financial pressure—likely resulting in higher prices for our guests. Increased pricing makes it even more challenging to compete and maintain steady bookings.

When visitors spend more on accommodations, discretionary spending on tours, dining, and shopping is often reduced. That ripple effect disproportionately impacts small, locally owned businesses that rely on overnight guests.

Tourism is one of the strongest drivers of our local economy. Maintaining affordability and competitiveness is essential to sustaining small businesses, supporting local jobs, and preserving the visitor experience that makes our city special.

I respectfully urge you to consider the broader economic impact this increase may have on small operators and the tourism ecosystem as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Taralynn Haaf

--

Tara Haaf
Founder & Big Cheese



Santa Barbara Food and Wine Tours

EatThisShootThat.com

General Inquiries/Tickets (805) 699-6719

Private Group Tours (805) 699-6719
info@eatthisshootthat.com

From: [Lee](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: March 3 TOT discussions
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 4:40:24 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from costavidacottage@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

As a licensed STR operator the Council must know any consideration of further crippling Santa Barbara tourism is extremely short-sided. It may solve momentary budget constraints, but will exacerbate long term revenue declines over the long run. Demand is not inelastic. Tourists actually do care what they spend. We're not the only beach community in So Cal. We're just becoming one of the most expensive. Let's not continue to run them off.

From: [Missy Zeitsoff](mailto:Missy.Zeitsoff)
To: lgordon@santabarbara.gov
Cc: [Santa Barbara City Council](mailto:SantaBarbaraCityCouncil)
Subject: Fwd: Independent: ICE Agents Arrest Observer and Knock Down and Pepper Spray Elderly Attorney in Downtown Santa Barbara
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 1:43:41 PM

Chief. Why did your Officers take the ICE agents to MY/ OUR SBPD? Was Matt with them? Did someone help the 80 year old man ICE assaulted? I am almost 80. MZ

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Missy Zeitsoff** <missyzeitsoff@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 20, 2026, 1:35 PM
Subject: Independent: ICE Agents Arrest Observer and Knock Down and Pepper Spray Elderly Attorney in Downtown Santa Barbara
To: Missy Zeitsoff <missyzeitsoff@gmail.com>

https://www.independent.com/2026/02/20/ice-agents-arrest-observer-and-knock-down-and-pepper-spray-elderly-attorney-in-downtown-santa-barbara/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=BREAKING%20NEWS%3A%20ICE%20Agents%20Arrest%20Observer%20and%20Knock%20Down%20and%20Pepper-Spray%20Elderly%20Attorney%20in%20Downtown%20Santa%20Barbara&utm_campaign=BREAKING%20NEWS%3A%20Police%20Respond%20to%20Stabbing%20at%20Santa%20Barbara%20City%20College%20%28Copy%29

From: [Elaine Morello](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Please submit to the official record in advance of the Tuesday Mar03"26 SB City Council Meeting - NO further TOT % increase
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 10:54:19 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from elaine@oliocucina.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

We hereby implore the Santa Barbara City Council to NOT increase the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) by 2%.

Local independent restaurant businesses, like ours, as well as retail and other local businesses (including the hotels themselves) cannot afford to further alienate visitors. We're already suffering from huge decreases in visitor numbers. We need MORE visitors, *not fewer*, which would be the longer-term result of any further TOT increases. Visitors are already choosing alternative areas due to the already high cost of staying at hotels in SB. Let's not make it worse.

Mille grazie e arrivederci!

(with Alberto Morello)

Elaine
Mobile: (805) 451-1003

ELAINE ANDERSEN MORELLO
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS/PROPRIETOR



OLIOCUCINA.COM



From: [Melissa G Wolf](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comment on Rent Control
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 12:26:30 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from missgord@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I have been a tenant in Santa Barbara for the last 10 years. We lived at a large apartment complex ran by Meridian Group, and the landlords increased our rent the maximum amount under state law from 2020 - 2025, causing it to increase by nearly 50%. This is obviously completely unsustainable.

We were extremely lucky to become small landlords ourselves recently, and we've chosen a different approach. For example, one of our tenants, a local teacher, pays about \$800 below market because we value stability and her role in the community. We had planned a modest \$75 (3.5%) increase this year to help cover adding laundry for her. We can't do that anymore, which is fine, but it does motivate me to comment on this issue. I believe we have a unique perspective as long time tenants turned small landlords.

I support capping annual rent increases at 5%. As tenants, that would have kept our housing costs manageable. As landlords, that provides a reasonable increase to help maintain and improve our property for our tenants.

I also support a vacancy tax for commercial properties to address long-term storefront vacancies on State Street, and overturning Prop 13 to better fund schools and local services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa G Wolf
www.melissagwolf.com

From: [Tracey Willfong-Singh](#)
To: [Santa Barbara City Council](#)
Subject: Walk for Peace Feb 14 9am dolphin fountain
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 11:16:46 AM

I applaud city council vote to ban single use plastics in all forms. Any hardships to businesses is temporary. We need to change /adjust to the times . Hopefully merchants will find/create sustainable products. I hope that Trader Joe's can reduce all its plastic packaging . Maybe Coucilmember Friedman can help with that ?

Can we please ban plastic bags at SB Farmers Markets (coast village & state st). Goleta & Carpinteria have plastic bag bans @ farmers markets already, Santa Barbara should ban too. It only takes a few weeks to adjust to change , for the better .

Make Santa Barbara the Green City it Needs to Be !!
Thank you
Tracey Willfong

From: G8 Spirit Relay
To: [Taos Mayor Daniel R. Barrone](#); [Santa Barbara City Council](#); [Art Cisneros - Chumash Elder](#); [Jose Manik Ajpu Munoz - Mayan TimeKeeper](#); [Thomas Van Stein](#)
Cc: [Jeffrey Dillon](#); [Mike Davis](#); [Wanda Mason](#); [Chaitanya Estrella](#); [Lucy McCall](#); [Nicole Mallis](#); [KTAOS Solar Radio](#); [Geoffrey Plant - Taos News Editor](#)
Subject: Feb12: Lincoln Freed Slaves, Buddha Frees Mind
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 8:46:33 PM

Dear Mayor Barrone,

Regrettably, our Reverend Yamato was unable to join the other Venerable Buddhist Monks at their Walk for Peace, ending at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC Wednesday after walking the 1200 miles from Texas over the past 108 days. They were joined by many thousands of Americans along the way, especially on their arrival.

I do hope some of them will join with Reverend Yamato for the 2026 Global Peace Walk in April, ending on Earth Day April 22nd, which I also hope to join.

This is my report on Facebook it:

Lincoln Freed Slaves, Buddha Frees Mind

Restore Great Law of Peace, True Dharma:

Feb12 Lincoln's Birthday, Walk for Peace 2026 inspires my dream since 1978 of an American Peace March to the White House from California, which I'm planning to produce as a popular Reality TV Show on behalf of the American Peace Movement with my experience as the main coordinator of The Global Peace Walk from the UN in NYC to SF for the 50th anniversary of the UN Charter signing there, "to remove the scourge of war from the future generations."

"Please Message Me" if you want to help with production, walking, networking etc

The American March goals include:

Implementation of the previously secreted Free Energy Technologies to replace nuclear and fossil fuel power, and eliminate global poverty in next next decades, as explained in the "Lost Century" YouTube video by Dr Steven Greer MD of the Disclosure Project;

Complete Elimination of all Nuclear Weapons and redirecting their funding to peaceful technologies, starting with the Bill Now in Congress by Prop1.org;

Resolve the clean abundant water problems by implementing Primary Water Technologies (PrimaryWaterInstitute.org);

Replace property taxes by reallocating municipal investment income from assets secreted in Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFR1.com);

Completely Correct the America Medical Pharmaceutical Industry by deploying the secreted NIH CDC discoveries about eliminating most all diseases though utilizing the 90ForLife research Dr Joel Wallach ND DVM, proving the average human healthy life span should be 120 years with proper nutrition, supplemented with the 60 essential minerals all vertebrates need to thrive (DrJWallach.com, DDDLradio.com, CalifDavid.Youngevity.com);

Restoring the Great Law of Peace, the True Dharma, True Torah, to eliminate warfare and violence as per the Iroquois example of a thousand years ago and the example of India's King Ashoka from 2200 years ago.

My first "Inspirational PocketBook" is called "Restoring the Great Law of Peace: How to Tell the Whole Truth" to Scientifically Correct America, to End All Wars Forever, by David Williams was published in 2024 by Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DC5FRHDS>

You can also read it online for free at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13IVNkSXtqFyIUsDI9ABS_fvT5o9sKl_JSeEgSUGYe6M/

See more when my server is up soon at:

www.AmericanPeaceMovement.US



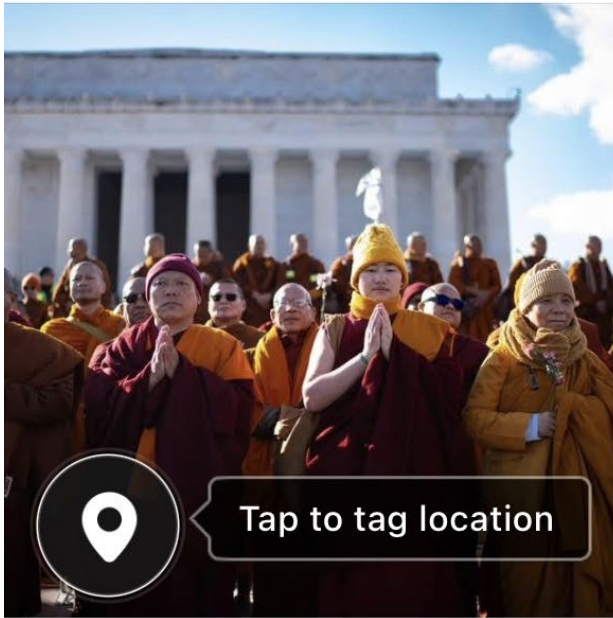
David Williams

Just now •



Lincoln Freed Slaves, Buddha Frees Mind
Restore Great Law of Peace, True Dharma:
Feb12 Lincoln's Birthday, [Walk for Peace](#)
2026 inspires my dream since 1978 of an
[American Peace March](#) to the White House
from California, which I'm planning to
produce as a popular Reality TV Show... [more](#)





When I came last yo join the annual Global Peace Walk in 2016, it was in my 27ft RV which has since been stored until I can get it fixed, in Columbia CA.

My friend in Taos who helped me with it there, Jeff Dillon. I will have to rely on him as the main GPW2026 coordinator because has participated in many years before the previous crew could not pull it off last year and have lately resigned, Mike Davis and Wendy Mason.

I pray others in Taos and nearby will be inspired by the other Buddhist Monks' Walk for Peace, to rejuvenate the Global Peace Walk 2026, to help fulfill Yamato's vision of propagating globally the True Dharma, the Great Law of Peace, True Torah, to unite all the nations in tranquility - fulfilling Buddha's prophecy and the Hopi Life Plan Prophecy.

I would greatly appreciate you speaking to Yamato on the phone ((505) 506-7602) to set the stage for this year. I hope we can install the Global Peace Pole, symbol of the Great Law of Peace, in Red Willow Park, as we did on Earth Day 1995 when that park was previously named Kit Carson Park.

We hope it will become recognized in future as "America's First Global Peace Pole Park."

Thanks very much for your help,

David Williams
895-403-1828

#SignatureLines

www.AmericanPeaceMovement.US

David Crockett Williams Jr (III) CLU
Chartered Life Underwriter
Chemical Physicist; Amazon Author, "Restoring the Great Law of Peace:
How to Tell the Whole Truth"
amazon.com/dp/B0DC5FRHDS
BS Chemistry 1969 CSUN w/ honors
American Peace Movement Founder,
American Peace March Initiator,
The Global Peace Walk Organizer
Global Peace Pole Project Proponent
Surrogate King of Jerusalem Israel
Possibly Israel's King David Reincarnated
for Physical Return of Jesus Christ
By the Paranormal Miracles of the

Shirdi, Sathya, and Prema Sai Babas
SathyaSai.org, PremaSaiAshram.org
Pursuant to the Human Mind's Consciousness Orientation Function of Light: Tetron of Tetron Natural Unified Field Theory,
The True One Law
global-emergency-alert-response.net/tetron2.html

From: [Jessica Mause](#)
To: [Randy Rowse](#); [Wendy Santamaria](#); [Mike Jordan](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Eric Friedman](#); [Meagan Harmon](#)
Cc: rrivas@americanbeverage.org; [Kelly R. McAdoo](#); [City Clerk](#); [Alelia Parenteau](#); [Daniela Rosales](#)
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Bottled Water Ban
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:12:39 PM
Attachments: [SB Coalition Letter 2.10.26.pdf](#)
[SB Bottled Water Opposition Packet .pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jessica@rodriguezstrategies.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Rowse and City Council Members,

On behalf of a coalition of associations and business groups, attached please find a letter raising concerns with the inclusion of a bottled water ban in the proposed single-use ordinance. Also included is a packet of petitions from local businesses opposed to the bottled water ban.

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica Mause | Senior Vice President
[Rodriguez Strategies](#)
e: jessica@rodriguezstrategies.com
c: 202.306.8938



February 9, 2026

Santa Barbara City Council
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mayor Rowse,

We write to share our concerns regarding recent discussions about banning the sale of certain bottled water products in the City of Santa Barbara.

Our members support the City's goal of reducing waste and protecting the environment. Businesses across California have invested significantly in improving packaging sustainability, strengthening recycling systems, and advancing a more circular economy. These efforts are producing real progress and are aligned with California's broader environmental and recycling framework.

We are concerned that a local ban on bottled water sales would do little to meaningfully reduce litter while creating unintended consequences for local retailers, grocers, and other small businesses. Demand for bottled water will remain, and consumers — including residents, commuters, and visitors — will simply purchase these products in neighboring jurisdictions and bring them into Santa Barbara, leaving the City with the same level of waste management challenges.

California has adopted a comprehensive, statewide approach to reducing plastic waste that emphasizes recyclability, recycled content, and improved collection infrastructure. Isolated local bans risk working at cross-purposes with that system and the substantial investments businesses have made to comply with state law.

We believe Santa Barbara will have greater success achieving its sustainability objectives by building on its already strong recycling performance and working collaboratively with the

business community to advance recycling, waste reduction, and consumer education—rather than restricting the availability of products that are widely recycled and regulated under state law.

We appreciate the City’s leadership on environmental issues and welcome continued dialogue on policies that deliver measurable environmental benefits while supporting local businesses and maintaining consistency with state policy.

Sincerely,

Rick Rivas
American Beverage Association

Tim James
California Grocers Association

Ryan Allain
California Retailers Association

Jay King
California Black Chamber of Commerce

Julian Canete
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Pat Fong-Kushida
CalAsian Chamber of Commerce

Roberto C. Arnold
Multicultural Business Alliance

cc: Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Sneddon
Councilmember Wendy Santamaria
Councilmember Mike Jordan
Councilmember Oscar Gutierrez
Councilmember Eric Friedman
Councilmember Meagan Harmon

Santa Barbara Businesses OPPOSE the Bottled Water Ban

- Uncle Roccas New York Pizza
- Hana Kitchen
- Aura Chinese Restaurant
- Sam's to Go
- Shanghai Chinese Restaurant
- Jalapenos SB
- Taqueria El Buen Gusto
- Speedy Mart
- The Shop Brunch
- Cesar's Place
- Milpas Liquors & Deli
- Los Agaves
- Alexa's Dulces Fiestas
- La Michoacana
- Pat's Liquor
- Tacos Pipeye
- Alexas Dulces
- El Rey Market
- Eller's Donuts House
- Family Tacos Irapuato
- East Beach Tacos
- Panaderia Veronica

TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE COSTLY BOTTLED WATER BAN IN SANTA BARBARA



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- X A ban doesn't reduce demand for bottled water.
- X Residents, commuters, and visitors will simply purchase these products in neighboring cities and bring them into Santa Barbara.



The goal of California's beverage companies is to support an efficient, closed-loop recycling system that ensures our bottles and cans are remade as intended.

Our bottles are made with PET—a valuable and recyclable plastic that is in high demand as feedstock for new bottles and countless other products. We are carefully designing our plastic bottles to be 100% recyclable—including the caps.

I agree that a city-wide ban on the sale of all bottled water would hurt our local businesses, disrupt tourism and fail to protect the environment. I urge the city council to **OPPOSE** a ban on the sale of bottled water.

"Yes! You can list me as opposing the water bottle ban!"

UNCLE Rocco's NY PIZZA
Rocco MARAMONTE

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Rocco4919@gmail.com

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE

805 69 8007

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Juan. Oviedo

FIRST NAME

Hana Kitcher

LAST NAME

503 State St

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

93101

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

Juan-O.

SIGNATURE

747-333-9288

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Howie Bao

AURA Restaurant

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

511 State St Santa Barbara CA 93101

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bao5987@aura.com

805-397-9850

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

[Handwritten signature]

SIGNATURE

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"Yes! You can list me as opposing the water bottle ban!"

Bebbhueh Taraxdar (owner)
Sam's To Go

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

726 N Milpas St, 93103

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

Sams2Go.milpas@gmail.com

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

Bebbhueh Taraxdar (805) 428-0024

SIGNATURE

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Shanghai Chinese
Restaurant

XuDan

FIRST NAME

zhou

LAST NAME

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EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

XuDan Zhou

SIGNATURE

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"Yes! You can list me as opposing the water bottle ban!"

— Jalapeno SB

SOSTONES

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

900 N Milpus St Santa Barbara CA 93103

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

805 886 2080

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

SOSTONES

SIGNATURE

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Dulce

FIRST NAME

Juanico

LAST NAME

Tagueria El Buen Gusto

836 North Milpas 93103

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

805 962-2200

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE

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"Yes! You can list me as opposing the water bottle ban!"

Speedy Mart

Hilwa

Biswas

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

826 N Milpas St Santa Barbara

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

805 564 6627

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE

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Ricardo

MORA

The Shop brunch

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

730

N

~~Milpas~~ Milpas

Santa Barbara

93103

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

805 845 1696

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE



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"Yes! You can list me as opposing the water bottle ban!"

Sara Montes

FIRST NAME

Cesar's Place

LAST NAME

712 N Milpas Santa Barbara CA 93103

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

805 884 0964

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE

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/ "Yes! You can list me as opposing the water bottle ban!"

ABDOU

FIRST NAME

MILPAS LIQUOR & DELI
ALHANNAN

LAST NAME

314 N MILPAS ST S.B CA 93103

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

AB

EMAIL

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SIGNATURE

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Adriana
FIRST NAME

Padilla
LAST NAME

Los Agaves

600 N Milpas St SB CA 93101
ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

[Handwritten Signature]
EMAIL

805-564-2626
MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE

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Dominic Montoya
FIRST NAME

Alexis Dulces Fiestas
LAST NAME

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EMAIL

8056895085
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SIGNATURE

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"Yes! You can list me as opposing the water bottle ban!"

Natalie Hernandez

FIRST NAME

Martinez

LAST NAME

all EYanonali st Santa Barbara

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

nantake.hernandez7171@gmail.com (805) 724-9853

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

Natalie Hernandez - la Michoacana

SIGNATURE

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Pat's LIQUOR

FIRST NAME

Mañā José Chacón

LAST NAME

424N milpas, CA 93103

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE

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MAURICIO GARCES TACOS PIPEYE
FIRST NAME LAST NAME

217 N MIUPAS ST SANTA BARBARA CA 93103
ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

TACOS PIPEYE 805 @ gmail.com (805) 335-4339
EMAIL MOBILE PHONE

[Signature]
SIGNATURE

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The goal of California's beverage companies is to support an efficient, closed-loop recycling system that ensures our bottles and cans are remade as intended.

Our bottles are made with PET—a valuable and recyclable plastic that is in high demand as feedstock for new bottles and countless other products. We are carefully designing our plastic bottles to be 100% recyclable—including the caps.

I agree that a city-wide ban on the sale of all bottled water would hurt our local businesses, disrupt tourism and fail to protect the environment. I urge the city council to OPPOSE a ban on the sale of bottled water.

"Yes! You can list me as opposing the water bottle ban!"

Alexis Dulces

Rosa

FIRST NAME

Bernabe

LAST NAME

134 N Milpas

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

Santa Barbara

EMAIL

93103

MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE

805 636 1269

TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE COSTLY BOTTLED WATER BAN IN SANTA BARBARA



The Santa Barbara City Council is considering a **city-wide ban** on the sale of bottled water 8 ounces or smaller.

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Ay Sar

FIRST NAME

Rumhi

LAST NAME

El Rey Market

305 W Montecito St / 93101

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

805 869-2171

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE

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Mary

FIRST NAME

Lin

LAST NAME

ELLER Donuts
House

22 N Milpas St Santa Barbara 93103

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

805-966-9001

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

SIGNATURE

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Jaqueline

FIRST NAME

Soto

LAST NAME

*Family Taer
Irapuato*

827 E Montecito Santa Barbara CA

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

EMAIL

MOBILE PHONE

Jadrufer

SIGNATURE

 **AMERICAN BEVERAGE**
DRIVING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

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Alfonso
FIRST NAME

Ojeda - East Beach Tacos
LAST NAME

226 S Milpas St
ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

Eastbeachtacos@gmail.com
EMAIL

(805) 770-2761
MOBILE PHONE


SIGNATURE

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*Panaderia
Veronica*

Maria

FIRST NAME

Leon

LAST NAME

201 S Milpas St.

ADDRESS / ZIP CODE

Jose Leon 5959

EMAIL

805-962-4811

MOBILE PHONE

Maria Leon

SIGNATURE