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**Attention:** Mike Prater, Executive Officer
Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
LAFCO Board Members

**RE:** Support, City of Lompoc - Sphere of Influence Amendment, LAFCO File #22-07

North County Farmers Guild (NCFG) and Good Farmers Great Neighbors (GFGN) is an alliance of primarily outdoor, sungrown cannabis farmers, greenhouse operators, manufacturers and auxiliary businesses throughout the central coast - including the **City of Lompoc**. We advocate for a supportive legal and regulated market.

Our "Network" of "Best of Class" expertise unites cannabis farmers, distributors, manufacturers and supply chain vendors who are committed to exceed the required environmental and public health standards and also spur economic growth and community development.

We have a number of members located in the **City of Lompoc** who have invested **tens of millions of dollars** in infrastructure to upgrade processing, manufacturing, distribution, storage and retail buildings and operations in the City. Local and regional construction, builders and engineers have benefitted from these investments and remain appreciative of our community's sustained progress up against the most dire market conditions because of the unlicensed, illegal operators quest in the marketplace across the state. The recent **Reason Foundation Study** measured the State's Cannabis Sales hovers around two-thirds in the illicit market.

That said, our community commitment to **recruit, train and retain** a local workforce from the area is unwavering and we extend outreach with local agencies, community based organizations, including linkages with family-ties in both Spanish and English.

Today, approximately **46%** of the **total workforce** employed by our Cannabis Community are **residents of the City of Lompoc**. The remainder commute as far as **50 miles** and spend as much as **2 hours in traffic** to get to work. This situation we believe is unsustainable and bears a significant hardship on workers and their families.

It is evident and clear to us as *Industry Leaders* that the **City of Lompoc** needs to build housing projects conducive to meet the demand of working adults. Affordable workforce housing will bring economic stability, lower the carbon footprint and more importantly provide working heads of households quality time with their families and children.

We respectfully request **Members of LAFCO** to consider any and all policy recommendations and incentives to zone, permit and approve a significant measure to <u>build workforce housing units in the **City of Lompoc**</u>.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at <u>sam@goodfarmersgreatneighbors.com</u> or 916-849-4300 for additional information.

In appreciation,

Sam Rodriguez Policy Director

Cc: Sara Rotman, President; Stacey Wooten, Treasurer