



December 6th, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Mendocino County
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Agenda Item 5h for BoS Meeting 12/8/2020

Supervisors,

Sovereign comments to express explicit support for the memo submitted by the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance and the request to delay the voting on this item until the issue can be sufficiently deliberated on.

The implementation of further code enforcement actions, that have the potential to cause great harm to existing farmers, should not be of priority until such time as the County's current cannabis program has a clearly identified path forward to successfully acquire annual licenses.

We strongly support the enforcement of egregious environmental violations county wide but voice opposition to the suggestion of increasing penalties if it would apply to the existing operators. The cost to come into County "compliance" is a financial hardship on our local farmers who have already invested an enormous amount of money on a failing program. Further, staff turnover resulted in inconsistencies in information distributed by Planning and Building staff and the unacceptable loss of applicant documents in the county's possession.

Additionally, the unpalatable notion that applicants currently existing in a "sunset zone" would be forced to invest additional time and money on a property that is not viable past 2022 or face more penalizing discrimination is unacceptable. We strongly urge you to consider the implications these changes would have on the local farmers that have been supporting the County financially over the last 3 years, even more so in the days of Covid-19.

Respectfully,
Brandy Moulton
CEO