

Hello,

I'm writing as a lifelong resident of Mendocino County and a current cannabis permit holder. I have been in the county program since early 2016.

From the discussion I've heard around the proposed new ordinance I'm mostly in support. Although I've always supported smaller cannabis farms in Mendocino County I can now see that keeping relevant in this "industry" involves allowing the more ambitious among us to scale up. I very much still support some sort of designation that honors the small farming heritage that is so much a part of this region. Part of helping heritage farmers continue to make a living is allowing expansion, and in some cases new cultivation, on parcels other than the hard to obtain AG zone. My personal preference would be for a maximum of 1 acre of cultivation per parcel, however, because I fear that massive expansion will create an oversupply.

As a phase 1 permit holder I am a little concerned that we may be forgotten in favor of outfits with deep pockets. We are in a tough spot with regards to obtaining full annual state licenses because of the CEQA requirements that aren't fulfilled by our county licenses. I'm concerned that there will not be enough staff at the county level to help us file any needed paperwork before the Dec 31st deadline if they are busy filing all the new applications. If we are made to re apply under phase 3, I'm worried that will add to the time it takes to re file all the information we've already submitted as well as the CEQA documentation.

I'm in support of removing the square footage cap for the personal use 6 plants. Many people use methods other than smoking cannabis flowers to receive medicinal benefits and an area of 100sq ft won't necessarily supply these needs. In the 215 days I was a patient of Dr. William Courtney and studied much of his research around juicing fresh, raw cannabis for many different ailments. His recommendations for this non psychoactive method of ingesting cannabis required quite a bit more than 100sq feet would provide. If any neighbors have complaints, the plants could be contained in a greenhouse. No dangerous illegal grows are represented by folks with 6 plants in their backyard.

I'm very thankful for county staff for spending so many hours on the conundrum this whole legal cannabis world has created.

Thank you,

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