

## **RESOLUTION NO. 22-067**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZING, ENDORSING AND ACCEPTING THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO MENDOCINO COUNTY BY THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COALITION TO SAFEGUARD COMMUNITIES IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ILLEGAL CULTIVATION OF CANNABIS BY DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS**

WHEREAS, the illegal cultivation, distribution and sales of cannabis by international Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) is a pervasive problem throughout Mendocino County and other regions of Northern California; and

WHEREAS, DTO-controlled cannabis operations involve violations of both state and federal law; negatively impact the environment; are catalysts for violence and a conduit for human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, these DTO-controlled operations present a serious threat to public safety and are part of an overall enterprise that controls the distribution of cannabis and other narcotics throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, local law enforcement agencies in Northern California do not have the resources to independently address the breadth and depth of criminal activity attendant to DTO-controlled cannabis operations. And, the evolving legal landscape surrounding the cultivation of cannabis has rendered old enforcement strategies significantly less effective. And, there is an emerging understanding of the environmental damage caused by these operations, as well as their connection to human trafficking in the form of coerced labor; and

WHEREAS, to better address the criminal activity associated with DTO-controlled cannabis operations, law enforcement officials in the counties of Butte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Trinity have joined together in a collaborative effort that will promote the sharing of information, resources and equipment among the constituent counties; and

WHEREAS, this collaborative approach among the constituent counties is supported by the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COALITION TO SAFEGUARD COMMUNITIES (NCCSC), which receives financial and technical support from the CENTER TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING; and

WHEREAS, because of the support provided by NCCSC, the constituent counties will be provided with and have access to subject matter experts, technical resources, personnel and equipment that will better enable them to:

- 1) Curtail the illegal cultivation of cannabis by DTOs;
- 2) Address and mitigate environmental damage cause by these illegal operations; and
- 3) Identify, investigate and prosecute incidents of human trafficking by employing a victim-centered and trauma-informed response.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes and endorses and accepts the technical and financial support provided to Mendocino County by the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COALITION TO SAFEGUARD COMMUNITIES in the ongoing effort to address criminal activities associated with the illegal cultivation of cannabis by Drug Trafficking Organizations.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor Haschak, seconded by Supervisor Mulheren, and carried this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022, by the following vote:

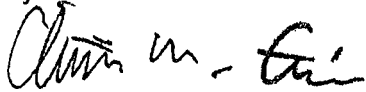
AYES: Supervisors McGourty, Mulheren, Haschak, Gjerde, and Williams  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Clerk of the Board

  
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Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
CHRISTIAN M. CURTIS  
County Counsel

  
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TED WILLIAMS, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Clerk of the Board

  
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Deputy