

Dear Supervisors,

I commend MCA for the time and effort invested in researching the fees proposal as they apply to cannabis. I also applaud the depth to which the CCAG has considered the relationships between actual human input and fees charged. I support the recommendations and rationales of both organization.

I have included a message I sent Supervisor McGourty in April of this year when other financial considerations were being discussed by the Board. I realize the 5(e) item on tomorrow's agenda pertains to fees but I hope you will read below to be reminded again at the disparity between costs in fees and taxes to cannabis businesses, (particularly cultivators and retailer as the Board refuses to require distributors, manufacturers and processors to pay more than a flat \$2.500 annual tax) compared to other agriculture, grapes in particular.

There is no reason that the Cannabis Program staff and Planning and Building staff should be less familiar with cannabis regulation than they are with building code regulations. It's their job and they have many resources at their disposal to self educate if needed. There is no reason why processing a cannabis application PARTICULARLY RENEWALS FOR CULTIVATORS WHO HAVE NOT CHANGED FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR should be charged at a higher fee than permits for any other business activity.

This Board, and ones before you, have expressed great desire to have more cultivators come into the regulated system. You will be much closer to this goal by amending the proposed fee schedule to bring cannabis fees more in line with comparable staff time charges for similar project reviews. The public is aware of tax and fees burdens on small farmers and sees your continued prejudice as political rhetoric with no action to reconcile obvious disparity.

Please take the recommendations of MCA and CCAG into your discussions with staff as to how they justify higher fees for cannabis compared to other activities and permits. Anything else is disingenuous and contrary to your stated desire to bring more farmers into compliance with the legal market structure.

Sincerely,

Corinne Powell