



September 13th, 2021

Re: BOS Meeting 9/14 Agenda Item 5g

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group (CCAG) has reviewed the 5g agenda item for the Tuesday September 14th BOS meeting. Our recommendations and comments are outlined below.

Agenda Item 5g

CCAG recommends that the BOS rescind the Chapter 22.18 Cannabis Ordinance. This recommendation has been weighted against the time it would take to finalize the outcome by having an election. It seems clear that our communities across Mendocino County have great concern for instituting a new cannabis ordinance that has no Environmental Impact Report to assess the potential impacts of new cultivation sites.

As the Board may be aware, the cannabis market is vastly changing in this current moment. Properties are going up for sale in the real estate market as many small farmers begin to leave due to the flood of cannabis across the State that is causing changing market prices, leaving them with business operations they are unable to afford to maintain. We are seeing a sudden “crash”. Adding more cannabis to this unfortunate situation would not be a benefit to anyone at this time.

However, if the Board decides to allow the voters of Mendocino County to decide if they support or oppose the proposed ordinance, CCAG recommends that the County prepare for a special election so the outcome can be determined as quickly as possible.

We strongly urge the Board to act swiftly in making necessary changes to the current Chapter 10A.17 Cannabis Ordinance, so that potential stopping blocks can be alleviated and ensure that the majority of applicants will be able to receive a county permit and pass the Appendix G #15168 checklist requirements. CCAG recommends that an Ad Hoc committee be formed to work with stakeholders such as MCA and CCAG to amend problematic areas

in the current ordinance. Having the experience and feedback from stakeholders that work closely with their membership that are enrolled in the cannabis program will bring valuable insight and solutions to make our current ordinance feasible and most importantly successful.

CCAG cares about the future of our farmers in our community. They support our local economy in small and large ways and we need to ensure that they will have a pathway to remain in business. Many issues are still outstanding with the current Chapter 10A.17 Cannabis Ordinance but can be solved with determination, new perspectives and a willingness to make the necessary changes to reach a point of success.

We request that our recommendations and feedback be considered as you make your decision for rescinding or putting the ordinance to a vote on the ballot.

Respectfully,



Monique Ramirez

For the Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group