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Date: 7/18/2017 8:54 AM
Subject: Subject: Public Comment on Cannabis Cultivation Program (Item 5h on 7/18/17)

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors and County CEO Carmel J. Angelo

From: Patrick Sellers, Mendocino Agricultural Consulting

As always, thank you again for your commitment to a successful cannabis program in our county. I'd to state simply that I support the recommendations by Hannah Nelson, Casey O'Neill and Ron Edwards.

The various issues raised by these folks are broadly and accurately representative of my experiences working with current and potential applicants throughout the county. Following their recommendations would drastically increase the efficiency and potential for success of the program.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of Items 11 & 12 from Hannah Nelson's letter relating to the 'Relocation/Transfer/Extinguish' aspects of the county program. The unintended consequences due to the lack of clarity in this part of the program are causing significant problems for the county's long-time cultivators for whom the program was intended to support and protect. In my opinion, the implications to the social and economic health of the county, caused by excessive limitations to our existing farmer community (who can prove they cultivated here prior to 2016) can't be overstated.

I have provided specific recommendation to solve part of the issue in previous letters which I will include below for reference, regarding changes or deletion of 10A17.17.080 B(3)(f).

Sincerely,

Patrick Sellers

Previous Input from 7/11/2017:

Please consider giving the following direction to resolve this issue:

If more than one person can adequately prove cultivation on a site prior to 2016, then each individual should be allowed to either A) continue cultivating on the origin parcel or B) relocate to an appropriate destination parcel without extinguishing another person's right to do the same.

This relates specifically to Section 10A.17.080 B(3)(f) which states:

If a person is granted a Permit for a destination site, any claims of proof of prior cultivation on the origin site shall effectively be transferred to the destination site, and the ability to claim proof of prior cultivation on the origin site shall be extinguished.

It has been my understanding, and that of many cultivators seeking permits, that this paragraph was intended to refer to 'any claims (by that person)' rather than 'any claims (by any person)' who can prove prior cultivation.

Please consider giving the direction stated above to indicate that the intent of B(3)(f) was not for one person to be able extinguish another person's ability to also prove prior cultivation on that parcel.

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