



MENDOCINO COUNTY
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
860 NORTH BUSH STREET
UKIAH, CALIFORNIA 95482

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Mendocino County Administration Center
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070 Ukiah, CA 9548

October 6, 2016

Dear Chairman Gjerde and Board of Supervisors,

RE: Environmental Impacts Related to Marijuana Cultivation in Mendocino County

The Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission (Commission) respectfully requests that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors address all prudent measures to protect natural resources in the CEQA process for the development of the County's cannabis regulations. The Commission has the following recommendations for your consideration:

- To complete an environmental review for CEQA that adequately addresses cumulative impacts;
- Look to the State's medical cannabis policy for guidance on environmental protections for fish, wildlife, and water quality;
- To keep in mind that a legal water right will not ensure sufficient stream flows for summer/fall diversions. Outdoor cannabis cultivation coincides during the period when juvenile salmon need water the most, approximately May through October;
- Ensure adequate protections for all downstream beneficial uses of water (Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load allocations);
- Need to address issues concerning enforcement in remote rural communities and TPZ lands where access is limited or difficult and enforcement staffing may be insufficient to protect natural resources;
- Consider whether the County has adequate biological and geological expertise on staff to review cannabis cultivation sites for compliance and/or remediation.

We acknowledge the challenges of, and resources needed for, keeping our natural resources and human communities healthy and safe. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sean White

Sean White, President
Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission