



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

August 20, 2018

Via Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: General Comments on the Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance Data Reports (Agenda Item 5C)

Dear Chair Hamburg and Supervisors,

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB currently represents approximately 1000 members. MCFB would like to submit general comments regarding the cannabis cultivation ordinance data reports.

On July 10, the Board of Supervisors approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to review potential amendments to the county cannabis cultivation ordinance. To provide additional information to this process, the Board of Supervisors and the public, MCFB requests that the items below be addressed.

1. That the cannabis cultivation permit summary information be further analyzed to provide data on the number of each cultivation permit type by land use zone (i.e. How many mixed light, large outdoor, nursery, etc. are on rangeland?)
 - Data is currently provided to show the total number of permits by type and the total number of permits by land use zone in two separate reports.
 - Seeing the data with each permit type by each land use zone combined will show how resource lands are currently being utilized within the existing number of cultivation permits.
 - This is especially pertinent to review prior to any consideration of additional permitting ability on resource lands.
2. That the cannabis cultivation permit summary information be further analyzed to show how many permits are currently connected to property under a Williamson Act contract.
 - MCFB has advocated for the past two years that the county needs to ensure compliance with the terms of the Williamson Act policies. With compliance forms being planned to be distributed to all Williamson Act contract holders later this year,

it will be proactive to have this data available to the county lands committee ahead of time.

- Cannabis is a compatible use, but not a qualifying use under the county Williamson Act policies. If the county lands committee had this data readily available, it can assist with any compliance verification that is necessary.

3. That the Board of Supervisors request an update on enforcement actions related to cannabis.

- It has been a few months since a report from code enforcement has come to the Board related to cannabis complaints and enforcement. It would be beneficial to view an updated report on any enforcement actions taken on permitted or non-permitted cultivators prior to the consideration of any expansion of the cultivation ordinance permitting structure.
- The Sheriff's department is not directly connected to the county cannabis cultivation ordinance. However, a report from the Sheriff's office on any actions taken on cannabis cultivators NOT in the permitted cultivation program would be beneficial.
- The black market impacts the validity of the regulatory process. It is important to know how code enforcement, the Sheriff's office or other agencies are coordinating to reduce unpermitted cannabis cultivation and manufacturing.

MCFB requests that the cannabis cultivation ordinance ad hoc committee as well as the entire Board of Supervisors take action on all of the points above in the process of continuing to review the county cannabis cultivation ordinance. If there are any questions on any of the above points, please do not hesitate to contact the MCFB office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frost Pauli".

Frost Pauli
President

CC:
Mendocino County Agricultural Commissioner, Harinder Grewal