

From: "Casey O'Neill" <casey@cagrowers.org>
To: <bos@mendocinocounty.org>
Date: 2/4/2019 3:50 PM
Subject: Comments for Board of Supervisors Meeting, Tues Feb 5th, 2019

TO: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mendocino County Growers Alliance,
Mendocino Cannabis Industry Association

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to engage in dialogue and to work together with the Board and county staff to address concerns around the cannabis regulatory process. Though it is early in the year, things are off to a hectic start. We offer our support and assistance wherever possible during this process.

State Cultivation Licenses- Mendocino cultivators are fast approaching the expiration date of their Temporary Licenses (all of which will expire before 4/31/19) and farmers are being told by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) that there will likely be a gap in their licensure due to a major backlog in their processing of annual/provisional licenses. At this time, the state has issued only 4 Annual Licenses to cultivators, and the much-discussed Provisional License program does not appear to be rolling out in a workable manner. We would like to request that Mendocino County contact the state agencies and our legislators to seek an emergency fix to this issue. There is a further issue that Provisional Licenses (if they start being issued) will only be available to applicants who have received a "Draft Agreement" from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This often takes CDFW at least 3 months but can sometimes take more than a year due to the fact that often CDFW will request additional information and/or site visits, and applicants then have to wait for backlogged engineers, contractors or other professionals to provide the information CDFW is requesting. It would be appropriate given the backlogs at CDFA and CDFW to allow Provisional Licenses to be issued to cultivators who have filed the initial notification paperwork with CDFW, rather than requiring that the process has reached the "Draft Agreement" stage. We are requesting urgent support from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in this issue, as it immediately affects the viability of our cultivation program. Without authorization to cultivate this spring, our farms will fail.

Ad-Hoc's- We would like to suggest the participation of the Ad-Hoc Committee members in the Working Group Process. These forums create opportunity to hear from a wide range of citizens who are engaged and knowledgeable in the areas on which the Ad-Hoc Committees are focused.

GMO Cannabis- We would like to offer support for the proposed amendment to the cannabis ordinance to ban GMO technologies in Mendocino County. The letter submitted by Genine Coleman and the Mendocino Appellations Project is an excellent authority on the subject and we offer support for that statement.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments!

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Casey O'Neill, HappyDay Farms,
Vice Chair California Growers Association
Cell: 707-354-1546 Casey@cagrowers.org
<http://www.calgrowersassociation.org/>