



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

303-C Talmage Road • Ukiah, CA. 95482 • (707) 462-6664 • Fax (707) 462-6681 • Email: admin@mendofb.org

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

May 2, 2017

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



RE: Agenda Item 5G: Public Workshop - Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding a Presentation on Proposed Business License Ordinance and Zoning Regulations for the Processing, Manufacturing, Testing, Dispensing/Retail and Distribution of Medical Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Within the Unincorporated Areas of Mendocino

Dear Chair McCowen and Board Members,

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 1200 members.

For this reason, MCFB would like to provide comments below for the proposed recommendations and revisions to Chapter 20.243 – Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Facilities.

20.243.160 Exceptions

(A) Existing packing and processing facilities. Establishment of new medical cannabis manufacturing sites may be considered with a Major Use Permit in FL, AG, or RL Districts consistent with Section 20.243.110 *Planning Approval Required to Process, Manufacture, Test, Dispense, Retail, and Distribute, Cannabis for Medical and Adult Use*, where all of the following can be demonstrated:

- (1) The site has been previously permitted as a packing and processing facility prior to January 1, 2016.
- (2) The site is developed with an existing packing and processing facility, including buildings, roads, power source, water source, and sewage disposal system.
- (3) There will be no expansion of impervious surfaces.
- (4) There will be no new access roads or stream crossings.
- (5) No trees shall be removed.

If all of the above are true, substantial improvements to existing facilities and systems would be acceptable.

MCFB would like to remind the Board that according to language approved earlier in the year for medical cannabis cultivation related to Williamson Act contracted properties, that medical cannabis is considered a compatible use and not a qualifying use. If medical cannabis is not considered to be a qualifying use for Williamson Act contract compliance, then any medical cannabis accessory structures would also not be allowed on Williamson Act properties as current requirements for accessory structures are to be incidental, related and subordinate to a qualifying agricultural use [Section 8.0 (B)].

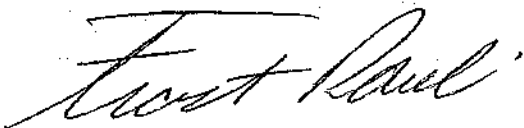
Since packing and processing is an accessory use on Williamson Act contracted properties, then the fact that a facility was previously permitted on FL, AG and RL should not be an automatic consideration for a major use permit since cannabis is not a qualifying agricultural use.

MCFB suggests that an additional language be added to 20.243.160 (A) to read:

(6) Sites on properties under a Williamson Act Contract will not be considered for exceptions

MCFB encourages the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to consider the comments and recommendations above. As always, if there are any questions on the comments and recommendations above, please do not hesitate to contact the MCFB office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frost Pauli".

Frost Pauli
President

Mendocino County Chief Planner, Mary Lynn Hunt
Mendocino County Interim Agricultural Commissioner, Diane Curry
Mendocino County Council, Katharine Elliott
Mendocino County CEO, Carmel Angelo