

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

From: ***Ukiah Area Rural Residential Concerned Neighbors***

Re: Mendocino County Cannabis Cultivation Program/Ordinance - Item 5a

Date: August 8, 2017

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We want to start by acknowledging and thanking the Board for all the hard work and thoughtfulness that has gone into adopting common sense regulations that balance the interests of cannabis growers with the interests of the neighbors and the environment. We believe we are very close to a set of regulations that work for the majority of all of our citizens, both those who choose to cultivate cannabis and those who do not.

Our Ukiah Area Rural Residential Neighbors have 3 areas we'd like to address:

1. Exclusion Zone: (Overlay process)

The Board previously gave direction on July 18, 2017 to allow both an opt in and opt out process for neighborhoods in regards to commercial cannabis cultivation.

We strongly encourage that the Board continue to support this process.

Most of Deerwood has zoning protection from commercial cannabis production based on previous Board direction. Thank you!

However, the back end of Deerwood includes some parcels 5 acres and bigger.

Because there is only one road in and one road out, any traffic going to the back of Deerwood goes through it all, which means we are still subjected to the impacts of commercial cannabis activity, including increased traffic, speeding vehicles, and heavy trucks.

We believe that neighborhoods deserve the right to opt out of commercial cannabis activity. Neighborhoods need the ability to have protection, which isn't always provided by zoning.

We are not opposed to commercial cannabis cultivation in appropriate areas and we respect the ability of neighborhoods to opt in who desire that, such as Laytonville.

Please continue to support neighborhoods' peace, safety and quality of life by allowing neighborhoods to opt out of commercial cannabis cultivation/production.

2. No Permit Transfers from the Coastal Zone to Inland Mendocino.

The Coastal Zone is not yet part of the "Mendocino County Cannabis Ordinance" due to special Coastal zoning requirements.

Coastal Cannabis cultivation is not addressed in the CEQA Initial Study for this Ordinance. The impacts of this weren't analyzed in the Initial Study and are not included in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Allowing transfers that were not analyzed or mitigated undermines the validity of the CEQA documents and the existing Ordinance and could set us back to ground zero. A place we don't think any of us want to go to.

3. Enforcement of non-compliant grows should not take a backseat because of the County's slow permit process.

Code enforcement should not turn a blind eye on violators. We need enforcement now on violators. Applicants who are in blatant violation of the Ordinance should not be given a pass due to a slow permit process.

The Board has recognized from the beginning that without enforcement, the Ordinance does not work.

Growers in clear violation of the setbacks or the square footage limits should be given strict deadlines to come into compliance or cease operations. Please allow code enforcement to do their job.

In conclusion:

- 1) We strongly encourage the Board to confirm the direction that you gave on July 18, 2017 to allow zoning exclusions (overlays) for neighborhoods wanting to opt out of commercial cannabis cultivation/production;
- 2) We also encourage you to support the validity of the CEQA documents by not allowing coastal zone transfers that have not been analyzed or mitigated;
- 3) Finally, we encourage you to uphold the integrity of the Ordinance by allowing for timely code enforcement of Ordinance violations.

Thank you for all of your effort and attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Ukiah Area Rural Residential Concerned Neighbors

Misty & Todd Allenbaugh
Deb & John Attaway
Candie Dickinson
Phil Gary
Jerilyn Harris
Geoff Heinecken
Carole & Ted Hester
Candace Horsley
Evan & Gail Johnson
Marsha & Elliot Little
Pete & Linda Lowman
Barbara McLean
Donna Mecca
Karen & John Moon

Cc: CEO, County Counsel