



November 15, 2018

Honorable Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010  
Ukiah, CA 95965

Via email to: [bos@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:bos@mendocinocounty.org)

RE: Recommendations of Ad Hoc Cannabis Committee

To the Honorable John McCowen and fellow Mendocino County Supervisors:

The California Oaks program of California Wildlife Foundation works to conserve oak ecosystems because of their critical role in sequestering carbon, maintaining healthy watersheds, providing wildlife habitat, and sustaining cultural values. We sent a letter dated March 14, 2017 in support of the commitment to prepare an oak woodland protection ordinance prior to January 1, 2020; the provision protecting oak trees from removal or damage during the period before the oak woodland protection ordinance takes effect; and the prohibition of new cultivation permits in districts zoned as rangeland (with the exception of relocation of sites per limitations of the ordinance).

We are sending this letter in response to the recommendations presented on October 29, 2018 by the Ad Hoc Cannabis Committee.

We understand that Mendocino County has expanded the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance to “include adult-use as a cannabis cultivation use type.” Thus, given the expanded scope of the regulations pertaining to expanded scale of cannabis cultivation, it is important that the environmental protections that emerged through the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) process are upheld as the county streamlines the process. In a memorandum dated February 10, 2017 and titled “Directions to staff from February 7, 2017,” you (Supervisor McCowen) reference the Board of Supervisor’s acceptance of the recommendation to adopt an oak woodland protection ordinance before January 1, 2020. As the Board of Supervisors moves forward with streamlined regulations it is of utmost importance that the adoption of oak protections is also prioritized. We attach a summary of language from the General Plan, which addresses oak conservation.

Additionally, the MND calls for the completion of a watershed assessment in Rangelands in advance of the implementation of Phase 3. Any discussion of expanded cultivation must await the assessment. Action before this would be in violation of the MND.

Specifically, we recommend that the following *Cannabis Ad Hoc Proposed Recommendations and Discussion Points* items listed in the hand out that was circulated at the October 29, 2018 meeting should not advance:

**2. 10A.17.080 (A)** – Should new permit applications be allowed in RL (Rangeland), subject to a Use Permit?

**3. 10A.17.060 Permit Types** –Should permit size be increased to one acre for conforming parcels in RL, AG (Agriculture) and UR (Upland Residential)...? Should this require a Use Permit?

**5. 10A.17.070 (D)** – Subject to a Major Use Permit should more than two permits per parcel be allowed? Should the total square footage be allowed to exceed an acre, perhaps up to four acres, provided no single permit exceeds an acre? ...

We urge the Board of Supervisors to uphold the natural and cultural resource values of Mendocino County by adopting appropriate environmental protections in advance of streamlined regulations.

Sincerely,



Janet Cobb, Executive Officer  
California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks

Encls.: Summary of language in General Plan addressing oak ecosystem protection