

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Today you will be hearing the Ad Hoc recommendations as it pertains to the current county cannabis ordinance.

I would like to state my **support** for the following Ad Hoc recommendations:

1. Requiring a Use Permit for Phase 3 applicants. Since these parcel types will not need to prove prior cultivation, this extra step in the application process will ensure good practices and alleviate any concerns surrounding neighbors may have on new cultivation sites being created in areas that have never had them before.
2. Allowing Transferability to Phase 1 applicants without need of a use permit or administrative permit. This makes total logical sense. It would probably be helpful to add that a permit may not change ownership within the year it was active, it would only be possible when the permit is up for renewal. This would give clarity to the public on when they could make an ownership change.
3. Extend the sunset period until 6/30/2022 for permitted indoor cultivation sites within proximity to the Coastal Zone
4. Adopt a social equity program consistent with state Legislation.

Ad Hoc Recommendations I **do not support**:

1. Delaying the opening of Phase 3 until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

This date should be delayed until ALL of the current applicants have been fully processed and approved. As of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 the Department of Planning and Building Service Cultivation Report indicated that only 250 applicants have been issued and approved for a license out of the current 1210 applicants. This means that over **79%** of applicants are still waiting to be issued or approved for an annual permit or renewal permit in the county program. With the trending time frame for a permit to be approved, I strongly urge the board to please extend this delay until we reach 85% **issued or approved**, or at the very least until 2021.

2. Live Scan should only be conducted 1 time at the county level and not required in subsequent years as the state already mandates live scans each year. NO need for employee live scans should be required at the county level.

3. Allow recreational cannabis to be grown outdoors if a person has 1 acre or more rather than the current 10-acre minimum.
4. Reduce the setback from Schools from 1000 ft to 600 ft to mirror state regulations. Although this may not impact many cultivators, we don't know what changes will be made to this ordinance in the future and it seems that it would take 1 second to change the number from 1000 to 600 ft. This is not an unreasonable request since it would mirror our State regulations, which are commonly stricter than county policy. Not every person in the accommodation zones need an AP to move forward with their permit, so this justification that they already have to get an AP anyways, in some cases may not pertain. In general we should not require a 1000 ft setback especially because we are moving away from a prohibition mentality and there are many liquor stores and bars located within 1000 ft of a school in many areas throughout our county currently. One could argue this poses a safety threat to nearby schools and yet it is currently allowed.
5. Allow Hoop Houses or Greenhouses for those in industrial zoned parcels. What difference does it make if a cultivator is using a greenhouse rather than a hoop house?
6. Create an alternative fossil fuel allowance for small generators such as bio diesel or veggie oil to be used and allow generators to continue to be allowed. Set in place sound barrier requirements and for supplemental usage only.
7. Tiered Nursery Permits should also have a cottage level size as well at 2500 sq ft.

Thank you for taking this opportunity to reflect on all of the input you have received from the Ad Hoc Committee, staff and the public. It's important that policy is set in place for this ordinance to thrive, succeed and have robust participation. Please make regulation changes that will achieve these goals. Our local economic future is in your hands. I personally appreciate all of the efforts that many of you have taken individually to see this program succeed and your support for small farms like mine!

Sincerely,  
Monique Ramirez  
3<sup>rd</sup> District