



July 16th, 2019

Re: Agenda Item 6C, Economic Development Ad Hoc Recommendations

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group (CCAG), we would like to provide our input for the following suggested Ad Hoc recommendations:

1. CCAG is in support of this recommendation but hopes that stakeholder engagement would be conducted to assess the needs of communities that may or may not be impacted by a cannabis innovation zone.
2. CCAG supports the recommendation for having streamlined permits for events, as this is crucial to the economic viability of the cannabis industry.
3. CCAG urges the Ad Hoc committee to conduct a thorough analysis of the amount of cannabis that is currently being produced in our county before making a determination that scaling up is needed as well as how many farms would actually be able to scale up if allowed. Our organization does support the allowance of co-operative models aggregating on land together but we need more clarity on this item to further comment.
4. CCAG is concerned that this recommendation may negatively impact the image and reputation that Mendocino County currently has since the cultivation permit size is capped to 10,000 sq ft while Humboldt County is allowed 1-acre cultivation permits. CCAG would like to understand what kind of marketing and branding would be conducted to protect the reputation of Mendocino County if working alongside the neighboring counties who do not have the same values. CCAG would also like to understand where the money would come from to set up this proposed Advocacy Group as well as those that would be participating. Would it be open to stakeholders and how would that process be vetted to have fair representation?
5. CCAG supports the exploration of funding options for CEQA requirements but cautions on where this funding would be coming from and what kinds of conflicts of interest this could potentially create as a result. Especially if limited to certain private partnerships. If this recommendation were solely for the purpose of expansion of permits, then our organization would like to

understand more details and would hope to provide input as a stakeholder in the discussion.

Thank you for your time and consideration on these important topics. We look forward to a robust, thriving and healthy cannabis economy for the future of Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

Monique Ramirez
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