

Dear Honorable Supervisors-

We are writing today in regards to item 5B and to voice our support for the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance's memo in regards to the county cannabis ordinance. It is of the upmost importance that the mess between CEQA, CDFA, CDFW and the local ordinance be resolved quickly. The county MUST find a way for current cultivators to be able to transition to annual cultivation licenses with the state before the Jan 1 2022 deadline for provisional licenses expires.

Our family holds 3 county licenses and we have invested over 4 years of time and hundreds of thousands of dollars in infrastructure, taxes, fees, and permits to be able to cultivate cannabis legally in Mendocino County. We are active in our community and have been proud to call Mendocino our home for going on 4 generations now. In regards to the state licensing, we have completed all water right registrations and permits with the Waterboard, have approved LSA agreements with CDFW, and met all requirements from Building and Planning. They \*only\* thing preventing us from transitioning to an annual state licenses is CEQA compliance at the county level. We absolutely need a reasonable path forward to continue our business.

Furthermore our county is in the middle of the greatest economic downturn in 3 generations and the thought that hundreds of legal, tax paying businesses, who employ thousands of people in the county, could be forced to shut down is horrific. If a resolution to this problem is not reached the negative effect of those in the cannabis industry and the county economy will be devastating.

We would request that the board make the following actions:

Prioritize getting existing permit holders through the CEQA process so they can transition to an annual state cultivation license above all else. The protection of current Phase 1 and Phase 2 permittees over the development of any new local land use permit based cultivation regulations needs to be the singular focus of staff.

Petition the state to push out B&P Code 26055, (h) from July 1, 2021 to July 1, 2023 in order to buy more time for this issue to be resolved. Mendocino County is not the only jurisdiction with problems with the CEQA time frame and a unified voice from multiple counties about this problem would be helpful.

Create a new Ad Hoc to address CDFA and CDFW compliance for Phase 1 and Phase 2 current permittees. The Ad Hoc needs to be comprised of Supervisors whose tenure will extend beyond January 2021.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Brandon Wheeler  
Roger Wheeler  
Julee Wheeler  
Chanel Wheeler