

Good morning,

We apologize for the late comments, but it has been a bit hectic for all of us this last few weeks. Thank you for continuing to move forward and adapt to deal with local government issues.

In terms of the current proposal regarding the industrial hemp pilot program, please see the comments below:

General:

- Industrial hemp is recognized both at the federal and state level as an agricultural commodity.
- There is interest in the cultivation of industrial hemp in Mendocino County to diversify the agricultural commodities that are currently produced in the county.
- There is also potential educational opportunities through the partnership with the UC Cooperative Extension to work with those participating in the pilot program to learn more about issues such as the taint of wine grapes, THC vs. CBD content, improving upon the diverse uses of hemp and what may be applicable for production in Mendocino County.
- *There are concerns from the cannabis industry, however a limited, observed and managed pilot program can help to mitigate for concerns from both the cannabis industry and those who are wanting to participate in the pilot program as an industrial hemp cultivator.*

Zoning:

- Staff originally proposed to only allow for hemp cultivation under the pilot program on AG zoned property to avoid some of the potential conflicts brought up in other submitted comment letters for the item today.
- The suggestion to broaden the zoning came from: 1) Ag Department staff based on one potential applicant location that seemed to be a good match for the program that was not on AG zoned property and 2) one of the Ad Hoc members.
- Since there will be a review process for any proposals received to cultivate industrial hemp under this pilot program, there should be the opportunity for county staff in the agricultural department to work with staff in the cannabis management unit to make sure that locations proposed for industrial hemp are fully vetted. If significant concerns arise, the location may not be approved.
- It is suggested to discuss this with the AG department staff to consider adjusting the zoning as needed to mitigate for some concerns from the cannabis industry while allowing for the progress of establishing an industrial hemp pilot program for 2020.

Cross Pollination

- Staff has proposed to only allow for the cultivation from female cloned plants to reduce the presence of male plants and the threat of pollen production. This is an additional expense for hemp cultivation, but those in the working group felt this was reasonable to help with mitigating concern from the cannabis industry.
- Seed and nursery production is also not allowed to reduce the presence of pollen.
- At the state level, all industrial hemp must be cultivated from a list of certified cultivars and the CA Crop Improvement Association has developed hemp crop standards.
- There is an inspection process with oversight from the Ag Department and from the applicant in regards to male plants.

- There is additional reporting and oversight within the context of the state industrial hemp cultivation. Any participant in the county pilot program would also be subject to state requirements.
- With the current CBD production focus with industrial hemp, there is no incentive for a industrial hemp producer to have male plants. Male plants impact the overall quality of the crop and also increases the workload on the producer in terms of the need for inspection, removal, etc.
- Historically, other agricultural crops such as seedless mandarins or vegetables grown for pure seed stock, have had concerns with cross pollination. There have been measures taken to help mitigate the cross pollination concerns for these crops by working closely with local departments of agriculture and self-implementing management practices.

Since the Board meeting today is remote, and the public won't have the traditional interaction opportunities, we would ask that these written comments be considered in the conversation today.

Thank you

Devon Jones