

Honorable Board Members,

I am STUNNED by the negative implications of 5f; the notification of the community of the wide-ranging content of 5f a mere three days, only one of them a business day, before the Special Meeting called for Monday. Releasing information just before a weekend is an old political trick to get information legally past people with less chance of their noticing or commenting. Can we not do that, anymore? Can we have a little more notice so such vital matters of not only our county, but also our very lives are no longer steamrolled over the community and business members of Mendocino County? It would be appreciated.

Secondly, 5f should be four different topics, each with their own conversation, not lumped into one 'Phase 1 Application' topic. We oppose 1-3 for the following reasons:

5f)1: *Encouraging Denial of Non-compliant Phase 1 applications*: What is a 'non-compliant application'? As of Saturday April 11th, nobody has a definition of a 'non-compliant application'. Is it a defiant application full of attitude? Okay, little joke there, but really, the regulations state when and how an application can be denied. Encouraging denials outside of regulations should not be encouraged.

Instead, how about we ENCOURAGE applicants to come in and work with a planner to improve their application so it better meets expectations? How about we improve communications between the Planners and applicants until we're speaking the same language and can give each other the data the other needs? The current Cannabis Director has just yesterday begun this by spreading information about CannaNotes (an email list she's bringing back up to use) and sharing general data on what exactly is going wrong on people's 15168 submissions, to such an extent that at least some of us now have an increased ability to meet 15168 expectations. Let's give the Director time to work before we jump on the denial steamtrain, shall we? NO on encouraging denials.

5f)2: *Approving more lawyers/lawyer time to assist with Phase 1 Denials*: For three years, the Board of Supervisors has told the applicant community there was no money for additional planners or planner salaries. Zero money. None. The budget was dry and screaming. Now, suddenly, there is money for lawyers, but ONLY TO DENY applications? Where did this money come from, specifically? How is there money for lawyers when there was none for helpful planners? Why the sudden rush to deny-deny-deny applicants instead of working with the ones who are interested, to reach success? NO on using tax dollars for lawyer salaries to deny applicants.

5f)3: *Satellite Imagery Subscription for Cannabis Program and Code Enforcement*: One Third Of A Million Dollars. To spy on Cannabis Applicants one assumes, as this is under the '5f Phase 1' discussion item. Or is this meant to spy on all citizens, to root out unpermitted carports in their driveways? Unpermitted decks in their backyards? Too many 'junk' cars parked behind their houses, unmoving? Unpermitted awnings outside restaurants trying to serve patrons during Covid? Are they being fined too, or is this Satellite Spy Subscription solely for regulated cannabis applicants to increase the punishment for actually coming forward out of the shadows? <- that is not a rhetorical question, but an honest one.

If this Spy subscription is *not* meant for the regulated and general populations, then that needs specifically expressed and removed from 5f to be it's own stand-alone, non-Phase-1-affiliated subject. The regulated community has borne the slings and arrows of a frustrated wider community and even BoS and Planners for too long already. The punitive words and behaviors towards regulated farmers/applicants needs to stop, and stop now.

Before any such subscription is purchased, parameters need to be set AT MINIMUM for which persons by name, in which departments, are allowed access to the Spy Subscription, for what purposes, with which limitations and how that persons actions are tracked and how long the tracking is stored for public review, with which penalties on the operator for mis-use, within which operating guidelines to preserve the privacy of the general community of Mendocino County, including regulated cannabis farmers.

Human nature has shown that authorized users, even Planners, Code Enforcement and Sheriff employees, will use the Spy subscription to spy on the residences and businesses of ex-lovers and personal persons-of-interest, such as BoS members and other county employees. Any such behavior needs to be met with a significant fine for misuse of access to sensitive information, such as a months salary.

Lastly on 5f)3, where is this third-of-a-million dollars coming from? We've been told for the past 3 years that there's zero money for additional planners to help with applications and to actually visit the farms and have conversations with the farmers about their set-ups, improvements that need made, etc. But now the Board can come up with a third of a million dollars available for Spying subscriptions? Why is there money for punitive measures against regulated farmers, but not for assistive, community-building measures for those same farmers?

NO TO SPYING. Stop punitive behavior towards Phase 1 applicants. Phase 1 applicants are your partners in strengthening Mendocino. Start treating them that way.

Regards,

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Jackrabbit Ranch