



April 16, 2021

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

As Flow Cannabis Company, a licensed cannabis distributor, processor and manufacturer in Redwood Valley, we are writing in strong support of the Commercial Cannabis Activities Ordinance (CCAO) and the amendments to the existing Cannabis Facilities Ordinance.

We fully believe that the county needs to move to a land use approach in order to be compatible with state law and to give farmers in Phase 1 a chance of achieving state licensure. We also understand that the role of the BOS in this instance is to determine zoning and permit requirements for various cannabis cultivation licenses. To that end, we have the following recommendations.:

1. Allow Phase 1 operators in good standing to continue operations while they are in the process of applying for a permit under Phase 3.
2. Give Phase 1 farmers a window of priority to submit applications in Phase 3 prior to new applications.
3. Provide Phase 1 operators with an opportunity to come into the program at this point, BUT establish a clear deadline for turning in complete applications after which enforcement will occur.
4. Allow new cultivation on RL, but only on parcels that were cleared for use at least 5 years prior to the application.
5. Allow new cultivation on parcels over 10 acres on RL, AG and UR to be up to 10% of the parcel size with a major use permit.
6. Establish strict guidelines for water use including tracking and reporting water use. Use this as a pilot program and then require all agricultural industries to comply with this program.
7. Discourage the improper use of hoop houses, generators and nighttime lights through proactive enforcement.
8. Encourage sun grown, open air, sustainably produced cultivation that can be part of a larger Mendocino brand of regenerative agriculture across sectors: cannabis, food and wine

Concerning the proposed amendments to the facilities ordinance, we are very excited to see the county moving forward with tourism options. We fully believe this will bring the attention to the region that will drive success for the smallest of farms.

Thank you for your attention and the time taken on this sensitive issue. We know the discussion has been difficult and, at times, frustrating. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of your approach and we support your vision for sustainable economic development in Mendocino County.

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