



Honorable Supervisors and Mendocino County Residents,

This letter represents the owners, supervisors and staff at Emerald Sun who care deeply about the future of Mendocino County, its culture, land, and opportunities.

Whilst the origins of cannabis cultivation have always been contested, it's now the responsibility of everyone living and working in the region to create a successful future, not just for cannabis business owners, but for all of Mendocino County.

With more than 70 employees and over 30,000 lbs of annual processing, Emerald Sun is one of the largest supply chains for cannabis farmers in the region, as well as one of the largest local employers of any business type. Emerald Sun's staff is local, our ownership lives locally and serves on local committees and boards, our vendors are local, and our farm customers are entirely local licensed homesteaders, cultivating on  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre canopies or less.

Our presence on the other hand, is broad and widespread. Emerald Sun attracts businesses and visitors from throughout the state to tour our facility, stay in local hotels, spend money at local restaurants, and buy flower from local farmers. As a result, Emerald Sun is in the position of providing a unique perspective on Phase 3, and has a responsibility to weigh in on the future of the cannabis program in the county.

Regardless of what happens, Emerald Sun is here to stay. Our supply chain model means we can work with cannabis from anywhere in California. Our hope is with the passage and responsible implementation of Phase 3, we can support the legacy of craft cultivation *and* welcome local commercial production—with an emphasis on partnership. Inaction will not stem the flow of commercial cannabis from throughout the state, nor protect the small farmer against competitive pricing. Only the relevance of Mendocino County can do that.

Emerald Sun's Position on Phase 3:

- **Emerald Sun supports more local resources for cannabis.** Cannabis has cultural, social, and economic importance for the county and needs the administrative, regulatory, and enforcement support it deserves for Phase 3.
- **Emerald Sun supports small, licensed farms.** Existing Phase 1 farmers that meet state requirements must have a prioritized and assisted pathway to annual licensure.
- **Emerald Sun supports responsible expansion in 2021.** Additional cultivation should be granted to appropriately zoned sites that meet all environmental regulations.
- **Emerald Sun supports enforcement.** Illicit grows are a threat to the licensed small farmer, the environment, and contribute to anti-cannabis stigma in the region.

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We urge everyone to look at Phase 3 through the lens of the overall strategy of the county, one of partnership across cannabis and non-cannabis business, and of the balance of craft and commercial cultivation.

We must respect pioneering small cannabis farms, consider environmental concerns of scaled agriculture, acknowledge the reality of a plant that has grown well beyond our county lines, and support a market that can positively impact our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Basil Haymann".

Basil Haymann  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Haymann".

Sandy Haymann  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Schlesinger".

Brett Schlesinger  
CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Schlesinger".

Dean Schlesinger  
CCO