

April 18, 2021

Re: BOS - April 19, 2021 Noticed Public Hearing, Agenda Item 3b

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

I am a 10A.17 Phase 1 cannabis cultivator in Comptche, and I am writing to support your efforts to create a pathway to a functional cannabis program for Mendocino County. With careful consideration for a systematic rollout to a phased approach to expansion, I do believe there is not a reason to stop moving forward with a "Phase 3" CCAO land use ordinance. My concern with the proposed expansion is one of our already burdened Planning & Building staff and the quagmire that many of our existing operators face with meeting state CEQA requirements to gain Annual Licensing through CDFA. I am sure that you share these concerns, so it is only my intention to ask for a reasonable path be created for Phase 1 & 2 cultivators that remain in good standing to have access to a streamlined process before we fully open staff time to new applications. While I realize that our county P&B staff is much more familiar with processing land use permitting, I do believe there will be a learning curve for the size and abundance of applications that will be submitted. Many of the current cultivators, such as myself, have bootstrapped themselves through the process to fulfill a transition into this heavily regulated commercial industry. If these cultivators are not able to continue operating with minimal delay, due to what could be many months/years worth of applications in queue for processing, they will likely go out of business.

I would like to show my support for the recommendations for amendments put forth by the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance. Additionally, I would like to support the letter from CCAG, and believe their suggestions of using administrative & minor use permits for current operators would be an important aspect to streamlining a transition to the proposed CCAO ordinance.

Thank you for taking the time to read these comments. I appreciate your efforts at this important moment for our community. This difficult deliberation will be a part of the legacy of this current Board and for Mendocino County, as a whole.

Best Regards,

Mark Shaffer



Shelby Ridge LLC