

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors:

My name is Steven Amato Jr, current provisional state cannabis cultivation license holder and prospective more than 1 acre cultivator. Thank you for all your hard work and reading all these letters. Although I was pleased to see a majority of support of the BOS for expansion for particular RL and in AG, I am concerned about there being a very limited "Pilot Program". Perhaps there will be less than 20 or 30 applications of these type, but it would really be harsh for that 31st farmer to have to wait for a Pilot Program. I would assume a pilot would start next year and end after a full season?

I would support allowing the Planning Department to determine the rate of applications that they can accept and have windows that open and close. This would prevent getting rushed applications to be the first out of "30" which could really hinder the success of such Pilot Program and not provide the proper data to evaluate.

Being a legal cannabis grower since 2016, I would like to point out that we deal with extreme regulations and costs at every single turn. After seeing that some Board members were not very familiar about cannabis grow practices, it is probably safe to assume the same would apply to cannabis grow regulations from Fish and Wildlife, the state water board, CDFA, and other agencies that have more difficult layers than most any other crop one could think of. I understand there are some important extra standards such as not being located next to a school, but the whole system always feels like it is designed to be punitive and set-up for failure rather than a program to set us up for success. I have more faith in this BOS than others in the past. Please just try to use the lense of what can help all cultivator types succeed as much as what is negative. Allowing smaller growers to expand with some hoop houses and greenhouses that aren't done in an obnoxious way determined by Planning during application is one such example. It would allow more volume produced with less of acreage being utilized.

I won't take up more of your time. Thank you.

Thank you,

Steven Amato JR