



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

June 7, 2021

Re: Item 5d on 6/8/2021 - Discussion and Possible Action Including Presentation Regarding 1. Cost Analysis, Budget Allocation and Funding Needs to Create a Proactive Code Enforcement Division, Including Increased Staffing to Code Enforcement, the Sheriff's Office, County Counsel, and Cannabis Program, for Cannabis Complaints and Enforcement, Aligned with the Humboldt Model and 2. Reorganize the Code Enforcement Division to Allow for Promotion and Retention of Staff

Honorable Supervisors,

We understand and appreciate the need for increased support for both Code and Law enforcement to manage the problems associated with the various types of non-compliance with the County's cannabis program. MCA has supported past requests by the Sheriff's Office and Planning and Building to increase capacity within these understaffed departments. We continue to support the Sheriff's enforcement priorities around egregious environmental and criminal violations, and recognize, as he does, that some situations call for a clipboard, while other situations call for a more substantial response.

We are concerned with the Sheriff's statement that additional support in the form of sworn-in officers will not be available for the 21/22 year. Without additional Law Enforcement personnel who are able to tackle the truly egregious violators, we believe that it is likely that public concerns will not be addressed as the focus for enforcement will be the 'low hanging fruit' of smaller less impactful activities. We have already seen notices for Code Enforcement actions taken against gardens of 25 plants, but the public has yet to see any notices about actions taken against the huge grows run by organized crime that are clearly plaguing our community, particularly in the Covelo area.

With regards to the 'Humboldt Model' we urge the Board to consider all of the available information on their program before local implementation, and to focus efforts first on easily identifiable egregious violators and bringing folks into compliance whenever possible. There have been many reports from Humboldt of overreach and unintended consequences¹ from the administration of their program both within and outside of cannabis, and we hope to avoid those same issues here in Mendocino.

Finally, in reviewing the document shared for this agenda item titled 'Cost Spreadsheet Revised All 1' there are two arithmetic errors that incorrectly identify total amounts in the '21/22 Cost' column in the Cannabis Unit column. The total is currently listed as \$350,632.25, but the numbers add up to \$703,817.75. Added to the Cannabis Anticipated Supplies items this would place the amount for projected Cannabis Totals at \$737,417.75.

We thank you for your consideration of these important topics.

Sincerely,

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance
e: info@mendocannabis.com

¹ https://issuu.com/econews/docs/june_2021_econews_web/s/12318395?fbclid=IwAR3FUGN1fxHeirskAEwebSDNni-x3D3JjbFn2E8GUcim6-0qAFoAXRhpBw