

Re: BOS 6/22/21 Agenda Items 4ax & 5g Commercial Cannabis Activities Ordinance

Supervisors Gjerde, Haschak, Williams, Mulheren and McGourty:

Although I am a member of the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council and serve on its Cannabis Policy Committee, I am speaking only for myself.

As you meet again to add restrictions to the Commercial Cannabis Activities Ordinance on the eve of its adoption, I wish to point out that any reason you had for not doing a countywide programmatic EIR is now moot. You thought it would cause a delay that would result in missing the July 1 deadline to pass a new ordinance. Now that passage of the new ordinance by July 1 is guaranteed, please consider these very important reasons why you must now call for the EIR as soon as possible:

1. To fail to order the EIR that *nearly everyone* is calling for would contradict your Mission Statement's directive to "create and maintain a responsive and responsible government that enhances the quality of life of the people of Mendocino County."
2. You can't fix what you can't see. The EIR will capture both illegal and legal activity to help us understand how the industry has damaged our environment, what will be required to repair that damage, and what will be the best timeline of expansion.
3. If you don't order an EIR, the SOWWW referendum promises to overturn the new ordinance completely, leaving us with the previous ordinance which does not align well with the State's new standards.
4. The funding to pay for the EIR is already available. As the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance wrote, "an EIR funded from any number of available one-time funding sources, including the \$18 million in jurisdictional grant money from the State, would provide the scientific data that enables us as a County to set a true baseline. As long as the EIR advances the CEQA compliance for the existing State license holders, State money can be used for an EIR."

I also want to request that you do not falter in addressing the egregious practices of cannabis cultivation that are currently allowed in the new ordinance: hoop houses, indoor growing, mixed-light cultivation, fences that block views and animal movement. You must also address permit stacking that would allow for cumulative canopy area greater than the maximum intended; the best way to do this would be to eliminate the mixed-light cultivation type entirely.

Very Sincerely,

Sattie Clark
Redwood Valley