



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

August 16, 2021

Re: Agenda Item 5d for 08/17/2021 - Discussion and Possible Action Including Adoption of a Resolution Establishing and Setting the Time and Place for Conducting Business of a Cannabis Standing Committee

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Honorable Supervisors,

MCA appreciates your understanding of the need for a Cannabis Standing Committee to continue addressing the myriad issues that still remain with regulations at both the Local and State levels.

Per the recommendations in our memo dated August 2, due to the likelihood that the referendum will be successful, in the absence of an adopted Chapter 22.18, we as a community must take immediate action to ensure that existing operators can move forward in obtaining a County Annual permit and State Annual license. Simultaneously, we must continue to explore and open pathways that will maximize environmental and neighborhood protections for those not currently in the system wishing to participate in the regulated market.

To this end, MCA recommends the following items be the most pressing work for the new Cannabis Standing Committee:

- Pass an Urgency Ordinance halting the implementation of Phase 3 under Chapter 10A.17 during the drought emergency.
- Prepare an Urgency Ordinance to pass after the Portal closes, amending Chapter 10A.17 to allow a land-use discretionary component for existing operators who are unable to receive their County Annual Cultivation permit through the ministerial process of 10A.17.
- Develop a new discretionary land-use ordinance with full environmental review to determine appropriate conditions for canopy and zoning expansions.

Additional complex issues to be addressed include, but are not limited to:

1. Portal process oversight and direction.
2. Support, Guide and Supervise MCP staff in a practical manner.
3. Gather and implement valuable stakeholder input as all processes progress.
4. Review of Appendix G application process and timelines.
5. SSHR review process and timeline.
6. Statistical data reports and analysis to be used for economic development, etc.
7. Land use considerations
8. Development of licensing solutions for new and legacy operators who have not yet been able to enter the regulated market

With all of these topics to be addressed, and time being of the essence, we recommend that the Standing Committee meet at least once every two weeks, if not weekly.

**We further request that the Standing Committee appoint experts and stakeholders to serve the Committee and to participate in workshop-style meetings.** This will ensure that issues which require greater than 3 minute input have a mechanism to be fully explored in the context of the Public accountability protections of the Brown Act.

In service to the health of our community, our environment, and our local economy, we remain committed to working with the Board and the Cannabis Standing Committee to most effectively represent the diverse needs of the wide range of constituents within our County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance  
e: [info@mendocannabis.com](mailto:info@mendocannabis.com)