



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

November 5, 2021

Re: Item 4f (consent calendar) for 11-09-2021: Approval of Submission of the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program Application; and Authorization for the Cannabis Program Manager, or Department Head, to Execute the Grant Agreement on Behalf of the County of Mendocino Should the Grant be Awarded

Honorable Supervisors,

Since the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Program to help support the transition of our local Provisional license holders and applicants to Annual Licenses was last discussed here, there was one meeting hosted by Supervisor Haschak that Cannabis Program Director Kiristin Nevedal did attend. Many ideas were discussed at the one community meeting, but since then there has not been the opportunity to review the draft application, or to continue the conversation, and as such we have no transparency into the requests that will be coming from MCP. Further, the draft application has not yet been added to the County website.

We recommend that the application be shared with the community and the BoS as soon as possible to allow time for consideration. We also recommend the application be submitted with sufficiently vague language to allow us as a community to continue to work together after the submission to identify the best uses for these funds, and to ensure that they are equitably distributed directly to Applicants as well as the Cannabis Program.

We suggest the following items be specifically included in the Grant Application:

- a. Funds for Provisional licensee and application costs pertaining to state agency compliance fees and environmental mitigations imposed by CDFW, the Water Board, CalFire, MCAQMD and any other state or local department or agency criteria required for Annual Licenses.
- b. Funds for Provisional Licensees to engage CEQA consultants and professional assistance in completing Appendix G and Project Descriptions, or any other regulatory documentation, required for site-specific CEQA compliance.
- c. Funds for water infrastructure: storage, catchment systems, ponds, pumps and irrigation equipment, or any other projects aimed at conservation and efficiency.

- d. Funds to cover the costs for any environmental review, or legal costs associated with reaching the determination that environmental review is not required, to amend 10.a.17 to add a discretionary permitting pathway for current applicants under the ministerial permitting provisions.
 - i. We are aware that 10A.17 will need amending to add a discretionary permitting pathway for an unknown number of existing operators. It is essential that we begin this amendment process as soon as possible, and MCA continues to be available to assist in the amendment process with the County and local stakeholders.

MCA had requested on October 5 that the Grant development process be sufficiently inclusive of local stakeholders, the cohort for whom the funds have been made available by the State. However, stakeholder involvement has been limited to one community meeting and three-minute public comment opportunities. MCA continues to recommend that this item be discussed by the Supervisors in open session for final consideration of Public input, and that they be willing to hear from the community once the Draft is made available and incorporate any beneficial revisions to the Grant Application.

We continue to recommend that a Standing Committee be set up to address the myriad issues facing our locally permitted cannabis community, such as the problems with the Portal process, the Equity Program, the amending of 10A.17, and the continued staffing issues that are plaguing the department.

Thank you for your consideration of these items.

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance

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