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>>> Laura Clein <koalaura18@yahoo.com> 5/5/2021 3:05 PM >>>

5/6/2021 Planning Commission – Cannabis Cultivation

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for taking the time to consider the options before you outlining how the cannabis industry will look in Mendocino County today, tomorrow & far into the future. We 100% support the MCA / CCAG coalition memo as well as the separate CCAG memo. We encourage you to use their expertise as recommended actions from a vast array of stakeholders. These organizations represent the majority of small farms & cannabis businesses who have been actively engaged with the process of legalization since 2017, many who go back to the 9.31 program, some long before.

What we hope to see crafted at this juncture is a pathway toward permitting for as many farms as possible, while keeping the nature of our beautiful area as is. We hope that there will be access for the smallest mom & pops who wish to apply in Phase 3, not only for the largest most well-funded companies. We would like to see Mendocino County uphold the heritage & values of the culture created by the sustainable small farms who have long contributed to the rural communities of this county. It's the most equitable way forward. Mendocino already has a reputation, a built-in brand to capitalize on. Mendo-grown is known as some of the very best cannabis in the world.

We are a 10,000 square foot farm on Rangeland in Covelo who has held a (recently renewed) County Cannabis Cultivation Permit since 2017 & a State Provisional Licensed Small Outdoor Cultivation site since 2018. Up until now, a 10,000 sq. ft. farm was the largest available in our county, while a Small Cultivation site by the state. A Medium State license Type is up to 1 acre. There are no State Licenses available for a farm above a Medium 1 acre at this time. It's possible it will remain that way even after 2023, California is literally doing the research right now on whether the Large License for farms above the 1 acre cap is necessary, or not, statewide. Not this year, not next year, maybe not ever, so what's the rush here & now?! And let's take a quick moment to celebrate that SB59, the bill to extend State Provisional Licenses, now passed out of both committees, showing some success & hope for small farms across the state. So, given the status of these statutes, we feel it's important to reiterate our concern that by approving anything over 1 acre for Phase 3 our County is yet again getting ahead of itself, which may or may not work out to our benefit in the long run, exhibit A. Phase 1.

We have written letters to you & to the Board of Supervisors on this subject not only in the past couple of months but for years. There's much more to say about the many variables... everything from environmental to enforcement issues need to be examined & addressed more clearly by this next level cannabis policy. But we don't have to elaborate further again, as we know you know & are getting a ton of insight. There have been 100s of written & oral comments on these matters from the cannabis industry & the community at large, with over 90% opposed to the ordinance as it is written now. Thank you for finding ways to allow us to add our public comments even during the pandemic when it has felt all the more difficult to meaningfully participate in the democratic process.

Sincerely, Laura & Marty Clein