

pbscommissions - In Support of #R_2019-0012 and #R_2-19-0013

From: Josh Morsell <joshmorsell@gmail.com>
To: <pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org>
Date: 2/1/2022 4:34 PM
Subject: In Support of #R_2019-0012 and #R_2-19-0013

Mendocino County**FEB 02 2022****Planning & Building Services**

Dear Planning Commissioners:

We are writing in support of two applications under consideration at your February 3, 2022 hearing: #R_2019-0012 and #R_2-19-0013, filed by Brandy Moulton, seeking to create a Cannabis Accommodation Combining District that would allow her cottage cannabis farms in the Simpson Lane/Mitchell Creek area of unincorporated Fort Bragg to continue operating rather than be shut down due to the sunset provision.

We recently bought a house within view of Brandy's Jade Court property (the site referenced in the #R_2019-0012 application). We are reluctant to step into controversy, and we hope for the friendship of our neighbors, some of whom have commented in opposition to Brandy's applications. But we feel this issue is important.

Our community desperately needs jobs. We have an opportunity with cannabis for a sustainable industry that could bring money and – as the outlaw stigma of cannabis fades into the past – bring esteem to our region, like grapes do for our inland neighbors. We are in danger of squandering this opportunity if we make life impossibly difficult for legal cannabis businesses.

Meanwhile, Brandy employs approximately 40 people locally. So far as we have seen, she has not disrupted community life. We have not detected any problematic smell, noise, or traffic. She has patiently discussed our questions and concerns with us, and other people we've spoken to have corroborated the information she provided.

We have been unable to find a substantive reason to oppose Brandy's applications. With her water storage systems and water reclamation technology, she may well consume less water than would be consumed by alternative uses of the property. She does not use pesticides and is limited to organic fertilizers. She faces regular inspections to ensure that she complies with strict rules about water and chemicals. Her security cameras and alarm system guard against crime. It remains to be seen how operations like hers will impact property values in the long run, but – having just purchased a house in the neighborhood – we can attest that property values in the neighborhood did not seem lower than elsewhere on the coast. Conversely, it seems quite possible that prices will drop if all the licensed cannabis farmers are driven out of the neighborhood and sell their properties at the same time. And if they do sell, what uses will replace them? Unlicensed, unregulated cannabis production? Alternative forms of agriculture not subject to the same water-efficiency rules? Will the properties sink into disrepair? And where will laid-off employees find new jobs?

We are a family with a small child, and we want other families with children to be able to make a living on the coast. Brandy has worked hard and invested much, in compliance with strict rules that mitigate potential harms, to become a substantial employer who brings real money to our community. We believe our community should invest in supporting her continued licensed operation.

Sincerely,
Josh Morsell, Lia Morsell and Lee Morsell