

JUN 12 2023

Planning & Building Services



Mendocino County Planning Commission  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

June 5, 2023

Re: Minor Use Permit U\_2022-0007 Hayes

Honorable Commissioners,

MCA writes today in support of Staff's recommendation to approve this permit.

Over the past several years, a combination of Cannabis Prohibition Districts, market forces and the burdensome regulatory process have all but decimated the once thriving Mendocino County coastal indoor cannabis farming community. Multiple award winning brands with state and national reputations for quality have had to close their doors, lay off local workers and either move out of Mendocino or shut down their operations all together.

Mr. Hayes is a valued member of this legacy cultivation community, and until he found the property on this Permit application, we were in danger of seeing his business shuttered as well. With the granting of this permit, Mendocino County would be continuing to take action on the Board's stated goal of keeping as many regulated operators in our cannabis program as possible. Further, Mr. Hayes is a locally designated Equity Operator, which indicates that he has suffered disproportionately from the War on Drugs. It is the intention of the State and the County to ensure that those with this designation are provided additional support and resources to assist them in their transition to the regulated market.

As stated in the paperwork provided by Staff, this project falls within appropriate zoning and aligns with the County's General Plan, and any potential impacts can be mitigated to make them less than significant. With sharply reduced local sales taxes and significantly decreased revenues forecasted for the next few years, we as a county should be actively encouraging local, law abiding businesses to invest in our community. In this case, we must also simultaneously ensure that this existing legacy operator who has been following the rules be able to move forward with his relocation to appropriate zoning, which is what this permit will allow him to do.

We strongly support the approval of this permit and the accompanying MND.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

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