



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

May 3, 2022

Re: Item 3s - Adoption of Resolution Designating the Mendocino County Cannabis Department as the Department to Administer Chapter 10A.17 of the Mendocino County Code, the Mendocino Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance

Honorable Supervisors:

MCA recognizes the need to assign oversight and administration of the cannabis permitting program, given that cannabis has been the 2nd largest provider of tax revenue in the County in recent years, and a significant driver of economic activity locally despite the relatively small 290 acres of licensed canopy.

First, MCA urges you to include language in the resolution stating that the assignment of the cannabis program officially to the MCD is a temporary measure that will end when cannabis is designated by the State of California as an agricultural crop, with which you are already in agreement.

Our second comment on this resolution rests on the continually cited shortcomings and dysfunction of the MCD. MCA's memo of April 19th, provided a detailed description of mistakes, inaccuracies, inconsistencies and confusing responses to queries from cultivation applicants – all indicating a failure on the part of the MCD to clearly communicate and to further the goals of the County cannabis ordinance..

Our community is continually disheartened by the dismissive attitude toward MCA memos and comments being seen as the singular contributions of a mere seven (7) individuals. In contrast, we offer the following quote from a Nevada County Supervisor who recently attended a screening of the documentary film Lady Buds, which shares the story of six courageous women transitioning from the medical cannabis system of Prop 215 to the commercial cannabis industry of Prop 64, starring lifelong Mendocino County resident Chiah Rodriques of Greenfield Ranch.

Nevada County 1st District Supervisor Heidi Hall, told of a panel on cannabis she presented recently to the California Association of Counties:

“...when you go around the table, the #1 message [from the counties] is ‘shut down illegal growers’. That’s all they can focus on; they want enforcement. The panel we had up there, from CDFA to enforcement, every single one of them answered the question ‘How do we deal with illegal growers with the same answer: ‘Bring more people into the legal mix.’ So we have to make that easier. You ought to be treated like every other business, not given onerous regulations and onerous permit requirements, onerous fees and taxes – that’s not right. You have our support to keep working to get you there.”

In summation, we continue to request that the County and MCD engage more directly with MCA and other local stakeholders on the best way to save our friends and neighbors who are struggling to remain within the licensed cannabis community. , We must emphasize that your current lack of direct supervision of the Cannabis Department, and your choice to leave the program in the hands of Director Kristin Nevedal who as we have reported to you is creating new restrictive policies not in the ordinance ostensibly in order to remove farmers is significantly contributing to the economic decline of the county. If you have no desire to resolve these issues to protect the people who have contributed over 15M to the County’s budget over the last 3 years, 8 million MORE than projected, we hope at least you have a desire to protect this source of revenue for the County.

Continued inaction will only expedite the demise of a once vibrant community, not because of State regulations, but because of the choices of this Board. We urge you to act before it is too late.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance
e: info@mendocannabis.com