



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CONTACT INFORMATION
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010
Ukiah, California 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221
FAX: (707) 463-7237
Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org
Web: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors

August 22, 2017

Secretary John Laird
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Laird,

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors supports the efforts of your agency to protect, enhance and sustainably manage the natural resources of California. Your mission is all the more important as California makes the transition to treating cannabis cultivation as a regulatory issue instead of primarily a law enforcement issue.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is working diligently to create and refine a regulatory framework that will bring cannabis cultivators into compliance with a long list of conditions that protect the public health, safety and the environment while also allowing cultivators to qualify for State licenses when they become available.

Increased law enforcement efforts alone will do little to address the negative impacts of illegal cannabis cultivation. In order to protect the environment, reduce black market diversion, reduce violent crime associated with the black market, and fulfill the legal requirement to provide safe access to medical cannabis, it is imperative that we develop a successful regulatory program that is embraced by a significant number of cultivators.

During development of our local cannabis cultivation permit system we have worked closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Cal-Fire to understand and address their concerns which have been incorporated into our ordinance. In fact, CDFW may review any permit and may inspect any cultivation site that is in the application process for a permit.

However, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is concerned that recent activities by CDFG may prove counterproductive to our efforts to bring cannabis cultivators into a regulated system. Environmentally damaging practices and illegal water diversion, whatever the intended purpose, must be stopped. But we question the necessity and advisability of heavy handed summary eradication of small scale cultivation operations that are in the permit process. We are very concerned that actions of this type will have a chilling effect on the willingness of cultivators to apply for permits.

We strongly encourage that consideration be given to those small scale cultivators who are actively attempting to comply with the requirements of our regulatory system. We are mindful of the California Natural Resource Agency mission statement which encourages "collaboration and respect for all communities and interests involved." Therefore, we encourage you to insure that small scale

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CARRE BROWN
First District

JOHN MCCOWEN
Second District

GEORGEANNE CROSEY
Third District

DAN GJERDE
Fourth District

DAN HAMBURG
Fifth District

cultivators who are in the permitting system be given clear notification of any violations and clear direction to cease and desist prior to being subjected to standard law enforcement raid tactics.

We trust you agree that prioritizing enforcement efforts to halt environmentally damaging practices while also supporting State and local efforts to establish a successful regulatory system is essential in order to protect the environment as well as public health and safety. We look forward to your continued cooperation and support as we strive to develop an effective regulatory system that will achieve the goals of State legislation and the expectations of our constituents.

Sincerely,

John McCowen
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Mike McGuire, Senator
The Honorable Jim Wood, Assemblymember