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Subject: App: PLN-12935-CUP, APN: 210-074-008
Date: Friday, September 29, 2023 11:29:16 AM

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Good Morning,

Please see the comments below regarding the above referenced project.

Project Number: PLN-12935-CUP

Project Name: Humboldt Flavor

APN(s): 210-074-008

Project Description

The applicant is seeking a Conditional Use Permit for 20,000 square feet of existing outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation utilizing light deprivation techniques. Two harvests are anticipated annually. Water for irrigation is supplied by an existing permitted groundwater well. There is 53,000 gallons of water storage on site. Power for the project is supplied by generators. The applicant is also requesting a Special Permit for a setback reduction to public lands.

CDFW Comments

Thank you for referring this application to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for review and comment. The following comments on the proposed project are intended to provide background and to assist the Lead Agency in making informed decisions on the proposed project PLN-12935-CUP. The following comments shall supersede prior comments submitted by CDFW regarding PLN-12935-CUP. CDFW requests that all comments are incorporated in the final Humboldt County Staff Report.

- The Project Description states that the water for irrigation will be supplied from a single existing permitted groundwater well. While onsite, CDFW observed that the applicant was actively using two wells to source water for irrigation. CDFW has not received a well completion report for the second well on the southeast portion of the parcel to review and incorporate into our comments. Additionally, the well on the southeast portion of the parcel appears to be instream and potentially hydrologically connected to waters of the State. CDFW requests that the applicant stops the use of the second well until either a well assessment is completed to determine that the well is not hydrologically connected, or the applicant notifies CDFW and receives a final LSAA for the Point of Diversion (POD).
- In 2021, CDFW determined that a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) was not required as the applicant completed all projects under a previous LSAA (1600-2016-0153-R1). During the site visit on September 15, 2023, CDFW observed a ford stream crossing that requires maintenance. Additionally, CDFW observed road erosion

associated with storm water runoff on a road located on the southern portion of the parcel (APN: 210-074-008) that is used to access a neighboring parcel (APN: 210-074-002). CDFW requests, as a condition of project approval, that the ford crossing is maintained, and that water bars or other drainage control features are appropriately constructed on the road to disconnect road runoff from delivering sediment to streams.

- The proposed of water storage by 52,000 gallons of water storage does not appear to be an adequate amount of storage to support 20,000 sq ft of cannabis cultivation on the parcel. CDFW recommends, as a condition of project approval, that the applicant stores no less than 150,000 gallons of water on site should the well not yield in perpetuity.
- During the site visit on September 15, 2023, CDFW observed monofilament netting that was used during cannabis cultivation operations on the parcel. To minimize the risk of wildlife entrapment, CDFW requests, as a condition of project approval, the prohibition of synthetic netting (e.g., plastic or nylon) including photo or biodegradable plastic netting for the purpose of cultivation operations and/or erosion control.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

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