

Mattole Restoration Council

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September 14, 2015

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501

SUBJECT: Comments on Proposed Humboldt County Cannabis Cultivation Compliance Initiative

Dear Supervisors,

We at the Mattole Restoration Council have worked for over 30 years to restore and conserve the ecosystems of our 304 square mile Mattole River Watershed in Southern Humboldt County. Throughout our time as a community based non-profit, we have seen the impacts of land use practices that failed to integrate necessary protections for watershed integrity. Our community members, landowners, partner organizations, and governmental agencies have worked tirelessly to correct these practices and mitigate extensive damages. Unfortunately, we are still in the process of recovery from these legacy impacts. Due to these impacts, the Mattole River is currently listed by the EPA as a 303(d) impaired water body for sediment and temperature, and our salmonid populations are at critical levels.

Therefore, we feel the need to comment on the proposed Humboldt County Cannabis Cultivation Initiative (draft 7) being put forth by the California Cannabis Voice Humboldt (CCVH). We would like to second many of the concerns and suggestions already raised by a number of local environmental groups, including the Northcoast Environmental Center, EPIC, Humboldt Baykeeper, and SAFE Alternatives for our Forest Environment. Local cannabis cultivation should be limited in size and distribution to preserve the outstanding array of native ecosystems and ecological function Humboldt County's watersheds.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to consider the following requests:

- Stop conversion of steep terrain and sensitive habitat (including healthy forestland, native grasslands, wetlands, and oak woodlands) to large-scale grows;
 - County should only allow commercial cannabis operations on agricultural land and land specifically identified as appropriate for cannabis production
- Establish a responsible upper limit for maximum cultivation area allowed per parcel;
 - Ecological impacts should be considered in determining upper limits
- Require compliance with all local and state environmental laws, including water rights law, prior to the issuance of a business license and/or other certification;
- Minimize summer/dry month water diversions where necessary to protect viability of salmon streams and maintain water quality; and
- Ensure that grading for roads and cultivation sites be regulated to minimize erosion and sediment delivery to waterways.

We also urge the Board of Supervisors to enact a truly public process that allows for input from regulatory agencies and the public on this very critical issue.

Sincerely,

Cassie Pinnell, Executive Director



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

North Coast Chapter
P.O. Box 1067
Arcata, CA 95518



September 12, 2015

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Supervisors,

The North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has concerns about ongoing and future environmental impacts of the cannabis industry in Humboldt County, including impacts on our native plants and their native habitats. Therefore, we provide this initial input on the issue, including the current California Cannabis Voice Humboldt's (CCVH) proposed Humboldt County Cannabis Cultivation Compliance Initiative aimed at addressing permitting and licensing for existing operations and mitigating ongoing environmental impacts of the cannabis industry.

1. We recommend that any County process for such permitting and licensing be developed through a fully open and public process. This process should provide for public input throughout development, and include full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. We do not see the current CCVH initiative providing such a process.
2. While we may differ in some specifics, we support in principle the recommendations on this issue provided to your Board in the September 2, 2015 letter from the Northcoast Environmental Center, Humboldt Baykeeper, Environmental Protection Information Center, and Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment.

We may use a public process as described in our first recommendation to provide more detailed input in the future. At this time, we believe the establishment of a fully public process should be the first priority in addressing and remedying the impacts of the cannabis industry on the County's priceless natural resources.

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide, non-profit organization of at least 8,000 amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The North Coast Chapter is one of 33 local chapters, whose members are mostly in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Ralph".

Carol Ralph
President

cc:

Northcoast Environmental Center
Humboldt Baykeeper
Environmental Protection Information Center
Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment
California Cannabis Voice Humboldt, info@ccvhumboldt.org

“The war is over. Let’s not waste the peace.”

Dear Chair Fennell, Supervisors Bass, Bohn, Lovelace, and Sundberg.

On Friday, just past 11pm, literally at the 11th hour on the last day of session, the California Legislature passed medical cannabis regulation. County Counsel is scheduled to brief you on this matter in the afternoon session.

The war is over. Let’s not waste the peace.

To this end, California Cannabis Voice Humboldt thanks the multitude of persons that have helped bring us this far. A special thanks goes to Asm. Jim Wood and Sen. Mike McGuire for their state leadership.

It was exactly one year ago today, September 15, 2014, that CCV-H began this grassroots process at the Eureka Rotary. “Worlds Collide” indeed.

<http://lostcoastoutpost.com/2014/sep/15/worlds-collide-eureka-rotary-hosts-meeting-cannabi/>

A few things that have become abundantly clear over the last year:

First- is the absolute dedication, authenticity, passion, and commitment from the grassroots who have organized. There is a large contingent of farmers who want to play by the rules and come into full compliance, leaving the black and grey markets behind forever. Though they may be a minority among the 10,000 cannabis farms in Humboldt County, they have done everything in their power to show their good faith.

Second- is the love, sacrifice, and dedication of CCV-H’s board of directors. Combined, our board has poured thousands of hours into our organizing efforts. The love of the community embodied by our board and constituents for Humboldt County is profound. We’ve been told by state agencies that more environmental permits have been pulled by cultivators in the last 9 months than the last 9 years combined. We ask that you judge us on those that try the most, and not those that try the least.

Third- is the unwavering commitment of E.P.I.C, and its executive director Natalynne DeLapp, to activate engagement with stakeholders so as to produce positive environmental and community outcomes. She was present on September 15th, 2014, took the time to educate the CCVH Policy Team on many important issues (such as the need to remove all reference to TPZ from the documents), and released a public statement on the current state of affairs just last evening. We are fortunate to have Natalynne as a member of this community.

It is our hope that the future of our Humboldt Republic, our shared home, can embody the best civic virtues of Rome and the United States. The Roman ideal was of a citizen-soldier-farmer. We have, to the best of our abilities, engaged in the civic process for the last year. A key component of this engagement has been listening to the advice of our elders, honoring those that came before us, and heeding the wisdom of our elected officials. We have been soldiers, in a certain sense, in the “war on marijuana.” The war is over. Let’s not waste the peace. Finally, we are farmers. And it is harvest season. We must return to our fields and our farms.

It is for these reasons that I am proud to announce the unanimous consent of the CCV-H board in turning over the work of our hands to the People of Humboldt County—Our Fellow Citizens—through the Board of Supervisors. We have full faith and confidence in Your Board’s ability to bring this to completion through the Public Process. We encourage a robust engagement with leading local Land Use experts during this process.

During the high stakes Sacramento Legislative process, Your Board has commanded the respect of officials and jurisdictions around the State of California for its willingness to focus on these difficult issues and policies. Clear and bold leadership sent a singular message: the solutions weren’t going to be found in Sacramento, they were going to be found on the North Coast. They were found here. And now it is incumbent upon Humboldt County to show the rest of the state how to begin regulating the pre-existing cannabis farms.

In this spirit of Civic Virtue, CCV-H also announces that we are entering a new phase of our organization. It was imperative to the Cannabis Community that we come this far as an organization directed exclusively by members of our community. Now that we are through this phase, we are expanding our Board of Directors and issue an open invitation to interested community members and leaders to contact us and discuss involvement & recommendations. CCV-H seeks to embody what it means to be a community welfare organization, comprised of leaders from the Cannabis and Non-Cannabis Community, engaged in education, environmental protection, and charitable efforts. There is a lot of work ahead of us, and we can only do it together. Please contact us via our webpage (www.ccvhumboldt.org), facebook (ccvhumboldt), or email (info@ccvhumboldt.org).

It has been an honor to work with Your Board, and this community. It has been a privilege to undertake our civic duty. Thank you, and may God continue to bless Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

-Luke Bruner, Co-Founder & Board Member, CCV-H.