

Re: The revision of the County Cannabis Permit Ordinance

September 6, 2017

To: the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission

In your proposed ordinance revision, a Special Permit is required for marijuana operations within Spheres of Influence (SOI) or 1000' from the current boundaries (city limits) of cities in the County. The County could still grant a discretionary permit for a commercial marijuana growing operation after notifying the neighboring land owners if the neighbors don't show, in the *opinion* of the Hearing Officer, that the "public health, safety or welfare" of the surrounding community is sufficiently detrimentally effected. This seems to put the Cannabis applicant in the "drivers seat" and the community on the defensive. Your ordinance should be written to protect the community, not the applicant.

Since cities can create their own ordinances with regard to these businesses including complete prohibition, it is unreasonable that the County ordinance could impose these controversial operations so near to a City.

Therefore, I urge you to adopt ordinance revisions that would PROHIBIT marijuana growing or processing permits for County parcels within the Sphere of Influence of any city in Humboldt County and in places where the SOI has not been designated beyond the city limits, there should be at least a 1 mile buffer zone where commercial marijuana operations are PROHIBITED.

Cities grow. Land is annexed and new developments are built. The County should respect that and give our cities room for this future growth that is usually residential in nature. Commercial cannabis is not compatible with residential areas, as your current ordinance admits. Commercial cannabis is not common agriculture. Common agriculture does not require security fences, night lighting, cameras and guard dogs and usually does not produce a product that is illegal in the eyes of the federal government and is not for use by children.

General Plans should be respected. There are areas around Fortuna designated as Rural Residential in their general plan (for 2030) AND in the County's own Planning Commission Approved Draft General Plan Update (March 2015) where applications for permits were accepted because the land is technically still zoned AG. These areas already have houses in them and receive city services. A generous buffer zone around our cities prohibiting this controversial business that is incompatible with neighborhoods must be legislated to allow development in keeping with the city's ordinances as they grow into these areas.

I urge you to work with the city governments and their citizens to adopt County rules that do not infringe on the rights of cities or on the rights of their citizens, present and future, to decide if Commercial Marijuana operations are compatible with their lifestyle, aspirations and circumstances.

Respectfully, Paul Farnham
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