



September 26, 2017

Dear County Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisors,

Trinidad is a tiny city that serves as the community center of a larger unincorporated area stretching from Little River to Patrick's Point, the 'Greater Trinidad Planning Area'. This Planning Area includes the Luffenholtz Creek watershed, which is the sole water source for the City, the Trinidad Rancheria, and many adjacent County residents. This Planning Area also includes multiple critical coastal watersheds that flow into the Trinidad Bay, an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), a state designation that prohibits any discharge that may affect water quality in Trinidad Bay.

The City of Trinidad has significant concerns about the negative impacts to City residents, our neighbors, fellow community members, and critical watersheds in the greater Trinidad Planning Area (Figure 1) that may result from the revised Commercial Cannabis Ordinance being considered by the County. These negative impacts can reasonably be expected to include an increased risk of property crimes and violent crime, increased fire risk, nuisance odors, increased traffic and road wear, and threats to critical watersheds including water pollution and reduced flow.

The City of Trinidad is in the process of prohibiting commercial cannabis activities within City limits in order to minimize these impacts in the City. The City is currently updating our General Plan and Local Coastal Program, and will be updating our Sphere of Influence as part of this process. The City of Trinidad requests that the County prohibit commercial cannabis activity in the Greater Trinidad Planning Area.

Much of the Greater Trinidad Planning Area falls within the 'Rural Residential Neighborhood Areas', already mapped and defined in the Ordinance as requiring additional protections through a Special Permit Process. The area is defined by steep slopes and small coastal streams, with rural residences close to the coast and timberland in the upper watersheds. Law enforcement resources are spread thin in this rural area, the county roads are in poor shape, and there is almost no agricultural land in the area. Commercial cannabis activities are not well suited to this coastal planning area.

The fact that almost the entire Greater Trinidad Planning Area requires a Special Permit process according to the current draft Ordinance highlights the reality that this area is not suitable for commercial cannabis activity. Simply closing these areas to commercial cannabis production would be a more effective, prudent, and efficient approach to protect public safety, critical watersheds, and the welfare of our community.

The City of Trinidad urges you to protect critical waterbodies and the rural communities in the Greater Trinidad Planning Area by prohibiting commercial cannabis activities between the Little River and Patrick's Point.

Sincerely,



Dwight Miller  
Mayor

*Approved unanimously by the Trinidad City Council on 9/26/20107*

cc: Trinidad City Council  
Trinidad Rancheria Tribal Council  
Yurok Tribe  
Trinidad-Westhaven Watershed Council  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
Humboldt County Planning Dept – Cannabis Services Dept.  
Westhaven Community Services District  
Big Lagoon Community Services District  
Big Lagoon Park Corporation

# Trinidad General Plan

## Figure 3: Planning Area (Draft)

