

ATTACHMENT 4

Public Comments From The 10/8/2021 Community Meeting

- Southern Humboldt – What about the farmers who already did compliance? They should be reimbursed. There needs to be support for them too.
- Will there be help with grant-writing?
- Why focus on transitioning licensees when there is a disagreement between CDFW and licensees.
- Why road maintenance is not included. It ultimately helps watershed too.
- Agrees there should be support for those that already completed projects.
- The 1:1 match, if we had the money to buy water tanks we would have already. Is there some alternative? A match of labor? A lot won't apply because of it.
- Caution that small farms don't have the ready income to match, how to make sure this is not going to big corporations. Hopefully safe guarded for smaller communities in the cash-poor environment.
- The price of water tanks is skyrocketing, can that money be put into the manufacturing of cheaper tanks? Maybe with water tanks.
- Not sure PB is the right entity to manage funds to pay themselves, fears of them being insufficient. Concerns of predatory handling of funds.
 - Fears of consumers taking brunt of force – payment?
- Grant should be available for unfarmed trimming solutions. Cannabis support facilities for small farmers to not send out.
- Questions: no cash to match but need lots of water storage. Can they use loans to match grant? Can they use other grants given from other programs to match?
- Asked for more conversations to move along. Project Trellis should use the de-prioritization of compliance funds to go towards these missing catches. Mimics that the 1:1 match is unrealistic.
- We should re-evaluate these criteria.
- There should be money set aside for equity or to give preference to equity participants.
- Want to echo trepidation with Planning and Building, concerns about ethics of treatment towards applicants. Concern with efficacy of Planning and Building to manage these funds. Comment made considering Planning back-billing three years. Concerns of predatory handling of funds.
- Wishes that Planning (from the Commission meeting previously) wishes to use funds or partnership with Economic Development to revitalize the large framework of Humboldt County. "Don't squander this"
- Questions: What is the administration fee for the implementation of this 18m? There should be transparency in exactly how the money is being allocated. Fears of a "bloated" planning department. Hopes for water storage to include ponds. Based on assessment, wells should also be included in storage funds. There should be workshops on grant applications/walk throughs. Concerns about "throwing good money to bad" – throwing money to businesses that will fail.
- Clarification: the grant is issued for SIQA compliance but gave local jurisdictions wiggle room for this process. Question: Can allocation go towards support of administrative services such as consultants including (Margro Advisors) to the application and implantation of the program.

Recommendation that money be allocated for projects to go to administrative project management-type support. Further recommendations: concerned about hydro-connectivity of wells, it seems to be biased to cannabis and not other forms of agriculture. Hydrostudy should extend to all forms of agriculture. Water is a concern but is not only from cannabis cultivators. Another recommendation: county should consider purchasing of water tanks for a certain time period (multiple years passed) not just current matching funds. County should invite businesses to bid materials to offer materials to Humboldt farmers. Bring the competition to Humboldt.

- Against 1:1 matching; don't have the money to match even if they want to and fear that loans are predatory in nature.
- Wants to echo Margro suggestions for support to have grant accessible and written. Allow a funding item to retroactively pay a consultant for helping write the grant/putting together a grant application. Fill a room with consultants, pay them, and have applicants come at a first come first serve basis to help with application.
- Further fears about 1:1 matching, does not feel like this is a good option for those who are already starting the next year at a loss. The 1:1 matching is taking away potential capital from the business. Further fears Planning handling the grant. Fears about the money going to Planning for administrative costs given their large rate of pay. There needs to be more work for applicants to afford that administrative pay. Especially given their billing procedures (referencing back-billing of three years). Concerns about 1:1 match for signing up for something that may set them up to fail.
- Echoes fear about 1:1 match. Advises taking closer consideration of their demographic and having more interdepartmental collaboration to grapple how to fight this "massive extinction event". Fear that this is a grant that will actually do more harm than good. "This system is not working".
- The county should do a bid for competitors to provide cheaper products. Echoes trimming facilities for small farms – it is because of compliance they have to outsource trimming, so this grant should cover it. Echoes concerns regarding Planning and Building managing this grant; it should not be managed by that department. "They take money from our back pockets, but our back pockets are empty. There is animosity between the cannabis community and Planning and Building".
- More echoes of concern regarding Planning and Building running this grant. There should not be a permit needed for 5,000 gallon tanks and grant should support easy access for these tanks.
- Echoes support for retroactive payments/workshops for grant application. Trellis should give more business support. Echoes more concern for Planning and Building handling this grant and wishes for extreme transparency.
- Suggestion: reopen Trellis consultant bid and have equity funding to pay for grant-help for Planning and Building grant.
- When are applications set to open?
- It is hard for community meetings to be as long as they are.

Richardson, Michael

From: Ruth Bergman <humboldtdeeproots@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Ashworth, Logan
Subject: Re: PLANNING AND BUILDING'S NEW CULTIVATOR GRANT

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello! I will be at work and unable to participate in the Oct 8th Zoom meeting about grant options being discussed through Trellis and Planning and Building. I hope to provide my input through this email.

My input on eligibility requirements for any grant administered through Planning and Building (or Trellis):

Please consider the project the grant money is being applied for, then as a secondary qualifier, consider the applicant. It should be understood that the project itself is of benefit to the county economy. By project I mean any cannabis operation that is in measurable and actual progress towards completing the requirements of Planning and Building.

Regarding the applicant, there should be qualifiers that show the applicant intends for their project to benefit the county rather than be an engine to carry cannabis industry dollars out of the county (like Flow Kana does in Mendocino). It may seem like a simple approach to disqualify any applicant that lives out of the county, but that approach lessens my chance for success when my actual project is intended for the primary benefit of the Humboldt cannabis industry.

Better qualifiers would be to examine the applicants history within the Humboldt cannabis industry and the intent of the business to work for the benefit of the county industry (examples: acre or less of canopy, history of existing cultivation predating legalization, date of initial permit application, progress towards abating the terms of compliance agreement). In short, please do not put in factors to disqualify eligibility based on applicants place of residence or the location of the operation within the county. Rather examine the merits of the project itself and its intent towards the prosperity and success of the Humboldt cannabis industry.

Thank you for this opportunity to give input and for all the work being done to help bring cannabis businesses through the hurdles they're facing during such economically trying times.

Gratefully,
Ruth

On Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 6:01 PM Ashworth, Logan <lashworth@co.humboldt.ca.us> wrote:

Greetings, all!

Vital information was missing from the initial email that was sent. The meeting with Planning and Building will be held Friday October 8th at 1:00 to 3:00pm.

Thank you so much for your time and we apologize for any confusion!

Cheers,



Project Trellis

County of Humboldt

(707) 445 - 7745

projecttrellis@co.humboldt.ca.us

GOHumCo.com

825 5th Street #112, Eureka



From: Ashworth, Logan

Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 5:51 PM

Subject: PLANNING AND BUILDING'S NEW CULTIVATOR GRANT

Greetings!

Project Trellis is inviting you to attend a community meeting where we will be discussing:

- The status of Project Trellis initiatives
- Directions for Project Trellis in the future
- The upcoming cultivator grant programs to be offered by Planning and Building

This time will be for you to provide valuable input for Planning and Building's upcoming grant program for Cannabis cultivators. Please think of some outcomes you would like to see with this grant and how it can best serve you.

The meeting will be via Zoom webinar at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83445032376?pwd=YjltUHQzakNmREMwS1ZKM0JoUTdRUT09>

If you cannot make it to the meeting, but wish to ask questions or provide comments, please do so via this email and we will make sure the message is passed along.

Thank you for your time!

Cheers,



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Sebastopol, CA 95472

Richardson, Michael

From: kora hills-stafslie <koramakena15@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Ashworth, Logan
Subject: Re: Today! Provide feedback on proposed Planning compliance grant program

hi! good luck. i really think they should allow assistance with excise tax and state license fees.

i am also wondering about the emergency debt grant you told me about? you said it was competitive)

have a great meeting. and thank you!
kora

On Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 11:16 AM Ashworth, Logan <lashworth@co.humboldt.ca.us> wrote:

Hi All,

This is a reminder that today's Cannabis Community meeting will give you a chance to provide feedback on the proposed compliance grants from the County of Humboldt Planning Department. It is being proposed that these grants will be funded through the potential \$18m the State has allotted for Humboldt County. Please come and share your opinion!

In addition, we will be doing our normal updates and taking feedback from the community. As before, today's meeting is scheduled from 1-3pm.

More information about our Community meetings can be found on our [Community and Stakeholder meeting webpage](#). Today's webinar login is as follows:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83445032376?pwd=YjJtUHQzakNmREMws1ZKM0JoUTdRUT09>

Passcode: 898252

Or One tap mobile :

US: +12532158782,,83445032376#,,,,*898252# or +13017158592,,83445032376#,,,,*898252#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 834 4503 2376

Passcode: 898252

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Thanks,



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825 5th Street #112, Eureka



Richardson, Michael

From: p lai <paellilai@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Ashworth, Logan
Subject: Re: Today! Provide feedback on proposed Planning compliance grant program

Hi Logan

My feedback is that there needs to be more outreach and marketing to the rural and remote communities

The program should engage on social media and also make presence via flyers and maybe even a tabling event at ALL of the outpost stores : Dinsmore, Petrolia, Swains Flat, Harris, Honeydew, Miranda Market, Myers Flat, Willow Creek, Orleans, etc.

And also engage with groups such as Cooperation Humboldt, the Mateel, Southern Humboldt Rotary, Michelle Bushnell etc to get the word out.

The main issue I have encountered is that there is ALOT of distrust in the community and it "sounds too good to be true" or "whats the catch" or "the application is going to be too hard" . People are really overwhelmed and there are some really huge trust issues between your target demographic. Maybe I am conflating the "War on Drugs Reparations" monies with this program, but efforts need to be made to get out of Eureka and down to Southern Humboldt and get some face time/ trust building going. I think that HCGA does an excellent job, but there are a lot of people who are not in HCGA and are getting left behind.

Thanks

p

Patricia Lai
CA EIT #145614
cell - 707 498 7574

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Richardson, Michael

From: Rebecca Rotbergs <greengrovefarmhumboldt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 11:19 AM
To: Ashworth, Logan
Subject: Re: Today! Provide feedback on proposed Planning compliance grant program

Hi Logan,

I won't be able to make the meeting today.

My concern is how are struggling farms going to be able to pay excise tax this year? These grants are great for compliance etc.. but my thought is we need to stop permitting in Humboldt right now because there's such an over supply that the market is swelling with too much cannabis dropping the prices to unsustainable ways.

I'm very concerned for our small farm.

I don't even think this grant would help our farm because the only thing I could use previous grant for was one water tank. For which we are thankful.

Farms need serious help with upcoming taxes in my opinion. How can we pay property taxes and excise taxes when our product isn't selling?

Thank you so much!

Becca 😊

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