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Date: 10/29/2017 5:27:40 PM  
Subject: serious concerns about current cannabis proposals

Dear Members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Andrew Szasz, professor of Environmental Studies at UCSC and resident of the County's 3rd District.

I write to express my concerns about current proposals to permit outdoor grow of cannabis in Santa Cruz County.

The concerns, in brief:

-- impacts on wildlife and water quality when pesticides and/or rodenticides are applied to cannabis crops grown outdoors. Does the County have enough manpower to inspect and enforce application of pesticides and rodenticides on so many, many grow plots sites, comprising, in all, 147,000 to 164,000 acres? In all likelihood, NOT.

-- impacts on wildlife, including such important keystone species as the mountain lion, due not just to applications of rodenticides (which are consumed by species that predate on rodents) but also the impacts of habitat fragmentation;

-- beyond environmental concerns, I have concerns about outdoor plots becoming hotspots of socially marginal, possibly illegal, possibly dangerous (NOTE: I mean the increased likelihood of wildfires started, even if accidentally) behavior.

I urge the County to consider more restrictive rules. I believe Monterey County is permitting only indoor grow in existing greenhouses. Why would Santa Cruz County consider policy that is likely to be more problematic, both for our environment and for the well being of the County's citizens?

Respectfully,

Andrew Szasz

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