

October 31, 2017

Cannabis Comments c/o Matt Johnston  
Planning Department  
701 Ocean Street, 4th floor  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Re: Cannabis Regulations – Draft Environmental Impact Review

Dear Mr. Johnston,

Thank you for considering input from the Coastal Watershed Council (CWC) in the County’s evaluation process of the draft EIR for regulation of commercial cultivation and manufacturing of cannabis. CWC’s mission since 1995 has been to preserve and protect coastal watersheds through community stewardship, education and monitoring. We enjoy a positive working relationship with the County of Santa Cruz and thank County staff and leadership for honoring the community values of natural resource protection and for being stewards of the unique environment that makes this region a special place to live, work and play.

CWC requests that the County, in finalizing these regulations, follow the recommendations of your advisory bodies, namely the County’s Water Advisory Commission and the County Commission for the Environment. Each of these bodies has shared specific input about the regulations and draft EIR that would aid the County in its efforts to serve our residents. CWC supports those recommendations and supports Alternative 1 – Most Restrictive Alternative.

Beyond that input, CWC offers only one other comment on these regulations. Too often, regulations are put into place without the resources to effect the outcomes intended by the ordinance or code. Already the County has riparian protection ordinances that are partially enforced due to limited County resources, despite the diligent efforts of competent and committed County staff. CWC recommends that the County carefully consider the *implementation* of the regulations as final language is considered. We believe that the importance of this aspect of the regulation-crafting process cannot be overstated.

We support the most restrictive alternative *and* strongly believe that careful attention for how to fund and manage the roll out of these regulations is the path that best serves the local economy and protection of forests, rivers and creeks we all love. Thank you for considering this input as you finalize this important new set of County code.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Pepping".

Greg Pepping  
Executive Director  
Coastal Watershed Council