

October 24, 2017

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Ave. #500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Sirs:

I am greatly alarmed at one aspect of the proposed Cannabis Ordinance in which the addresses of Cannabis growers will be available for public information. While transparency is usually a positive thing, in this case the lives and property of individual growers and their families are at stake.

For large growers with thousands of feet of industrial space with 24 hour guards, my concerns may not apply. However, individual growers with small operations on one to ten acre parcels throughout the county will be vulnerable to robbery, violence or murder by every thug, gang member and criminal with easy access to grow locations if this information is made public. The logic of this proposal defies imagination. The public's right to know who is growing or manufacturing what cannabis products and their exact locations is eclipsed by the need for safety of growers, their families and workers.

Clearly, law enforcement and regulatory agencies who provide oversight have a need to know. However, I do not believe the dangers of providing grow locations to the public have been adequately balanced with the very real danger that criminal elements could easily prey on remote small grow locations, many of which will have families living at the same location. Also, once published, the information will linger in the public information system no matter if the grow is no longer in business, further endangering individuals who may live on or own these properties in the future. These real dangers far outweigh any possible public disclosure "need to know" arguments. In fact, we are aware that criminal elements have already attacked growers in Santa Cruz County, stealing their products and leaving growers gagged and bound.

Please reconsider the logic and imminent danger of the proposed public disclosure of Cannabis growing and manufacturing locations. Why needlessly endanger participants working in a local and state legal enterprise?

Sincerely,

A concerned Santa Cruz County resident and voter who, incidentally, does not use, grow or manufacture Cannabis.

XC: Robin Bolster-Grant, Cannabis Licensing Manager