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Cannabis Comments
c/o Matt Johnston
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COMMERCIAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION AND
MANUFACTURING REGULATIONS AND
LICENSING PROGRAM
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

With considerable alarm, I read in the cannabis cultivation EIR that, under the "Project" description, cannabis cultivation would be permitted in my RA zoned neighborhood. According to the description, if I were to obtain a permit, I would be able to devote 931 square feet of my house to cultivation of cannabis. The same could be true of my neighbors, with the potential effect of turning my neighborhood into a cannabis farm. According to the "More Permissive Project" description, the potential would be even more problematic.

While only a few of the pre-applications for licensing appear to be in my vicinity, I am not convinced that the county will resist increasing the number of licenses in the future in order to increase tax revenue or to respond to pressure for more licenses. As a result, I consider the threat of cultivation by one of my neighbors to be a real possibility. The effect of such cultivation would reduce the value of my property and create strife among my neighboring homeowners. My conclusion is that cultivation should not be permitted in RA zoned properties such as mine.

Further, I see no reason for permitting cultivation in areas zoned other than CA. Owners in CA zoned areas can be expected to understand proper farming methods, produce product of higher and more consistent quality, be more willing to conform to licensing, fees and taxes, and be far more welcoming of compliance and enforcement activity by the county, all of which would reduce costs to the county and ultimately to the tax payer.

While limiting permits only to CA zoned properties would almost certainly reduce the number of cultivation permits issued, I can think of no reason that the county must license as many cultivators as proposed by the EIR. It is a certainty that actual cultivators will exceed the number of licenses issued, no matter how small or large that number is. In fact, I regard the large number of licenses anticipated to be an unwise attempt to convert present lawbreakers into future law abiders. Given the number of registrants that failed to qualify under either proposal of the EIR, I fail to understand how the behavior of present cultivators will be changed to any significant degree.

In summary, I request that the county restrict cannabis cultivation to CA zoned areas only and that it limit the number of cultivation permits accordingly.

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