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To: [CannabisEIR <CannabisEIR@santacruzcounty.us>](mailto:CannabisEIR@santacruzcounty.us)
Date: 10/6/2017 5:12:38 PM
Subject: Cannabis Survey

I am a registered voter in District 2 living at 159 Danube Drive, receiving mail only at PO Box 216, Capitola, CA 95010. My home address is unlisted and held in a family trust. This address may not be made public.

I have read the Executive Summary and several sections of the proposed cannabis regulations. These are my concerns:

1. Why does Santa Cruz County need to be in the forefront of this experiment when even large cities like San Francisco and Berkeley are delaying implementation? I am concerned that we will become an even greater magnet for drug manufacturing and sales (cannabis concentrates) than we already are. I support the delay of recreational marijuana farming and sales as long as possible. Marijuana is already available to anyone who wants it through "medical" dispensaries.
2. Our economy relies on thriving agricultural businesses that over the decades have switched crops, from apples to flowers, flowers to berries as part of their sustainability and profit plans. I am concerned that too many will switch to growing marijuana, a crop which may generate more income but also more environmental problems. Cannabis is also a crop that most of the residents do not consume and do not need to consume.
3. If cannabis is a medicine, it should be authorized as such and purchased at pharmacies. If it is a recreational drug, it should be sold at liquor and smoke shops. Santa Cruz County seems to be planning to spend a great deal of time and money on new commissions and staff to manage cannabis growth and sales. Why is this a priority over affordable housing, improved public schools and public works-infrastructure?
4. The federal government has not yet reduced the felony status of cannabis. I believe we should not permit recreational sales until possession and sale is no longer a felony. Our young people are at enough risk already and do not need further opportunities to be arrested.
5. Santa Cruz County has an excessive # of dispensaries in relation to our population, more than many large cities. This number should be reduced and remaining dispensaries tightly supervised to reduce harmful impacts.

Since the voters have determined to proceed despite these valid concerns, I strongly urge the Board to restrict growing to already zoned commercial agricultural areas with existing greenhouses. There should be no new development and certainly none at all in the fire sensitive areas of Aptos-Soquel-Capitola and our surrounding fire-prone forests, fields and parks.

Long time farmers and growers most likely understand how to reduce environmental impacts. No new permits should be issued until at least one year after legalization is implemented. That will allow time to measure results and made adjustments to regulations without putting new vendors at financial risk.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Maria Gitin Torres

These views are strictly my own and may not reflect those of others in my household.