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Subject: Cannabis EIR Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this process. My comments are below.

3.4 biological resources

3.4-27

The County Fire Code applicable to cannabis-related activities within structures could require significant site improvements to provide onsite fire water tanks (up to 568 tanks of up to 120,000 gallons each) with related site pad clearing and grading, installation of a 20-foot wide road with turnaround, and defensible space around a cannabis-related structure of up to 100 feet.

This regulation seems excessive as it will severely limit the amount of people that will be allowed to grow; even in the best areas for cultivation. While I agree that a certain amount of water should be kept on property. 120,000 Gallons is far to much. Just flattening out the areas to put enough water tanks to hold that amount of water would cause further erosion and grading issues that do not seem necessary. Also 20-foot wide roads seem unnecessary when Bear Creek, and several other major roads in the area, are not themselves 20-Foot wide. Again a 100 ft defensible pad from any structure seems unnecessary as it is more excessive than current standards for other farms in the county that are cultivating other crops.

Section 3.2 Agricultural and Timber Resources

3.2-18

Why would you not allow permanent floors in greenhouses if you want to mitigate runoff from nutrients and such? Having a permanent floor allows for runoff to be diverted, cleaned and possibly reused, much more easily.

Section 3.2 Agricultural and Timber Resources

3.2-19

With the amount of ancillary streams in Santa Cruz I think the more Permissive project allowing cultivation 50 ft from said streams, versus the Project's 100 ft spacing, is much more fair. Also if no pesticides are being used than the runoff should be clean.

Overall I believe the more permissive project allows for greater access to an industry that is already creating 15,000 or more jobs in Santa Cruz County and is only poised to grow exponentially more over the next coming decades. Santa Cruz has been a staple in the Cannabis Industry since its inception. Therefore, by limiting it so heavily, you will be devaluing the branding behind Santa Cruz, which will push millions (eventually billions) in taxable revenue outside of Santa Cruz to other counties in California. This money could be used to help solve some of the issues in Santa Cruz, like the housing crisis for students. More taxable income would lead to more subsidized housing. Santa Cruz has the potential to be one of the leading counties in the the state, and eventually the country, after the state border laws drop and cannabis is allowed to be sent to other legal states; which will obviously happen in the future at some point. I believe applications will also need to be reopened in the future to allow for further expansion of viable, successful applicants.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working through this process and continuing to work in this exciting industry.

Sincerely,

Sean Stanney
CEO & Founder
Santa Cruz Fresh