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To: [CannabisEIR <CannabisEIR@santacruzcounty.us>](mailto:CannabisEIR@santacruzcounty.us)
Date: 10/31/2017 6:26:53 PM
Subject: Comment on Draft Cannabis EIR

Dear Cannabis Licensing Agency,

I have the following comments on the draft EIR for licensing Cannabis in Santa Cruz County:

1. I protest the Second District overlay to restrict outdoor cultivation in the Second District. This forces operations indoors, requiring more energy for lights, heat and ventilation and also promotes the use of grow houses in the District when the homes are needed for housing people. two houses in my neighborhood burned to the ground because of an electrical overload in a house that was growing Cannabis and heating the harvest rooms. This restriction must be abolished.
2. I protest the 1-mile buffer inland buffer restriction for the North Coast District. This gives preferential political treatment to tourism while restricting residents and land owners of the area to be able to grow Cannabis on their land. This restriction must be abolished.
3. Our rural mountainous neighborhood nearly burned again last week when a Cannabis refining operation caught fire. Please restrict all extraction licensing to industrial areas within 5 minutes response time by fire jurisdiction and require sprinkler fire equipment to be installed.
4. I approve of fire suppression tanks being required but I think that 120,000 gallons dedicated to that use is unreasonable and may drive rural operations to not apply for licensing and the inherent safety monitoring. Alternatively, I think that growers near each other should be able to share the 120,000 gallons if this requirement remains in place in order to spread the cost and maintenance of the tank(s) and create a water supply for the area's safety. I think another alternative is to require a fire suppressant foam-retardant system installation that would allow a reduction in the amount of fire fighting gallonage required on site.
5. Please add a consideration for rainwater collection to supply fire suppression storage and/or cultivation needs. Please add study of groundwater recharge consideration for operations in suitable recharge soil areas, working with Dr. Andy Fisher at UCSC and the Resource Conservation District, and give a water credit to operations that cooperate with these agencies to help recharge overdrafted aquifer areas.
6. I approve of the restriction on generators. Please add the study of solar and wind-power credits given rural operations that would otherwise require a generator and offer, through the area's Community Power Project or PG&E grants, free permit applications for such alternative power sources and a low-cost loan program to support the ban on generators.
7. I request that a public system of recognition for legitimate licensed operations be posted with a recognizable logo to let the public know which operations are licensed, safe and are being monitored, and which are not. The issue of enforcement will be the greatest asset and detriment of this proposed licensing system and it must be recognized that the public's eyes and ears are crucial to helping law enforcement success.

Thank you for adding my comments for consideration. Please notify me of further developments and events related to this EIR and licensing process.

Sincerely,

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