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To: CannabisEIR <CannabisEIR@santacruzcounty.us>
Date: 10/25/2017 8:39:23 PM
Subject: Comment for Draft Cannabis EIR, Santa Cruz County

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Wes Dewhurst, and I am a cannabis cultivator working for a farm in the process of relocating to the Watsonville area from another location in Santa Cruz County. First, I want to thank you for working so hard on this EIR, and the regulations that will finally govern the legal production of cannabis in Santa Cruz County.

I am writing today to express concern regarding one particular aspect of the EIR and the legislation that is emerging from it: F-1 Occupancy.

I feel like it is clear that a farm producing cannabis flowers should not be classified as F-1 Factory Industrial. It seems that this category applies to manufacturing and industrial storage. The code itself very narrowly defines the businesses that are considered F-1 occupancy, and none of the businesses named are agricultural in nature, nor do any of them involve the growing and processing of any agricultural materials. I can see that Hemp Products are included in this list, but growing and processing cannabis flowers and processing industrial hemp are not the same thing. Industrial hemp processing is basically textile manufacturing, and bears no resemblance to the process of growing, harvesting, drying and curing flowers.

There are a number of very large businesses in Santa Cruz County that are heavily involved in agricultural production, and they are not classified as F-1 occupancy. Some of these businesses even grow and process flowers. The idea that one type of large flower grower would not be classified as F-1, and another flower grower would be seems unfair and unequal in the application of the code.

Thank you very much for your time, and for all your hard work on this incredibly difficult and complex issue.

Thanks,
Wes Dewhurst