

Julie Patterson-Hunter

From: Julie Patterson-Hunter
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 3:38 PM
To: Rick Haffey; Alison Barratt-Green; Alison Lehman; Sean Powers; Mali Dyck
Subject: FW: A constituent encouraging you to adopt the Community Advisory Group recommendations

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2017

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

From: L. Basil McMahon [<mailto:l.basil.mcmahon@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 10:09 PM
To: Ed Scofield
Cc: Dan Miller; Heidi Hall; Richard Anderson; Hank Weston
Subject: A constituent encouraging you to adopt the Community Advisory Group recommendations

Dear Mr. Scofield and Esteemed Supervisors,

I am writing you today to encourage you to adopt the balanced and well-reasoned recommendations produced by the Community Advisory Group (CAG) in regards to the regulation of cannabis in our community.

The CAG Process

I am a voter, taxpayer and Nevada County resident of 8 years, and i live in District 2. I have dutifully attended almost every bi-monthly CAG meeting since the summer, and I must say that I have been impressed and heartened by the positive impact that convening this public forum has had on the discourse between different stakeholder groups within our community, in regards to the issue of cannabis.

Through this forum, I have seen community members concerned about quality-of-life issues, and the undue negative impacts of the unregulated cannabis industry, come to better understand the newly-established state regulations and the challenges that well-meaning cannabis cultivators face transitioning into the regulated marketplace. I have also seen frustrated and sometimes insistent cultivators listen and learn about the concerns and issues that some of our neighborhoods have experienced.

I have seen folks from all sides acknowledge each others points of view, and many of them even offer suggestions and compromises in the spirit of coming up with a set of recommendations that could be acceptable to all.

Enacting a framework for the permitting of all aspects of the commercial cannabis economy- Cultivation, Processing, Manufacturing, Distribution, Testing, and Retail- will provide for regulatory oversight, tax revenue generation and mechanisms for enforcement that simply won't exist if our county continues to ignore the obvious.

The cannabis industry is an integral part of the fabric of Nevada County and the majority of those who participate in this economy are upstanding citizens who wish to do right and are asking you to please provide a reasonable and accessible pathway forward to licensure. The recommendations produced through the Community Advisory Group process are a fair, balanced approach to permitting Cannabis in our county and I implore you to please enact them.

Cottage Cultivation Permitting on Smaller Parcels

Earlier this year, as you may recall me mentioning during public comment at a BOS meeting, I had an encounter with two friendly and professional officers of the NCSO, who had paid me a visit because I had enrolled in the Water Board General Order regulatory program. My property is 2.5 acres, RA-Rural, and my cultivation area approximately the size of a Type 1C- Cottage license, or 2500 sq ft. The garden cannot be seen from any neighbors house, or public right of way; its fenced and monitored with security cameras. I was growing 20:1 CBD dominant cannabis varieties for a local medicinal CBD oil company, who just submitted their application for a Manufacturing license in Nevada City. I pay taxes, have a Mutual Benefit Corporation established, and I have gone the extra mile to talk to my neighbors adjacent to my cultivation site to try to address any concerns they might have.

All in all, I'm not perfect, but I have been making an earnest effort to be a good neighbor, and to comply with coming state regulations. Unfortunately for me, I drew the short stick this season and had to abate all but 6 of my CBD plants.

I am not telling you my story because I expect your pity- my garden was out of compliance, and that is that. But I did wish to end this letter with a bit of my personal story, to remind you that there are constituents in your district who would like nothing more than to be able to operate permitted, legitimate cannabis businesses. It is my assertion that by enacting commercial cannabis permitting, within a few years of enforcement, you might actually see a reduction in the amount of cannabis cultivation in our county.

A 2500 square foot "Cottage" size cultivation site is very modest in size, even on a 2.5 acre parcel (2% of the overall parcel) and entirely in keeping with the character of RA-Rural designated parcels, which the Nevada County General Plan specifies should be utilized for a balance of residential *and* agricultural purposes- including "agricultural operations and supporting agricultural production" (<https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/12573>, Policy 1.2.4. Section F). These permitted cultivation sites would nonetheless be required to maintain compliance with the comprehensive, multi-agency regulatory framework set forth by the state legislature, which will be rigorous enough.

Thank you sir for taking the time to read my letter. I hope I have left you feeling more assured that adopting the CAG recommendations is in the interest of your constituents and the community at large.

Respectfully,

Basil McMahan

DEC 29 2017

Julie Patterson-Hunter

From: Stephen Belden <stvbelden@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, December 29, 2017 9:18 AM
To: bdofsupervisors
Subject: Cannabis rules

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS*cc: CEO
Counsel
CDA*

Dear Sirs :

As a resident of Rough and Ready I speak for myself and several of my neighbors on the upcoming cannabis rules for Nevada county.

We adamantly oppose commercial grows on residential Ag properties. We are folks that bought property to have a horse or two, and a little land for a peaceful place to live.

A grow at the end of La Cuesta Trail here has completely destroyed our peace and quiet.

Heavy traffic with lots of out of state cars are here at all hours of day and night. We have had property damage from stoned " trimigrants " driving over posted property . A large amount of non permitted building activity etc.

This is not a commercial area. Your votes on how to handle this is very important to us and we hope your votes represent the hard working, law abiding citizens of this county who will be negatively impacted by the attempt to make this a commercial venture.

These people will not abide by the rules you make and will only undermine law enforcement so that a handful of undesirables can run unleashed.

Commercial business belongs in a commercially zones area .

Thank you for your consideration

Steve Belden

Sent from my iPad

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JAN 03 2018

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

cc: CEO
Counsel
CDA

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Ave
Nevada City CA 95959

RE: proposed marijuana ordinance

County Supervisors:

The pending county regulations for marijuana cultivation have not satisfactorily taken into account the profound effect that cultivation will have on our already stressed and depleted groundwater resource. Please add appropriate governance and regulation so that we will not rush to exploit yet another natural resource and spoil our beautiful area for future generations. Regulations that limit or prohibit groundwater use for marijuana cultivation are vital for our community's future.

Our community is still reeling from the catastrophic stress that the ongoing drought has put on our trees and long term groundwater storage. "Among the downsides of the green rush is the strain it puts on water resources in a drought-plagued region." [Josh Harkinson, The Landscape-scarring, Energy-Sucking, Wildlife-Killing Reality of Pot Farming, Mother Jones magazine, March/April 2014] Opening up our community to unregulated consumption of groundwater to feed the marijuana cultivation 'gold rush' seems like trading a short term economic benefit in exchange for irreversible natural resource devastation.

Even Mother Jones magazine has noted the profound impact marijuana cultivation can have on the water resources of rural California communities. Their research shows that each marijuana plant uses 6 gallons of water per day [A Single Pot Plant Uses HOW Much Water?!, Mother Jones Magazine Apr 16, 2014]. The California Fish and Wildlife report has shown the devastating impact surface water diversion from marijuana cultivation can have on starving fish runs and choking them with chemical runoff. Fortunately, new state regulations provide protection for surface water supply used by state licensed marijuana growers.

Unfortunately, the same isn't true of groundwater supplies. In fact, many experts within the community expect there to be an increased pressure on ground water for marijuana cultivation since it isn't regulated by the current state oversight. "It's possible there won't be enough water for all growers in a particular region. Some may have to try their luck with drilling a well." [Matt Weiser, Water Deeply, 11JULY2016]

We all remember the many wells that ran dry during the summer of 2016. Coincidentally, many of the affected wells were in dense marijuana cultivation areas such as North San Juan. Let's protect our communities natural resources by making sure that we don't

Please join other rural northern California communities by recognizing and mitigating the catastrophic impact groundwater consumption for marijuana cultivation has on our quality of life

and success of future generations. Multiple agencies have found that, "Common issues with cultivation [include] ... diversion of streams and groundwater pumping."

[Cannabis Water Quality, Wildlife, Water Rights and Enforcement Programs, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors presentation, October 4, 2016]

I thank you for your time and consideration with this important issue. We have the potential to drastically affect our landscape for generations to come.

Respectfully,



Alex Merkle

Rural Nevada County landowner who's well production has already been dramatically affected by large scale marijuana cultivation on adjacent parcels

<http://www.motherjones.com/food/2014/04/your-pot-habit-sucks-salmon/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/legal-pot/water-guzzling-pot-plants-draining-drought-wracked-california-n149861>

<https://ww2.kqed.org/science/2016/07/11/growing-marijuana-state-will-now-regulate-water-use-for-pot-cultivation/>

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/03/marijuana-weed-pot-farming-environmental-impacts/>

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cannabis/docs/oct_4_presentation.pdf

Julie Patterson-Hunter

From: Alex .Merkle <alex.b.merkle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 8:06 AM
To: bdofsupervisors
Subject: letter to board
Attachments: NC marijuana regs.pdf

Good morning and Happy New Year Board Members,

I am a mobilized member of the military and have not been able to attend board meetings or participate in the marijuana discussion recently. But I do hope that you consider my attached letter concerning the impact that marijuana cultivation regulations will have on ground water resources.

V/r

