

From: [Pat Rockwell](#)
To: [BOS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Item 21a of BOS meeting February 23, 2021
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:14:33 AM

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My name is Patricia Rockwell, co-owner of Green Gift Gardens, a family farm and one of the first licensed cannabis farms in the county. I am also a founding member of Sierra Sungrown Cooperative. We are located in Penn Valley, District 4.

Kudos to the county staff for hearing the needs of the community and addressing priorities in such a well-thought-out manner. Farmers in the county have had a year to get our businesses established and experience what is working for us and what needs we may have in the future. In order to keep Green Gift Gardens viable, successful and prepared to address shifting market trends, reasonable expansion of cultivation areas and microbusiness licenses will be critical to us surviving and thriving.

With a microbusiness license, our farms will be able to cut out the middlemen that end up costing us a great deal of money. We can cultivate, manufacture, transport and/or distribute our own product with a micro-business license. Just like any other veggie farmer! At this point, the only way to get our product to market is through a distributor with varying rates for transportation, packaging and delivering to retail stores. This is a logical next step for our businesses and will help us operate in the most cost-effective, efficient manner possible. Large, mega-grows are becoming more pervasive, and establishing a vertically integrated craft business will be one way we can compete. We want to keep mega grows out of Nevada County while finding reasonable ways for the craft industry to compete! I highly recommend that you approve the cannabis priorities as written.

Good Morning Chair Miller and Supervisors

My name is John Foley (District 4) and I am the owner of Yellow Dog Family Farms, a licensed cannabis farm in the Penn Valley area.

By passing a commercial cannabis cultivation ordinance in 2019, Nevada County chose to invest in cannabis. Not only with time and money but with an expectation that there would be a return on that investment by reducing the problems unregulated cannabis was having on our community as well as establishing an economic driver and generator of tax revenue for the county.

Now, moving into our third season of legal cannabis cultivation, it's time to reevaluate our local ordinance and make adjustments to ensure our permitting program and legal farms, in good standing, can continue to operate successfully in a rapidly changing and expanding industry.

Around the state, we are seeing examples of change. Counties who have supported and embraced cannabis businesses are reworking their ordinances to offer their operators the flexibility needed to mold their business models towards success and sustainability. In short, the counties who take this approach will win and the counties who do not, will lose.

Nevada County has one of the most, if not THE most, conservative cultivation ordinances in the state. *Quite simply, start-up and operational costs are too high and our growth potential is too low, to be sustainable.* Not only should the county be striving to drastically reduce start-up and operational costs to the lowest in the state, but reasonable expansion of cultivation square footage needs to be implemented as well to afford our farms the ability to compete in the statewide (and soon national) marketplace.

I would like to applaud county staff for preparing such a well thought through cannabis "priority" for 2021 and while there is no clear answer on what size farms should be allowed, **I ask the Board of Supervisors to consider cannabis cultivation expansion and begin the conversations with community stakeholders to ensure reasonable consensus is reached and sound policy can be implemented by 2022 that promotes the sustainability of our local cannabis businesses and our community as a whole.**

I recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve this priority as written.

Thank you

From: [Sarah Smale](#)
To: [BOS Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public comment for 2/23/21 BOS meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:48:09 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

My name is Sarah L. Smale. I am a resident of Nevada County (District 4) and owner of Sarah L. Smale, P.C., a Nevada City law firm serving local cannabis businesses. I also sit on the Board of Directors of the Nevada County Cannabis Alliance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Supervisors and County staff for their work in developing and implementing Nevada County's cannabis permitting program. I am excited to see that the County's 2021 priorities include the maintenance and continued improvement of our cannabis permitting and enforcement program, which is based on careful data collection efforts by County staff throughout 2020.

I support the County's continued attention to improving our cannabis program, and express my gratitude to the Board of Supervisors and County staff in your continued willingness to listen to our concerns and feedback as our local program finds its footing.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to approve this priority as written.

Sincerest thanks,

Sarah L. Smale, Esq.
Phone: 530.955.0051



Nevada City, CA, 95959

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