

Julie Patterson-Hunter

From: Julie Patterson-Hunter
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 5:29 PM
To: All BOS Board Members
Cc: Rick Haffey; Alison Lehman; Alison Barratt-Green; Sean Powers; Mali Dyck
Subject: FW: Cannabis concerns

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From: Hank Weston
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 5:09 PM
To: Julie Patterson-Hunter <Julie.Patterson-Hunter@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Fw: Cannabis concerns

fyi

From: Laura Barhydt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 5:01 PM
To: Hank Weston
Subject: Cannabis concerns

I am unable to attend the special Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday March 6th. I do have some concerns that I would like to share with you and the other members of the Board.

I attended most of the CAG meetings last fall in order to better understand the Cannabis industry and the needs of the commercial growers in the community, medicinal growers and users as well as the concerns of homeowners who have been impacted. I found that most of the attendees were pro cannabis and few public comments were made in opposition. The community members I generally associate with, however, are adamantly opposed to cannabis cultivation and to the legalization in the state. They would prefer no cultivation or sales allowed in this county. But it is legal and there are growers and business professionals who want to be leaders in the industry and put together a plan that will hopefully be successful for them and acceptable to most. I do believe that county staff can develop regulations that will work but i also think it will take considerable time. I know you will all feel pressured to get this done in just a few weeks so the growers can get started this season but I hope you will not rush this through. From my experience on the Ag Commission changing county codes is time consuming. I am not opposed cannabis in our county as it is already here illegally so permitting and regulating will be a positive move.

What I did learn at the CAG meetings was that the general consensus was that cannabis cultivation and processing could be done in agricultural zoned areas. There was some discussion that are RA zoning may or may not be appropriate for cannabis cultivation depending on parcel size. As you know the Agricultural Advisory Commission was told that we could not discuss or offer advice during the CAG process but now that it is complete I think we should be involved in the discussion as it involves agricultural land use. Agricultural zoning should protect our better land for the production of food not cannabis. Restricting cannabis cultivation to ag zoning puts farmers and ranchers at a disadvantage as they compete with cannabis growers for the limited water supplies and land suitable for agriculture. Traditional farmers and ranchers who often struggle to make their

operations profitable will now have to compete against cannabis growers who have a much more lucrative product.

*I would like to see protection of the soils of statewide and local importance protected from conversion to cannabis growing.

*I also think a use permit for grows should involve neighbor notification. Grows should not be protected under a right to farm as cannabis is not given this protection under state law.

* I also strongly feel there should be a limit to the number of permits issued in the county as as whole but especially in geographic areas so neighborhoods will not be overwhelmed with cannabis grows.

* I would also propose that all processing of the crops should be done in a commercial/Industrial zoned area for general public safety.

Thank you for taking time to consider my letter and for all you do for this beautiful community.

Laura Barhydt

