

Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: SB Coalition for Responsible Cannabis <coalition4responsiblecannabis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2019 9:30 PM
To: Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve; Adam, Peter; Hart, Gregg; sbcob
Cc: Miyasato, Mona; Lenzi, Chelsea
Subject: Fwd: Budget

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisors,

The SB Coalition for Responsible Cannabis is a grassroots advocacy group comprised of individuals and community committees throughout Santa Barbara County who have, over the past two years, independently advocated for sensible cannabis regulation that would protect their neighborhoods from environmental, public safety and community planning impacts from the burgeoning cannabis industry. While most of us supported Proposition 64, no one could have imagined that our county would emerge as the "cannabis capital" of California, if not the US - *something we did not vote for*. We joined together earlier this year when we realized that though our individual communities differ in many ways, we shared the common frustration at largely being ignored while we watched as the cannabis industry and growers, with their massive white plastic hoops and horrific odors expand all around us. It is our hope that our *collective* impact may achieve greater success and positive response from you. We encourage you, or at least a majority of you, to accelerate the County's effort to *rein in expanded and un-permitted cannabis operations*, and to begin to recognize and dedicate resources towards some of the health impacts that communities in Colorado and Oregon have discovered resulting from the proliferation of highly potent cannabis in a community.

We urge you to utilize the upcoming week of budget workshops to agree to dedicate significant resources to the investigation and eradication of the illegal unpermitted grows throughout the county. To accomplish this we request that you provide additional financial support to Planning and Development, Ag Commissioner and law enforcement personnel whose expertise might assist in developing an immediate strategy to eliminate the unpermitted and expanded cannabis grows. In addition, please allocate whatever resources are necessary to expedite the Cannabis Ordinance changes currently being considered by the Planning Commission.

According to the slide on page 11 of the CEO presentation, (attached) *over \$2 million* of unallocated cannabis tax revenue is available in the recommended budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year. We implore you, before allocating these funds to other activities and needs, to please invest in planning and zoning and agricultural inspectors and persons from any other department who might lend a hand, to focus on all of the so-called legal nonconforming grows.

We do not accept the unprecedented claim that we must "hurry up and give permits or we cannot enforce unpermitted operations". That is absurd, and as Supervisor Adam remarked earlier this month, such a philosophy or policy has never been afforded to any other industry. As you know, you made a decision in 2017 to NOT establish a proactive process to validate or eliminate unpermitted cannabis operations. While you cannot undo that unfortunate decision, you CAN invest resources NOW into ending the expanded and

unregulated operations that followed your decision.

We also support the allocation of significant cannabis tax revenue to Public Health prevention and education efforts. While a couple of you have compared the increasingly potent and available cannabis product as “no different from broccoli“, we, as longtime residents with a variety of expertise and backgrounds, do believe there are some real concerns that should be recognized relating to the health of our community and residents. It is imperative that you at least acknowledge, as other communities such as Colorado have done, that a robust Public Health prevention, education, response and epidemiological focus is essential at the front end of cannabis legalization. Some of us recall these concerns being expressed by Public Health representatives at some of the 2017 BOS hearings.

According to the Public Health powerpoint presentation submitted for the 4/15/19 workshop, it appears that there is only one dedicated staff person- in the environmental health division- focused on cannabis, but none focused on community health concerns. We ask that you dedicate resources to this effort.. Many initiatives in other jurisdictions have focused on preventing or educating about the use of cannabis by pregnant women, and minors. We urge you to pursue such initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

SB Coalition for Responsible Cannabis



Cannabis Tax Revenues & Expenditures

Sources	18-19 Unspent Carryover	\$	323,500
	19-20 Estimated Tax Revenue		5,615,000
	Total	\$	5,938,500
Uses	Enforcement	\$	2,815,800 *
	Tax Collection & Program Administration		329,700
	Planning & Development Project Carryover		610,800
	Total	\$	3,756,300
Remaining Available Funds		\$	2,182,200

* \$1.1 million increase from FY 2018-19 Adopted Budget of \$1.7 million

