

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Leo Elovitz <lelovitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:32 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Submission for Supervisors' Meeting Packet Scheduled April 4

Please include the following statement as part of the packet that will be provided to the County Supervisors for the meeting on April 4:

Drafting a Cannabis Ordinance for Local Ag Landowners: Will it be a “Right to Farm” or a Monopoly?

In accordance with Santa Barbara County’s long standing tradition for an agricultural economy, any proposed ordinance adopted that will enable a legal cannabis industry should provide a level playing field of opportunity to all ag landowners who can provide the necessary financial and technical resources to execute a viable, well managed, tightly regulated, environmentally responsible business plan for producing cannabis.

The Cannabis Business Council of Santa Barbara County has provided a recommendation to the County for amendments to its current Medical Cannabis Regulations and Right to Farm Section that would legalize a variety of cannabis related businesses and thus a cannabis industry in our County. Their submitted document is dated Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

In this document there are four key recommendations regarding permitting and cultivation:

- 1.) Under Section 14, item “A,” page 16, “Medical Cannabis Medical locations existing on January 19, 2016 receive priority processing.”
- 2.) Under Section 14, item “B,” page 16, “Medical Cannabis Medical locations may contain one or more permits”. Permitting would apply to 10 different “Types” of cultivation options and square footage for each.
- 3.) Under Section 15, item “A,” page 18, “applications for commercial cultivation on locations on Medical Cannabis locations receive priority processing.”
- 4.) On page 5, under declaration “R,” it recommends that “medical cannabis cultivation and commercial cannabis cultivation be encouraged to be concentrated at locations where it is feasible to site multiple permits on a parcel, which would qualify under MCRA and AUMA.”

It makes sense to allow invested and operational medical marijuana cooperatives, if they were permitted previously under California law, to have priority processing for the parcel they are currently cultivating for medical marijuana. It also makes sense to give these cooperatives priority processing to convert to commercial cultivation.

However, the CBCSB is recommending that these medical marijuana cooperatives get preferential consideration for massing "multiple" permitted parcels on their land. It rationalizes that adopting ordinance language to aggregate both medical and commercial permits on the ag property owned by local medical marijuana cooperatives will best serve to encourage economic recovery for land owners, protect our environmental resources and make it easier to track production and enforce regulations. Actually, a review of

these recommendations describe a pointedly one sided point of view designed to serve the economic benefits of a small group of land owners.

Taken together, items 1 through 4 pulled from the CBCSB recommendations describe an ordinance that would consolidate permits and cultivation under the control of the current medical marijuana cooperatives that own ag land. And it would provide financial benefits to current medical marijuana cooperatives by providing them with exclusive rights to lease multiple permitted parcels on their ag land. Business loans for cannabis operators are not available due to Federal law, so providing medical marijuana cooperatives with exclusive rights to lease their land for cannabis production gives them a guaranteed and exclusive source of revenue for their operations and investment.

All other ag land owners currently cultivating non-cannabis products are for all intents and purposes closed out of participating in a local cannabis industry in which they can cultivate crops on their own land. There are currently non-medical marijuana ag land owners that have the financial and technical resources and are developing viable business plans to operate successful cannabis businesses. But under the recommendations of the CBCSB, local medical and commercial permitting will be monopolized by a small pool of medical cannabis cooperatives.

Speaking for multiple ag landowners in the Santa Ynez Valley, I ask that you incorporate a representative group of non-medical marijuana cooperative ag land owners to work with staff and in committees empowered to draft ordinance recommendations that will allow multiple stake holders to actually compete for permits and a deserving opportunity to be a part of a new industry. The recommendations presented in the February 14th document provided by the CBCSB are actually designed to divest local ag land owners of the Right to Farm while providing a monopoly to local medical marijuana cooperatives. We deserve a fair and impartial opportunity to compete for access to a new legal regulated cannabis industry.

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