

From: Redbud Audubon [<mailto:redbud.audubon@gmail.com>]

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April 10, 2022

To Whom It May Concern: Please consider the following comments from the Redbud Audubon Society of Lake County regarding agenda items: 6.9 – a) Consideration of Interim Urgency Ordinance Placing a Moratorium on New Agricultural and Cannabis Cultivation Projects; and b) Consideration of Letter to Governor Newsom Requesting a Halt on New Cannabis Cultivation Licensing Statewide; and c) Consideration of Requesting the Lake County Drought Task Force Discuss, Draft, and Provide Ag/Cannabis Guidelines During Drought Conditions; and d) Consideration of Discussion of Other Actions Regarding Drought

Dear County of Lake Board of Supervisors:

Redbud Audubon Society supports reviewing the proposed moratorium on new agricultural and cannabis cultivation projects, and urges the Board to adopt a moratorium on existing cannabis projects in the permitting queue.

The full extent of the drought has not been felt and a 45- day moratorium will give more insight and scientific evidence of what to expect. The County appears to now be aware of the many unintended consequences involving certain provisions of the cannabis ordinance, including the allowance of the Early Activation permits for cannabis.

There is no doubt that agriculture is an important aspect of the Lake County economy and has been for over 100 years. We appreciate what traditional agriculture adds to our economy, but at the same time have concerns about issues such as wildlife corridors, preservation of Oak trees and other native habitat that supports our great variety of wildlife including birds and mammals. We are now not only facing the issue of habitat loss due to cannabis and vineyard development, but also the impacts of an historic drought that could last for decades. A drought that may start impacting human residents of this county as well as wildlife.

A 45 day time-frame is a short time frame, especially for the cannabis issue, to review and consider the impacts of the over 100 cannabis projects that are in the que for development. Starting the development of any project, including cannabis or vineyards that involves clearing of native vegetation and trees is unacceptable in the Spring and must be reviewed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

It is time for the County of Lake to consider the impacts of all development on our dwindling wildlife and the impacts on the quality of life of the residents here.

Sincerely,

Redbud Audubon Society

Clearlake, CA