

LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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-MEMORANDUM-

To: Carol Huchingson, CAO
Administrative Office

DATE: February 13, 2018

FROM: Douglas Gearhart, APCO



SUBJECT: Cannabis Regulation and Impacts on the AQMD

Per our discussions, the following are impacts anticipated for the Lake County Air Quality Management District. We anticipate a significant workload related to regulating Cannabis type operations. The workload associated with the regulation will require at least an additional 2 staff members at a minimum in order to handle permitting, inspections, and odor/emissions issues. Without knowing the quantity of permits that will be issued, or how long the facilities will remain in operation, we expect to phase in staffing needs starting with extra help increases until full time position(s) can be adequately funded, approved, and recruited for. Additionally, our regulatory authority extends into the Cities of Lakeport and Clearlake. The Cities are proceeding with permit issuance, which shortens our time frame to develop our permitting process for these activities, as we anticipate receiving applications soon.

The application process is complex as we are a local agency with State and Federal authority and with State and Federal funding. As such, we have a difficult task of proceeding in a manner that will minimize risk to our Federal funding and keep us compliant with all Federal delegated authorities.

The regulation, control, and monitoring of odor and other emissions from Cannabis and Cannabis operations are new to Air District's around the State. The permitting process is expected to be very time consuming and may require a number of updates to permits as we learn more.

As with any new industry, we have concerns about safety, access, technologies available, monitoring options, equipment costs, training needs, localized impacts, exposure to staff doing inspections, odor/other complaints, and all the issues that come from these concerns.