



## COUNTY OF LAKE

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**STEVEN HAJIK**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Carol J. Huchingson, County Administrative Officer

FROM: Steven Hajik, Agricultural Commissioner

SUBJECT: Civil Grand Jury Final Report, "Industrial Hemp in Lake County"

DATE: July 23, 2020

Although staff from the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner were interviewed by the Grand Jury in preparation for their 2019-20 Final Report, we were not ultimately invited to respond. The following is submitted to serve as background for the Board's consideration:

#### **"INDUSTRIAL HEMP IN LAKE COUNTY"**

R1. The Agriculture Department as well as all other involved departments having regulatory authority regarding industrial hemp cultivation be directed to conduct a cost analysis. This information should flow to a central source for data analysis and action before presenting to the Board of Supervisors. This would permit fair adjustment of fees to cover costs [of] administration.

AGREE, has been implemented.

Explanation: Fee adjustments were brought forth by our Department and approved on August 4, based on our most recent analysis.

R2. To be an effective solution, Lake County needs to develop and make available to interested growers the minimum greenhouse structure and air filtration equipment requirements necessary to obtain a permit to grow.

AGREE, has been implemented.

Explanation: Efforts are ongoing to make the public aware of these requirements.

R3. The application should clarify access to crop property to satisfy regulatory requirements. Such access is to be scheduled during customary business hours or by appointment.

AGREE, has been implemented.

R4. Consideration should be given to [combining] the appropriate sections that deal with hemp and cannabis from the Agriculture Department and Planning Department together under one department. Having a single regulating entity would serve to localize and coordinate the necessary expertise and eliminate a redundancy of effort and possible costs.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: The Agricultural Commissioner is solely responsible for implementing the State industrial hemp laws and regulations. This is addressed in Sections 81000 (b), 81003, 8004, 81011 in the California Food and Agriculture Code. This is also addressed in Sections 4900, 4940, 4941, 4944, 4950, 4950.1 in Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Division 4, Chapter 8.

In order to do this enforcement, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has a contract with the Lake County Agricultural Commissioner. Another county department will not be able to have a contract with the CDFA to do this work and will not have the authority as well. I support the idea of a separate Cannabis Division under CDD, given the current regulations, regulating hemp would not be part of this.