



**Department of Public Works  
Community Development Department**

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** The Honorable Michael S. Lunas  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

**FROM:** Scott De Leon, Director of Public Works, Interim Community Development Director

**SUBJECT:** Grand Jury Report Response

**DATE:** August 21, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Jury's recommendation R4 regarding the combining of cannabis and hemp permitting efforts into a single operation. I will echo our Agricultural Commissioner's position and respectfully disagree with the recommendation for the following reasons:

While the plants and the practices for cultivation are very similar, the laws and ordinances that regulate these two industries are very different, which results in quite varied permitting processes. The Community Development Department has proposed a Cannabis Division as part of the FY 2020/21 Budget, which should help create a more streamlined application process. Additionally, the two Departments have improved their communication and collaboration in recent months, which has been a great improvement. As an alternative to the GJ's recommendation of a single Department, we suggest that we proceed as planned and perhaps revisit the issue sometime in the future after we have had a chance to develop the new Cannabis Division.

Scott De Leon  
Director of Public Works  
Interim Director Community Development Department