



Lake County Board of Supervisors
55 North Forbes St.
Lakeport, CA 95453

March 13, 2021

Re:

- Consent Agenda item No. 5.3 Approve Letter Supporting SB59
- Agenda item No. 6.7: 10:50 A.M. - Consideration of (a) Resolution regarding Early Activations for Cannabis Cultivation (b) new Ad Hoc Committee to review, revise, and revamp the cannabis cultivation ordinance of Chapter 21, Article 27.13 (at)

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

The Lake County Cannabis Alliance would like to acknowledge the continuous effort by the Board and County Staff to create a sustainable cannabis industry in Lake County. Of late, the extensive work on the Early Activation amendment is especially appreciated considering the seasonal nature of our crop.

The Lake County Cannabis Alliance supports the proposed amendments to Early Activation. The amendment will allow for existing Early Activation projects to continue operating until a Use Permit hearing, thus allowing continuity of cultivation and state licensing. Both factors are essential for a sustainable and increasing industry. In addition, a clear path is defined for qualified new applicants to begin operations within guidelines.

We ask that additional consideration to be given for a local process which allows for a concurrent application process with the State. We ask that the same Early Activation amendments for all other commercial cannabis license types.

Additionally, we ask for the removal of Section 2(b) outlined in the resolution. With all Early Activation permits now subject to a completed Initial Study, expansion could be allowed provided that the Initial Study covers the entire proposed project. Since the proposed Use Permit's entire canopy space is covered in the Initial Study paperwork, then we feel the applicant should have the ability to apply for an Early Activation permit up to the canopy amount that is covered within this UP application. This minor change will enable the County of Lake to increase its tax revenue from already compliant operators while not compromising its standards towards environmental protections.

We are fully in support of the development of an Ad Hoc Committee that will review and revise the cannabis cultivation ordinance. Lake County was fortunate to have an early adopted ordinance. However, now that the State of California has regulations, it would be advisable to align with those which will take some administrative burden off the County.

Finally, we are encouraged by the County's proposed support of **SB 59**. We respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to sign on to a letter of support for this critical state legislation that would extend the provisional deadline to January 1, 2028 and allow more time for local operators to obtain use permits and annual licenses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer K. Smith
President

The Lake County Cannabis Alliance

Farmers, producers, distributors, manufacturers, and cannabis industry allies