

Dear Chairman Sabatier and Supervisors Crandall, Pyska, Scott, and Simon,

I am writing to voice my strong support for upholding the existing Farmland Protection Zone in Lake County's cannabis ordinance.

It appears that errors were made in the Planning Department and some EA permits were issued on properties that should not have qualified for open grows. In determining what to do with the errantly issued permits, I request you consider the following points:

- 1) Our ordinance was the product of several years of development by all of the stakeholders in Lake County. While it was not perfect for anyone, it did make an effort to protect our historical agricultural businesses from the "Gold Rush" we are now seeing in the cannabis industry. Any "watering down" of the Farmland Protection Zone seriously impacts many of the crops that Lake County is famous for. If replaced by cannabis during this "Gold Rush" period, some of these crops will be lost forever.
- 2) Those receiving the errantly issued EA permits should have understood the existing ordinance. Many of these applicants also had consultants that should have been aware that their projects did not conform. I understand that "what is done is done" for this year, but can't comprehend why those permits should be extended beyond this growing season. These permit holders should not be rewarded with additional years to be non-conforming.
- 3) There have been plenty of people that have been working in good faith to conform to our existing ordinance. What do you tell the cannabis grower that did everything by the book and developed their grow (most likely at much higher cost) in an area outside the Farmland Protection Zone? What about the farmer who sold his property within the Farmland Protection Zone knowing that it could not be used for cannabis production (and couldn't be valued as such)?
- 4) Perhaps as a mitigating measure, these EA permit holders in question should be asked to agree that they waive their right to open grows in the future once the permit expires. Can they be required to grow in hoop-houses in the meantime?

I ask for your support in doing what you can to preserve the intent of our existing cannabis ordinance. Agriculture has been a cornerstone of both Lake County's economy and heritage and is severely threatened by the current "Gold Rush" surrounding the cannabis industry. Please consider what Lake County will look like 5 years down the road if this frenzy is allowed to spiral out of control.

Sincerely,

Pat Scully

General Manager, Scully Packing Company LLC