



Monterey County Action Minutes Cannabis Standing Committee

Friday, February 14, 2020

2:00 PM

Government Center, Board Chambers

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM

Additions and Corrections

There were none.

Public Comment Period

- Bob Roach, former Assistant Ag Commissioner, expressed we should move forward with the study of the Potter/Spence/Encinal area to support the information received from the Environmental Impact Report. Speaker believes it could address issues like Odor Management, Watershed Level cooperation on water quality, traffic, and area-wide security.
- Joey Espinoza shared his belief in the misinterpretation of the County Ordinance regarding the consumption of tobacco on the premises and expressed his interest in an allowable designated area where individuals can smoke. He also expressed that although there has been a change regarding Employee Scan, if the County is still asking for Employee's Social Security Numbers then this is still going to be a potential concern with the Industry. Lastly, he would like to see a future agenda item to discuss temporary alternative solutions to the current processor premise requirement.
- Speaker, a former Ag Inspector Biologist in Monterey County and current representative of a network of growers in South County, encouraged RMA to use the Ranch Maps provided from the Ag Commissioner rather than their Green Zones. Expressed that since these Ranch Maps get updated more often, he believes it would result in the expansion of buffer zones and would thus help make the Pilot Program successful.
- Kelly McMillin, Chief Compliance Officer at Indus Holdings, Inc. stated he shares Joey Espinoza's belief in the misinterpretation of the County Ordinance regarding the consumption of tobacco on the premises. He also suggested that all departments (Cannabis Program, Fire Department, and Ag Inspectors Office) schedule and conduct their inspections together. Expressed that this would be less disruptive.
- Dennis Caprara, RC Farms, expressed his concerns about buffer zones. He shared his interest in seeing more areas open-up and his strong belief that hemp shouldn't have such boundaries since, unlike cannabis, hemp is a federal registered crop.
- Jim Oradre, former member of the San Ardo Pilot Program, shared his concerns with the current buffer zones and interest in seeing these expanded. He reiterated that hemp is an agricultural crop that shouldn't be treated as cannabis and encouraged the Board to allow the Agricultural Commissioner to manage the program rather than RMA, to meet with some of the local communities for their opinion, and to create an advisory committee for viable solutions.



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- Brad Davis, Vineyard owner from Lockwood), mentioned he too shares the belief that RMA should be re-directed to work together with the Agricultural Commissioner to expand the existing buffer zones.

Regular Agenda

1. Receive an Industrial Hemp Pilot Program memorandum on current registrations and status of cultivation activity.

ACTION:

- Chair Alejo and Supervisor Lopez accepted the report
- Supervisor Lopez agreed to both reopening the registration and split zoning. However, he would like to keep the existing caps on the Program regarding buffer zones reiterating that this is still a Pilot Program. Supervisor Lopez doesn't believe we are yet at a point where we can look at expanding but is interested in continuing to watch what the science says in terms of pollen-drift and odor before deciding.
- Chair Alejo echoed on the odor issues concerns and would too like to proceed cautiously. He recommended to have the concept submitted to the Planning Commission for it to then be presented to the full board.

Presenters: Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner

2. Receive a Cannabis Program memorandum on current cannabis cultivation square footage, land use permits, cannabis business permits, staff utilization, and other updates.

ACTION:

- Chair Alejo and Supervisor Lopez accepted the report

Presenter: Joann Iwamoto, Cannabis Program

3. Receive a status report on the cannabis retail operation hours and receive direction as appropriate.

ACTION:

- Chair Alejo and Supervisor Lopez accepted the report
- Chair Alejo believes there is a lack of dispensaries and is open to considering a modification to operational hours but agreed to first going through the process of soliciting input not only from the stakeholders but from the public and community as well.
- Supervisor Lopez concurs with the idea of creating some parity with the operational hours of other retail facilities but would like to hear from our county's industry. He suggested sending out a survey or a letter to our opened



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dispensaries and reiterated his interest in obtaining their feedback as to both if this is something that they would be interested in and how this potential may affect them either positively/negatively.

Presenter: Norma Aceves, Cannabis Analyst

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM

Next meeting scheduled for March 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM