



Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

December 4th, 2023

Re: Agenda Item 4a -

Noticed Public Hearing - Discussion and Possible Action Including Adoption of Resolution Amending the Exhibit X - Master Fee Schedule Effective February 3, 2024 Unless Code or Policy Require Longer, Including but not Limited to, the Countywide Internal Funds, Agriculture, Animal Care Services, Assessor-Clerk-Recorder, Cannabis Management Unit, Clerk of the Board, County Counsel, Cultural Services Agency, Executive Office, Facilities, Information Technology, Environmental Health, Mental Health, Planning & Building Services, Public Defender, Public Health, Sheriff-Coroner, Department of Transportation, and Treasurer-Tax Collector (Sponsor: Executive Office)

Honorable Supervisors,

MCA understands the need to update the Master Fee Schedule to reflect the increased cost incurred by the County to perform the specified tasks and roles. The MCA plans to review the time survey pertaining to the Cannabis Management Unit with a representative from the MCD. Unfortunately, these proposed figures were provided on 11/30 (Thursday) and the Board of Supervisors Meeting to review this proposal is on 12/5 (Tuesday), which is not enough time to do a proper analysis of the studies supporting these changes. Therefore we can not support these proposed changes at this time.

We previously saw how off-base time estimates for certain cannabis related tasks were under the prior MCD administration, and that new projections would not be fully understood until the current department had an opportunity to institute and streamline their processes. Further streamlining is being included in the upcoming ordinance change recommendations. Given the fluctuation with how CCBLs are processed and the vast difference in time estimates in the past, it becomes more important to evaluate the time studies after further streamlining is enacted as is anticipated.

We encourage the Board of Supervisors to consider all proposed fee changes in terms of cost effectiveness that ensures small business sustainability and growth in the County. In discussions with our constituents and community partners, it is clear to many that some of the proposed increases could not only cause businesses to close, but will restrict business and development in the County.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, we oppose agenda item 4a because there has been insufficient time to look at the supporting data. We urge the Board of Supervisors to deny the changes as proposed, and instead bring back the proposed fee increases for cannabis items as part of the Cannabis ordinance revision process, which should include a careful review of the time studies and supporting data.

We are available to discuss further at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Amato, President
Mendocino Cannabis Alliance
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