



COUNTY OF DEL NORTE

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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AGENDA DATE: May 12, 2015

TO: Del Norte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jay Sarina, County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: North Coast Counties Marijuana Policy Statement

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:

- 1) Adopt the attached policy outlining the uniform policy statement of all involved counties addressing potential legalization of cannabis in California and approve the attached statement as a policy statement of the county and an addendum to the county's legislative platform;
2. Authorize the Chair to sign a joint letter of transmittal with the Chairs of the Boards of Supervisors of Del Norte, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma and Trinity counties;
3. Direct the County Administrative Officer to transmit this policy statement to Peterson Consulting and to communicate the county's support to state legislators, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC).

SUMMARY:

Over the past year, the North Coast Counties have been informally discussing the possible impacts of legalized cannabis on the economies, the environment and public safety. With a desire to coordinate a larger discussion and possible action, a small group of supervisors and CAOs decided to move forward with a regional summit to share information and ideas and if possible, develop a unified regional public statement.

On March 5, 2015, the North Coast regional summit on the Economic Impacts of Legalized Cannabis was held at the City of Santa Rosa Utilities Field Operations Center. The goal of the Summit was to develop a regional and unified position statement to help shape state legislation in order to influence cannabis policy and potential

legalization with appropriate local control. Supervisors and Chief/County Administrative officers (CAOs) attended from the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma and Trinity (Attachment A). In addition, legislative representatives, California State Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of California and county staff participated in the summit.

Guest speakers at the event included:

- David Baumgarten, Esq., from Gunnison County, Colorado: Keynote presentation entitled, "Lessons Learned: A Colorado Attorney Perspective Regarding Legalization Recreational Marijuana."
- Assemblyman Jim Wood, 2nd District: Update on Assembly Bill 243
- Representatives from California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and legislative advocacy firm Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc. provided updates on marijuana-related legislation.

While the primary focus of the Summit was on potential economic impacts to the region, participants also discussed important impacts on local governments that need to be addressed in a regulatory framework. Breakout group topics consisted of the policy areas of local control, revenue and taxation, environment and economics.

The results from the breakout groups were compiled to craft a working outline for a regional policy statement. Subsequent to the Summit, the Supervisors and CAOs have collaborated repeatedly to create a uniform policy statement that reflects the priorities identified through the event. Comments and feedback were solicited and incorporated into the development of the statement from the entire group of Supervisors, CAOs and the larger participant group. On April 22, 2015 the group of Supervisors approved a final North Coast Counties Marijuana Policy Statement. Adoption of a unified regional statement provides the opportunity for counties to come together and influence the state legislative process to protect, support and enhance our economies, environment and quality of life, while retaining local control. The North Coast Counties Marijuana Policy Statement will go before each County's respective board in May for possible adoption as a companion statement to the individual Board of Supervisors Legislative platforms on Marijuana, coupled with the marijuana platforms from CSAC and RCRC. Upon regional adoption the Policy Statement will be sent to CSAC, RCRC and all rural counties for consideration.

DISCUSSION/JUSTIFICATION:

Proactive action to address and influence the effects of potential legalization of cannabis on rural counties in California is imperative to allowing these Counties the ability to address important issues while establishing a collective statement that outlines issues that must be addressed if such legislation is considered and approved.

ALTERNATIVES:

Forward any suggested amendments to the overall group for consideration and inclusion, or do not adopt the policy as presented.

CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT:

This section meets one of the following outcome measures for children in Del Norte County:

- Children ready for and succeeding in school.
- Children and youth are healthy and preparing for adulthood.
- Families are economically self-sufficient.
- Families are safe, stable and nurturing.
- Communities are safe and provide a high quality of life.
- No impact to children as a result of this action.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: A large percentage of local government service departments

SIGNATURE REQUIRED UPON ADOPTION:

None

Attachment A

North Coast Regional Summit	
Supervisors and CAOs Attendees	
Mendocino County	
Mendocino Supervisor	John McCowen
Mendocino Supervisor	Tom Woodhouse
Mendocino CEO	Carmel Angelo
Humboldt County	
Humboldt Supervisor	Estelle Fennell
Humboldt Supervisor	Mark Lovelace
Humboldt Deputy CAO	Amy Nilsen
Lake County	
Lake Supervisor	Anthony Farrington
Lake Supervisor	Jim Steele
Lake CAO	Matt Perry
Trinity County	
Trinity Supervisor	Judy Morris
Trinity Supervisor	John Fenley
Trinity CAO	Wendy Tyler
Sonoma County	
Sonoma Supervisor	Susan Gorin
Sonoma Supervisor	David Rabbitt
Sonoma CAO	Veronica Ferguson
Del Norte County	
Del Norte Supervisor	Gerry Hemmingsen
Del Norte CAO	Jay Sarina