

Erin Dunn
Community Comment
March 27, 2018

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

You have one more day. You have until close of business tomorrow to make your comments known to the Board of Supervisors about the new Cannabis regulations.

They had a packed house last week of concerned Humboldters, on every side of the issue, commenting about changes.

Fortuna, like Blue Lake, has chosen to be Cannabis free. But for some reason, the County thought it best to give a disproportionate amount of permits to grow along the Fortuna city line. Too bad if the grows end up in the back yards of Fortuna residents.

The new regulations are aimed at putting a limit on Cannabis cultivation on “prime agricultural lands”—the zoning that is found around Fortuna. Finally. But it doesn’t mean they won’t permit it.

If you wanted to reach anyone from City Hall a week ago Monday, all you had to do was stop by Supervisors chambers to find our Chief of Police, Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem and City Manager. They were there going to bat for Fortuna.

The new limits sound promising. They won’t be pushing permits on prime ag land, CHECK. Now they’ll have to notice neighbors—which was not required before—CHECK. Good, right?

I was disheartened to learn from one of the attendees that they believe the proposed changes don’t go far enough. That all of the new special permitting processes aren’t going to do anything to stop the grows

around our city limits and that the County is going to do what the County wants to do—which seems to be permitting a lot of grows around Fortuna.

What the heck!

What can you and I do about it? We still have a day to comment to the County to let them know how we feel. If you care about Fortuna's quality of life, let them know.

Here's what you do:

Send an email with your comments to County Planner John Ford. His address is jford@co.humboldt.ca.us. Or, email your County Supervisor. You can get their addresses from the Humboldt County website.

Or, if you are driving and you can't write this down, call me at the Fortuna Chamber office and I will give it to you.

The next public hearing is April 10 at 1:30 p.m.

At a recent economic summit sponsored by AEDC, a Eureka representative said that Cannibas is the fastest growing employer there. That the growing piece isn't the part that is driving the new economy—it's the management and business sector that is growing. Operation managers, accountants and human resources positions that pay well are in high demand—no pun intended.

Good for you Eureka, I sincerely think that's great. Fortuna's niche is welcoming the businesses that are being displaced by the Cannabis businesses. It's a fair trade. And we both win.

Remember, you have one more day.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.