



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GROUP
Of The Ventana Chapter
P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
ventana2.sierraclub.org/santacruz
e-mail: santa.cruz.group@sierraclub.org

April 9, 2016

Melodye Serino
Staff, C4 Committee

Dear Ms. Serino,

The Sierra Club is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the draft C4 Final Report. There is much in the report that is outside our area of expertise and concern. We are focusing our comments on environmental issues as they relate to the development of an Ordinance for Cannabis Cultivation in the County of Santa Cruz.

Although the word “environment” is frequently added to the list of issues that need attention, the draft Report has little content that addresses such issues. There is a single entry that refers to stream setbacks of 100, 50 and 25 feet for perennial, intermittent and ephemeral streams respectively and that is the entirety of coverage for environmental issues in the draft document. This oversight needs correcting.

We suggest that the final Report include policies that respond to the following environmental concerns:

- Drainage; runoff; erosion; chemical pollution from pesticides etc.
- Water conservation
- Energy conservation
- Diversion of groundwater and streams
- Watershed and habitat protection
- Proper storage for fertilizers, pesticides and other regulated products. Encourage use of ecologically-friendly alternatives
- Light pollution and light trespass
- Noise

The Humboldt Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance is a model for addressing environmental issues. We recommend that C4 review that Ordinance and consider adapting its environmental policies plus the other issues listed above into the Santa Cruz County Ordinance.

Thank you for considering these suggestions.

Sincerely,

Greg McPheeters
Chair, Executive Committee

cc: Board of Supervisors Chair McPherson