



## Political Strategy, Public Policy Research

1830 "N" Street - Sacramento, CA 95811 -- 1-916-449-6190

June 23, 2018

Hon. Karen Mitchoff, Chair, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Hon. John Gioia, Vice Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Hon. Candace Andersen, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Hon. Diane Burgis, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Hon. Federal D. Glover, 5<sup>th</sup> District

### **RE: Board of Supervisors Meeting June 26, 2018 Item D.8 -- Hearing to Consider Adopting Cannabis Ordinance No. 2018-18**

Dear Chair Mitchoff and Honorable Members of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors:

Jim Gonzalez and Associates (JG&A) is a political strategy firm that represents cannabis business clients in throughout California.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Introduction**

The Contra Costa County Planning Commission at its May 23, 2018 meeting, after review of the staff presentation and consideration of public comment, voted unanimously to recommend approval of the staff recommendation on Ordinance 2018-18, with "modifications and additional recommendations."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Our comments are confined to general public policy analysis and recommendations, and are not referenced for any particular clients.

<sup>2</sup> See Minutes, May 23, 2018, Contra Costa County Planning Commission Meeting, linked at: [http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/\\_05232018-1644](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/_05232018-1644)

One of the Planning Commission's modifications and recommendations, as stated in the adopted motion made by Planning Commission Chair Duane Steele, was to add the **bolded** language contained in the May 21, 2018 letter submitted to the Planning Commission by JG& Associates (see attached JG&A Planning Commission letter May 21, 2018).<sup>3</sup> The **bolded** language recommended by the Planning Commission included:

"First, amend Permit Application Requirements 88-28.408 (c)(2) to read: '**Evidence of an existing sustainable groundwater supply on site** or proof of water service availability from a retail water supplier, as defined in Water Code section 13575'."

"Second, amend Standards Applicable to Commercial Cultivation, 88-28.414(d) to read: 'Water. Where feasible, water conservation measures, water capture systems, or gray water systems must be incorporated in cannabis cultivation operations in order to minimize use of water. **If a sustainable groundwater supply does not exist on a cultivation site**, water service for a commercial cannabis business must be provided by a retail water supplier, as defined in Water Code section 13575'."

### **Comments of the Staff Modifications Contained in Ordinance 2018-18**

#### **First Staff Modification to Language Recommended by the Planning Commission**

Regarding the first modification and recommendation of the subject ordinance contained in JG& Associates May 21, 2018 Planning Commission letter, Section 88-28.408 (c)(2) has been changed by staff to now read:

*"If the business will satisfy its water demand in whole or in part by water service from a retail water supplier, the application must include proof of water service availability from the retail water supplier."* (See page 12 of 27 of Ordinance No. 2018-18 on the Board's June 26, 2018 agenda.)

#### **Comment**

Although this staff drafted language changes the Planning Commission's unanimously adopted recommendation, and does not emphasize fully the intent to determine "evidence of an existing sustainable groundwater supply on site," we are prepared to accept this modification as it merely provides a conditional requirement for businesses which choose to use water from retail water suppliers.

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<sup>3</sup> See: Video Contra Costa Planning Commission Meeting, May 23, 2018 at 1:36:44 to 1:37:32, linked at: [http://contra-costa.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=14&clip\\_id=1338](http://contra-costa.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=14&clip_id=1338)

However, a requirement to provide evidence of an existing sustainable groundwater supply on site, if groundwater were to be used (as stated in the JG& Associates May 21 letter to the Planning Commission), would provide an additional vetting measurement which could be one of the factors which could be considered by staff and approval bodies when reviewing cannabis cultivation applications.

#### Second Staff Modification to Language Recommended by the Planning Commission

Regarding the second modification and recommendation of the subject ordinance recommended in the JG& Associates May 21, 2018 letter, Section 88-28.414(d), adopted and recommended by the Planning Commission, the ordinance has been changed by staff to include the following language:

*"A commercial cultivation business may satisfy its water demand by pumping groundwater from a groundwater production well if both of the following criteria are met: (A) The use of groundwater by the business will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies, and will not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the groundwater table level. (B) The business uses groundwater in accordance with any applicable groundwater sustainability plan adopted by a groundwater sustainability agency within which the business is located."* (See page 18 of 27 of Ordinance No. 2018-18 on the Board's June 26, 2018 agenda.)

#### Comment

This staff modified language changes the Planning Commission's unanimously adopted recommended language regarding existence of a sustainable groundwater supply on site, and substitutes language referencing groundwater depletion, recharging, and aquifer impacts.

This new staff modified language could result in burdensome and hyper-technical analyses being required for greenhouses which employ only minimal water use in drip irrigation systems for raised cultivation beds. Drip irrigation systems for raised cultivation beds are inherently sustainable, and by their very nature result in minimal water use. Sustainable low water use, employing drip irrigation in greenhouses, would be almost impossible to have any significant impact on an aquifer.

This new modified language in the proposed ordinance may be more relevant to groundwater supplies used for flood irrigation; however the new modified language has no real world relationship to sustainable greenhouse cultivation using drip irrigation in raised beds.

In fact, cannabis cultivation may be proposed in greenhouses which have existed for decades, and have cultivated other crops using sustainable groundwater. It is difficult to understand why new hydrological analyses would be required for legacy greenhouses, simply because

cannabis would be grown in these facilities which have been used historically to cultivate other crops.

This proposed language does not address the fact that many family farms have been using their own on-site well water for decades on other water-intensive crops, such as corn or alfalfa, without any requirement that there be a review of groundwater depletion, recharging, and aquifer impacts.

Also, the reference that groundwater be used in accordance to any applicable groundwater sustainability plan adopted by a groundwater sustainability agency, while addressing the issue of sustainability, could provide a backdoor way for an irrigation district to exclude the use of groundwater for cannabis cultivation.

We remain convinced that the language suggested in the JG&A May 21, 2018 letter, adopted and recommended by the Planning Commission ("***If a sustainable groundwater supply does not exist on a cultivation site, water service for a commercial cannabis business must be provided by a retail water supplier, as defined in Water Code section 13575.***") remains the best way to provide the tools necessary to review individual cannabis licenses to ensure sustainable use of groundwater.

#### **Water Alternatives "A" and "B" Harm Sustainable Greenhouse Cultivation of Cannabis**

We note that that the Board's agenda includes two items: "Water Alternative A" and "Water Alternative B."

Water Alternative A requires proof of water service availability by a retail water supplier; and that water service be provided by a retail water supplier.<sup>4</sup>

Water Alternative B requires water service to be provided by a by a retail water supplier; and limits use of groundwater for cannabis cultivation to only two locations.

These alternatives would allow the use of groundwater only if a retail water seller does not provide water service at all times of the year (Water Alternative A); or groundwater could be used only during periods of the year when groundwater is not provided by a retail water seller (Water Alternative B).

(Note: Duplicative language contained in the version of Water Alternative B posted on Board's agenda remains unclear whether cultivators, with a land permit, could supply all of their water needs using groundwater.)<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> "Retail water supplier" is defined in Ordinance 2018-18 section 88-28.206 (b)(11) as "a public agency, city, county, or investor-owned water utility regulated by the state Public Utilities Commission, that provides retail water service. A retail water supplier does not include a mutual water company."

**Both Water Alternatives A and B represent a rejection of the unanimously adopted vote of the Planning Commission on May 23, 2018 to recommend language contained in the May 21, 2018 JG&A letter which provides for sustainable use of existing groundwater.**

As stated in the May 21, 2018 JG& Associates letter to the Planning Commission, language similar to that contained in Water Alternatives A and B would create a de-facto prohibition against cannabis cultivation in existing greenhouses in agricultural zoning districts. In particular, it would make it financially unfeasible to employ greenhouses using low water use drip irrigation.

The onerous requirements of Water Alternatives A and B would be analogous to requiring gardeners to use a garden hose to water plants on their porch, when water from a sprinkler can is sufficient.

**Most significantly, Water Alternatives A and B, if enacted, would favor open-field flood irrigation over sustainable drip irrigation in secure greenhouses.**

### **Conclusion**

Throughout the development of the cannabis ordinance which is now before you for your consideration, we have described the benefits of sustainable low water use for cannabis cultivation, particularly greenhouse cultivation using raised beds which employ drip irrigation.

We have always contended that low water use drip irrigation is far superior to flood irrigation, and a much better fit for smaller scale, secure, and tightly regulated cannabis cultivation.

We respectfully recommend that you incorporate the language on the sustainable use of existing groundwater supplies (the **bolded** language in the May 21, 2018 JG&A Planning Commission letter) which was adopted and recommended unanimously by the Contra Costa

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<sup>5</sup> We note that Alternative B's staff language regarding service from a retail water agency (as posted on the Board's agenda) apparently contains duplicative revisions to section 88-28.414(d)(3)(A) regarding conditions under which groundwater may be used.

The first revised language for section 88-28.414(d)(3)(A) provides:

*"If the business is within the service area of, and receives retail water service from, a retail water supplier, groundwater is used to satisfy water demand of the business only during periods when the retail water supplier does not provide retail water service to the business."*

The second revised language for section 88-28.414(d)(3)(A) provides:

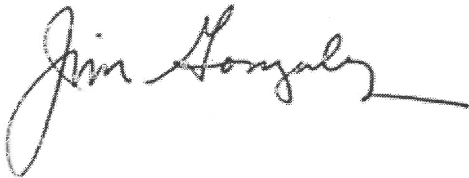
*"The retail water supplier does not provide retail water service at all times during the year and the groundwater is used to satisfy water demand of the business only during those periods when the retail water supplier does not provide retail water service to the business; or the land use permit authorizes the business to satisfy its water demand without service from a retail water supplier."*

Planning Commission. We believe that this language best advances the goal of sustainable, low water use cannabis cultivation.

We also respectfully request that under no circumstances the Board adopt the language of Water Alternative A or Water Alternative B, each of which would, in effect, kill the opportunity for greenhouses to employ sustainable low water use drip irrigation using existing groundwater wells.

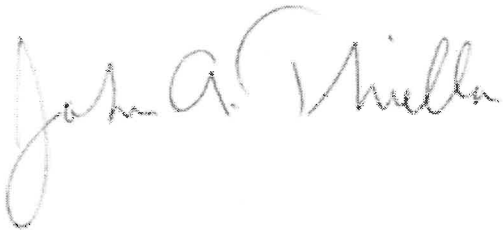
Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gonzalez", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Gonzalez

President, JG & Associates, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Thiella", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

John A. Thiella

Attorney at Law, Counsel to the Firm

Attachment: JG& Associates letter to Contra Costa County Planning Commission, May 21, 2018

Cc: John Kopchik, Director, Department of Conservation and Development

Ruben Hernandez, Current Planning Principal Planner, Department of Conservation and Development

Aruna Bhat, Manager, Current Planning Section, Department of Conservation and Development

**Attachment: JG & Associates May 21, 2018 letter to the Contra Costa Planning Commission:**



**Political Strategy, Public Policy Research**

**1830 "N" Street - Sacramento, CA 95811 -- 1-916-449-6190**

May 21, 2018

The Contra Costa County Planning Commission

(Sent electronically via Hiliana Li)

Hon. Duane Steele, Chair

Hon. Rand Swenson, Vice Chair

Commissioners: Hon. Richard Clark, Hon. Marvin Terrell, Hon. Jeffrey Wright, Hon. Donna Allen,  
Hon. Kevin Van Buskirk

**RE: Contra Costa County Planning Commission Meeting -- May 23, 2018 --Staff Report on  
County Cannabis Ordinance.**

**Request for Amendment to Proposed Cannabis Regulation Ordinance to Preserve Low Water  
Use Cultivation**

Dear Chair Steele and Members of the Contra Costa County Planning Commission:

Jim Gonzalez and Associates (JGA) is a political strategy and public policy research firm that represents cannabis business clients throughout California.<sup>[1]</sup>

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<sup>[1]</sup> Our comments are confined to general public policy analysis and recommendations, and are not referenced for any particular clients.

## Introduction

We are writing to respectfully request an amendment to the proposed cannabis ordinance to expressly preserve the option of permitting cannabis cultivation in greenhouses located on sites with existing groundwater wells.

We are concerned that the draft cannabis ordinance contains language which, if adopted in the final ordinance, would create a de-facto prohibition against cannabis cultivation in existing greenhouses in agricultural zoning districts. This is because many greenhouses in agricultural zoning districts have historically employed drip irrigation from on-site groundwater wells for year-round growing, as opposed to flood irrigation supplied by irrigation districts for seasonal outdoor growing. The draft ordinance could also favor water-intensive flood irrigation over cultivation using water conservation techniques.

## Background

The draft cannabis ordinance, as currently drafted, contains the following language which appears to favor water-intensive flood irrigation.

The language in Permit Application Requirements 88-28.408 (c)(2), located on page 11 of 26 of the draft ordinance states: *"Proof of water service availability from a retail water supplier, as defined in Water Code section 13575."*

The language in Standards Applicable to Commercial Cultivation, 88-28.414(d), located on page 17 of 26 of the draft ordinance, states: *"Water. Where feasible, water conservation measures, water capture systems, or gray water systems must be incorporated in cannabis cultivation operations in order to minimize use of water. Water service for a commercial cannabis business must be provided by a retail water supplier, as defined in Water Code section 13575."*

"Retail water supplier," as defined in Water Code section 13575(b)(6), means any local entity, including a public agency, city, county, or private water company, that provides retail water service.

The chart located on page 9 of 12 of the Staff Report further clarifies the intent of the ordinance. That chart contains a footnote noting the additional requirements of the draft



ordinance to include cultivation sites in agricultural districts that are "served by a public water agency or irrigation district."

#### The Problem: Favoring of Flood Irrigation Used in Outdoor Cultivation Over Drip Irrigation Used in Greenhouses

Although language of the draft ordinance clearly provides that water conservation measures are desired, the draft ordinance appears to exclude the sustainable use of water obtained from existing groundwater wells located on cultivation sites.

By limiting cultivation in agriculture zoning districts to properties served by a public water agency, the County effectively would exclude most greenhouses, and favor more water-intensive outdoor cultivation of cannabis. This is because greenhouses can employ water conservation techniques by growing cannabis in raised beds with drip irrigation; whereas outdoor cultivation would likely employ more water-intensive techniques including flood irrigation.

Also, the irrigation district which serves farms in agricultural zoning districts in eastern Contra Costa County supplies water only 7 months out of the year, and does not supply water during the other five months. This means that cannabis grown in greenhouses, which can have multiple growths per year, would be excluded from cultivation for almost half of the potential growing season, thereby making a cultivation business not commercially viable.

#### The Solution

The County can support water conservation through the use of sustainable groundwater from existing wells located on cannabis cultivation sites. This is particularly true for cultivation operations employing greenhouses using raised beds and water conserving drip irrigation.

The use of sustainable groundwater drawn from existing wells would have a negligible impact on the groundwater table. Indeed, allowing existing groundwater wells to be used for greenhouse operations would allow the County to consider the impact and the desirability of minimal water use operations such as drip irrigation, as opposed to water-intensive flood irrigation. This could be weighed when deciding whether or not to permit a particular cultivation site.

### Requested Amendment to the Draft Ordinance

To allow the use of sustainable groundwater wells for cannabis cultivation in agricultural zoning area, we respectfully suggest the following amendments to the draft ordinance:

First, amend Permit Application Requirements 88-28.408 (c)(2) to read: "**Evidence of an existing sustainable groundwater supply on site** or proof of water service availability from a retail water supplier, as defined in Water Code section 13575."

Second, amend Standards Applicable to Commercial Cultivation, 88-28.414(d) to read: "Water. Where feasible, water conservation measures, water capture systems, or gray water systems must be incorporated in cannabis cultivation operations in order to minimize use of water. **If a sustainable groundwater supply does not exist on a cultivation site**, water service for a commercial cannabis business must be provided by a retail water supplier, as defined in Water Code section 13575."

### Summary

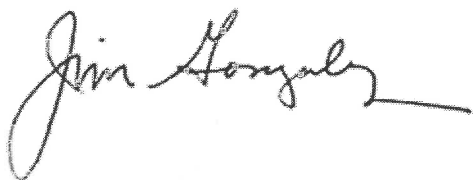
We are concerned that the draft ordinance would, in effect, exclude the cultivation of cannabis in greenhouses.

This is because greenhouses, using strict water conservation techniques, would employ drip irrigation from existing on-site groundwater wells, as opposed to flood irrigation supplied by irrigation districts.

Also, the intermittent supply of water by irrigation districts excludes many months out of the year-round growing season. Without a continuous water supply, cultivation of cannabis in greenhouses would not be commercially viable.

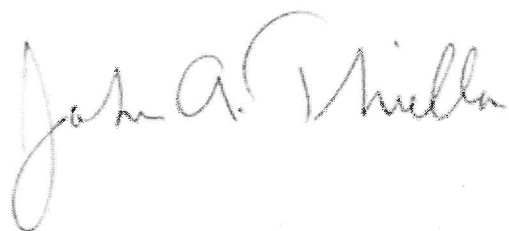
Consistent with the intention of the draft ordinance to support water conservation measures, we respectfully request the ordinance be amended to allow the use of sustainable groundwater from existing wells located on cannabis cultivation sites in agricultural zoning areas.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gonzalez", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Gonzalez

President, JG & Associates, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Thiella", with a large, stylized initial "J".

John A. Thiella

Attorney at Law, Counsel to the Firm

Cc: Ruben Hernandez, Principal Planner, Community Development Division

Hon. Diane Burgis, Supervisor, Third District

Mark Goodwin, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Diane Burgis

## June McHuen

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**From:** Jami Napier  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 26, 2018 7:51 AM  
**To:** June McHuen; Stacey Boyd  
**Subject:** FW: 6/26/18: Board of Supervisors Meeting: Commercial Cannabis Unincorporated Contra Costa  
**Attachments:** Exemption for Bethel Island and Others\_06-26-2018.pdf; ATT00001.htm

For BGO and meeting today.

Jami

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**From:** John Kopchik  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2018 10:44 PM  
**To:** Jami Napier <Jami.Napier@cob.cccounty.us>; Joellen Bergamini <Joellen.Bergamini@cao.cccounty.us>  
**Cc:** Ruben Hernandez <Ruben.Hernandez@dcd.cccounty.us>; Thomas Geiger <Thomas.Geiger@cc.cccounty.us>; Stephen M. Siptroth <Stephen.Siptroth@cc.cccounty.us>; Kristine Solseng <Kristine.Solseng@dcd.cccounty.us>; Aruna Bhat <Aruna.Bhat@dcd.cccounty.us>; Jamar Stamps <Jamar.Stamps@dcd.cccounty.us>  
**Subject:** Fwd: 6/26/18: Board of Supervisors Meeting: Commercial Cannabis Unincorporated Contra Costa

Hi Joellen and Jami. Please find another comment letter attached related to cannabis. —John

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John Kopchik, Director  
Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development  
30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Phone: 925-674-7819 Fax: 925-674-7250  
Email: john.kopchik@dcd.cccounty.us  
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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Trish Bello-Kunkel <trishbk@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** June 25, 2018 at 8:11:52 PM PDT  
**To:** "john.kopchik@dcd.cccounty.us" <john.kopchik@dcd.cccounty.us>  
**Cc:** "g ncast.net">  
**Subject:** 6/26/18: Board of Supervisors Meeting: Commercial Cannabis Unincorporated Contra Costa

Hello John,

I understand on the 6/26/18 Board of Supervisors meeting that there are proposed zoning text amendments to prohibit the establishment of commercial cannabis uses on properties within a new "Cannabis Exclusion District" of unincorporated areas of Contra Costa. These areas include Bethel Island and Sandmound Slough which are Knightsen's neighbors as well as Alamo, Acalanes Ridge, Contra Costa Centre, and Saranap (an unincorporated area of Walnut Creek). **Knightsen should also be included in this "Cannabis Exclusion District" and we are going on record prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow.** More definitively, at the Knightsen Town Advisory Council (KTAC) meeting on 2/20/18, the KTAC Council Members voted 3-1 to allow "0 commercial permits" in unincorporated Contra Costa. My understanding from the votes casted by Bethel Island and other neighboring

**Board of Directors**

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*President*

Amara Morrison

*Secretary*

Burt Bassler

*Treasurer*

Heath Bartosh

John Gallagher

Jim Felton

Liz Harvey

Claudia Hein

Frank Martens

Bob Marx

Sue Ohanian

Robert Phelps

Malcolm Sproul

Jeff Stone

*Directors*

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Ruben Hernandez

Principal Planner

Contra Costa County Dept. of Conservation & Development

30 Muir Rd.

Martinez, CA 94553

**RE: County Cannabis Ordinance**

Dear Mr. Hernandez,

Save Mount Diablo (SMD) is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 1971 which acquires land for addition to parks on and around Mount Diablo and monitors land use planning which might affect protected lands. We build trails, restore habitat, and are involved in environmental education. In 1971 there was just one park on Mount Diablo totaling 6,778 acres; today there are almost 50 parks and preserves around Mount Diablo totaling 110,000 acres. We include more than 8,000 donors and supporters.

**Staff Directors**

Edward Sortwell Clement Jr.

*Executive Director*

Seth Adams

*Land Conservation Director*

Meredith Hendricks

*Land Programs Director*

Monica E. Oei

*Finance & Administration*

*Director*

Marcia Slackman

*Development Director*

**Founders**

Arthur Bonwell

Mary L. Bowerman

**Proud Member of**

Land Trust Alliance

California Council of Land Trusts

Bay Area Open Space Council



We are writing to encourage the re-inclusion of text into the Contra Costa County Draft Cannabis Ordinance (Ordinance) that would limit potential cultivation of cannabis in agricultural districts to those districts served by a public water agency or irrigation district. This language was included in the version of the draft Ordinance reviewed by the County Planning Commission (PC) in May, specifically in the Permit Application Requirements Section on page 11 of 26 and the Standards Applicable to Commercial Cultivation on page 17 of 26, but was subsequently modified.

A letter from Jim Gonzalez and Associates (JGA) dated May 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 and submitted to the PC advocated for the deletion of the text mentioned above. That letter suggested that excluding cannabis growing from agricultural districts reliant on well water would favor flood irrigation used in outdoor cultivation over drip irrigation used in greenhouses.

However, limiting cannabis production in agricultural districts to those served by public water would still allow water efficient drip irrigation using greenhouses. There is no reason that such text would favor flood irrigation since there would always exist incentives to use water efficiently given the higher cost of public water and the array of water conservation and efficiency measures that have come out of California's recent water crises.



**REQUEST TO SPEAK FORM (2 minute limit)**

I wish to speak on Agenda Item # D8

Complete this form and place it in the upright box near the speaker's podium, and wait to be called by the Chair.

Date: 6.26.18

*Personal information is optional. This speaker's card will be incorporated into the public record of this meeting.*

My comments will be: ☒ General  
☐ For  
☐ Against

NAME (Print) Xiaozhen Mai

*To ensure your name is announced correctly, you may include phonetic spelling.*

☐ I wish to speak on the subject of:

Address: [REDACTED]

City: San Francisco

Phone: [REDACTED]

I am speaking for: ☒ Myself  
☐ Organization:

☒ I do not want to speak but would like to leave comments for the Board to consider.  
(Use the back of this form.)

**Information for Speakers:**

Deposit this form in the upright box next to the speaker's podium before the Board's consideration of your item.

Wait to be called by the Chair. Please speak into the microphone at the podium.

Begin by stating your name and your city or area of residence, and whether you are speaking for yourself or on behalf of an organization.

If you have handout materials, please give them to the Clerk.

Avoid repeating comments made by previous speakers.

In lieu of speaking, I wish to submit these comments:

I suggest can open more license for farm or ranch to cultivation cannabis. If only one license per farm or ranch, we will waste a lot of space. We hope we can get more license and more space to cultivate cannabis. We can create a lot of employment. We ~~can~~ <sup>will</sup> hiring 80% employees in our employment. <sup>citizens</sup> cannabis is very good. Just need teach people how to use it, don't exceed.



# MARIJUANA: MAN-MADE DISASTER

## Gateway to Other Drugs

- Marijuana – a powerful neurotransmitter – works on the same receptor system in the brain as heroin.<sup>2</sup>
- Marijuana primes the brain to seek stronger drugs.<sup>2</sup>
- Marijuana users are more likely than non-users to use heroin and abuse pharmaceutical opioids.<sup>14</sup>



Think Marijuana is harmless? You don't know POT!

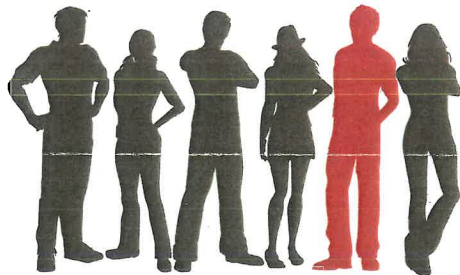
## Marijuana and the Brain<sup>13</sup>

- Causes and exacerbates: **Addiction, Depression, Psychosis, Schizophrenia, Hallucinations**
- Psychotic breaks / Violent acts / Anxiety
- Loss of memory, perception, motor skills
- Mental degeneration



## Drugged Driving

- Driving tests show marijuana impairs reaction times, divided-attention tasks, lane-position variability (weaving), peripheral vision, cognitive function & coordination.<sup>1</sup>
- **1 of every 8 traffic fatalities** in Colorado are marijuana related (+32% increase).<sup>10</sup>
- Marijuana driving deaths doubled in one year after legalization in Washington.<sup>11</sup>
- For every 1 marijuana-user death, .7 innocents die (pedestrians, bicyclists, passengers, etc.)<sup>5</sup>
- Combining marijuana with alcohol increases impairment up to 8 times.<sup>1</sup>



## Teen Use/Users

- Increases dramatically wherever marijuana is legalized.<sup>12</sup>
- Causes irreversible IQ loss up to 8 points and higher likelihood of Amotivational Syndrome.<sup>8</sup>
- **1 in 6 teens who try marijuana will become addicted.**<sup>7</sup>
- Heavy Users are less likely to graduate.<sup>9</sup>
- **7x increase in suicide attempts.**<sup>9</sup>
- Big Marijuana's goal – teen users today become lifetime consumers tomorrow.

## Fetal Risk

Marijuana use during pregnancy crosses the placental and blood/brain barrier and increases the baby's susceptibility to:<sup>4</sup>

- Lower birth weight
  - Addiction later in life
  - Birth defects & cancers
  - Problem solving, attention and learning difficulties later in life
- Studies show genetic changes in offspring of heavy users.<sup>6</sup>



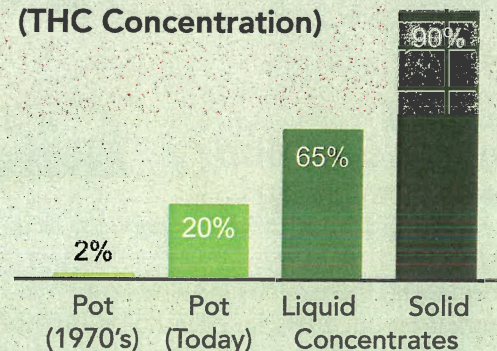
## POTENCY:

Marijuana (a.k.a. Cannabis) today is

**10-40x stronger** than 40 years ago

THC (the mind-altering chemical in marijuana that gets a user high) is a hallucinogenic drug. It is stored in fat tissue and is slowly released back into the blood stream keeping that THC in the body for many days, even weeks after the pot is used. This THC continues to negatively affect memory and emotional processing, organs and bodily systems.<sup>3</sup>

## TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL (THC Concentration)



**www.AALM.info**

916-708-4111 • 619-990-7480

Americans Against Legalizing Marijuana

Email [CarlaDLowe@aol.com](mailto:CarlaDLowe@aol.com) for Print-Ready PDF

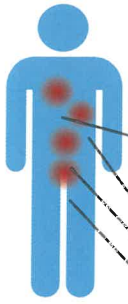
SOURCES: 1 - R Hartman, M Huestis "Cannabis Effects on Driving Skills", Clin Chem 2013. 2 - Dr. Forest Tennent and NIDA. 3 - R Holmes MD, Florida Alliance for Drug Endangered Children "Health Consequences of Using MJ: Effects on Infants, Children and Young Adults" 4 - E. Frider, J Neuroendocrinol. 2008; 20:75-81 & EC Blume -UNC, Cancer Causes Control. 2006 June 17, (5):663-9. 5 - Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 2014 & 2015, National Highway Safety Transportation Administration. 6 - E Sassenrath, UC Davis Primate Research Ctr and Neuropsychopharmacology, 2014 May 39 (6): 1315.23. 7 - NIDA, "The Science of Drug Abuse and Addiction", by Dr. Nora Volkow referencing Monitoring the Future Study, 2010. 8 - Dr. M. Seal, Melbourne University, APP article, "MJ causes brain damage", August 2012. 9 - E Silins, et al 2014, "Young Adult Sequelae of Adolescent Cannabis Use - an Integrative Analysis" Arendt et al 2006, Kvitland et al 2016; Clark et al 2014. 10 - Rocky Mountain HIDTA, 2015. 11 - AAA "Driving under the Influence" Foundation for Traffic Study, May 2016. 12 - US Dept. Health & Human Services - SAMSHA 13 - Dr. B Madras, Professor of Psychobiology, Dept of Psychiatry, Harvard School. 14 - "Cannabis Use and risk of Prescription Opioid Use Disorder in the US" Olfson, Wall, Liu, Blanco, September 2017.





Heavy marijuana use is linked to downward social class mobility, anti-social behaviors, and relationship conflict.<sup>7</sup>

Less than 1% of all state prisoners are in jail for simple possession.<sup>17</sup>



## Physical Health Impacts

**LUNGS:** Smoke from marijuana contains 4-5x the toxins, irritants & carcinogens as tobacco smoke; 20 times more ammonia.<sup>9</sup>  
Increases likelihood of **HEART ATTACK**  
**IMMUNE SYSTEM** is weakened  
Negatively impacts **REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM**<sup>6</sup>  
**DEATH RATE** 4x higher than non-users.<sup>13</sup>



## Crime

- **50%** of men and **30%** of women arrested for any crime test positive for marijuana.<sup>4</sup>
- **70%** of inmates are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol.<sup>1</sup>
- **Guns** and other weapons are common at both large and home cultivation sites.

## Butane Hash Oil (BHO)

- Increases THC potency to 90+%<sup>11</sup>
- Causes severe "high."
- As dangerous to make and consume as meth.
- Easily causes **explosions and fires** in neighborhoods where it is cooked.
- AKA *dabs, wax, budder, shatter*, and *solid THC concentrate*.



## Marijuana is Big Money (but not for the community)

- One plant can bring \$2,000 to \$4,000 annually to a grower/distributor.
- **Black Markets still thrive after legalization.**<sup>8</sup>
- Tax revenues from pot sales do NOT cover **increased** crime, health care or addiction services. Revenues are projected to be less than .003% of total CA state tax revenue.<sup>2</sup>
- Cost of law enforcement increases, not decreases with legalization.<sup>16</sup>
- CA already has 50,000 illegal cultivation sites that supply 60% of marijuana to the US.<sup>3</sup>

## Edibles / Vaping

- THC liquid concentrate is used in "Vaping" devices (aka *e-cigarettes*); creates a cancer-causing aerosol with no smell.
- Candy, brownies, soda, gummies, etc. containing THC can be very potent; cookies with 1000mg of THC each are available.
- Vaping and Edibles are **favorite ways for youth to ingest marijuana** (THC).
- Neither THC liquid nor solid concentrates (BHO) are overseen by any regulatory body – no quality controls, no limits on potency, or limits on contaminants (pesticides, herbicides).



## Marijuana is NOT Earth-Friendly<sup>10</sup>

- 1 plant uses 6 gallons of water per day.
- Streams diverted to grow sites kill plants & animals downstream.
- Poisons and illegal fertilizers contaminate streams and forests.<sup>15</sup>
- Carbofuron is illegal but commonly used at grow sites - 1/8 t can kill a 300 lb. bear.<sup>15</sup>



## Is Marijuana really Medicine?

The Federal Food and Drug Administration confirms that whole plant marijuana and THC oils are NOT medicine.

- Components may have medicinal value, i.e. CBD (Cannabidiol)<sup>5</sup>
- To protect the public, the FDA testing and approval process determines drug safety, dosing efficacy, side effects, potency, duration, interactions, etc.
- Pot shop "baristas" who recommend this psychoactive drug make medical conditions worse (e.g. PTSD, pediatric seizures, glaucoma and even pain).<sup>14</sup>

"First, Do No Harm"  
Marijuana is harmful



**<sup>14</sup> OPPOSE MARIJUANA USE**  
American Medical Association  
American Cancer Society  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American M.S. Society  
National Eye Institute  
American Lung Association  
and others



Epidiolex must be dispensed with a patient Medication Guide that describes important information about the drug's uses and risks. As is true for all drugs that treat epilepsy, the most serious risks include thoughts about suicide, attempts to commit suicide, feelings of agitation, new or worsening depression, aggression and panic attacks. Epidiolex also caused liver injury, generally mild, but raising the possibility of rare, but more severe injury

# Marijuana in Vermont and the Increased Economic Burden of Schizophrenia

By Dean Whitlock and Christine L. Miller, Ph.D.

2015

- ▶ Marijuana creates a **7-fold increased risk for suicide in teens**
- ▶ Marijuana triggers temporary psychosis in 12- 15% (compared to alcohol at 0.5%)
- ▶ **Psychosis** conversion to schizophrenia is 5% for alcohol yet **46% for marijuana**
- ▶ Added annual economic burden that would be placed **on Vermont** if marijuana were legalized was \$11.1M to treat schizophrenia induced by marijuana (total **burden \$20M**)

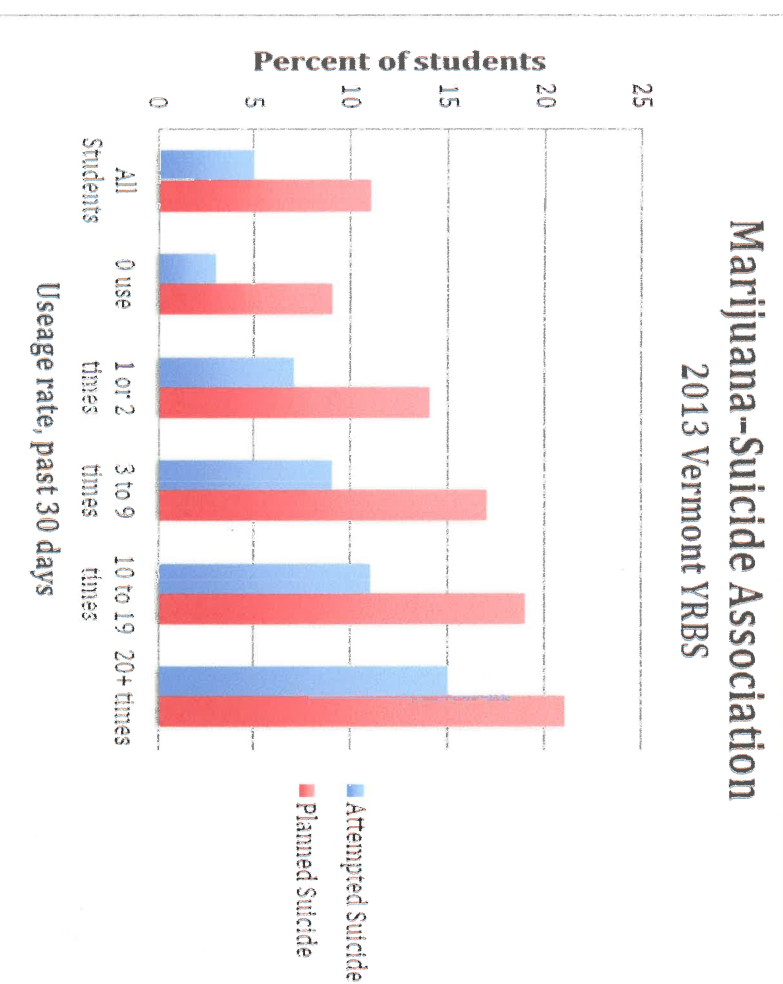


Figure 2 (data from Vermont High School YRBS, 2013)

YRBS = youth risk behavior survey

# Daniel Juarez's Stabbing Suicide Latest Death Linked to Marijuana Intoxication

**2012 suicide** of Daniel Juarez, an eighteen-year-old from Brighton, listed marijuana intoxication as one of the factors that caused him to take his life.

Juarez's THC level was measured at **38.2 nanograms**, around **eight times** the (controversial) **level** the State of Colorado has **established for marijuana intoxication**. He **stabbed himself twenty times**, with a wound to the chest proving fatal.



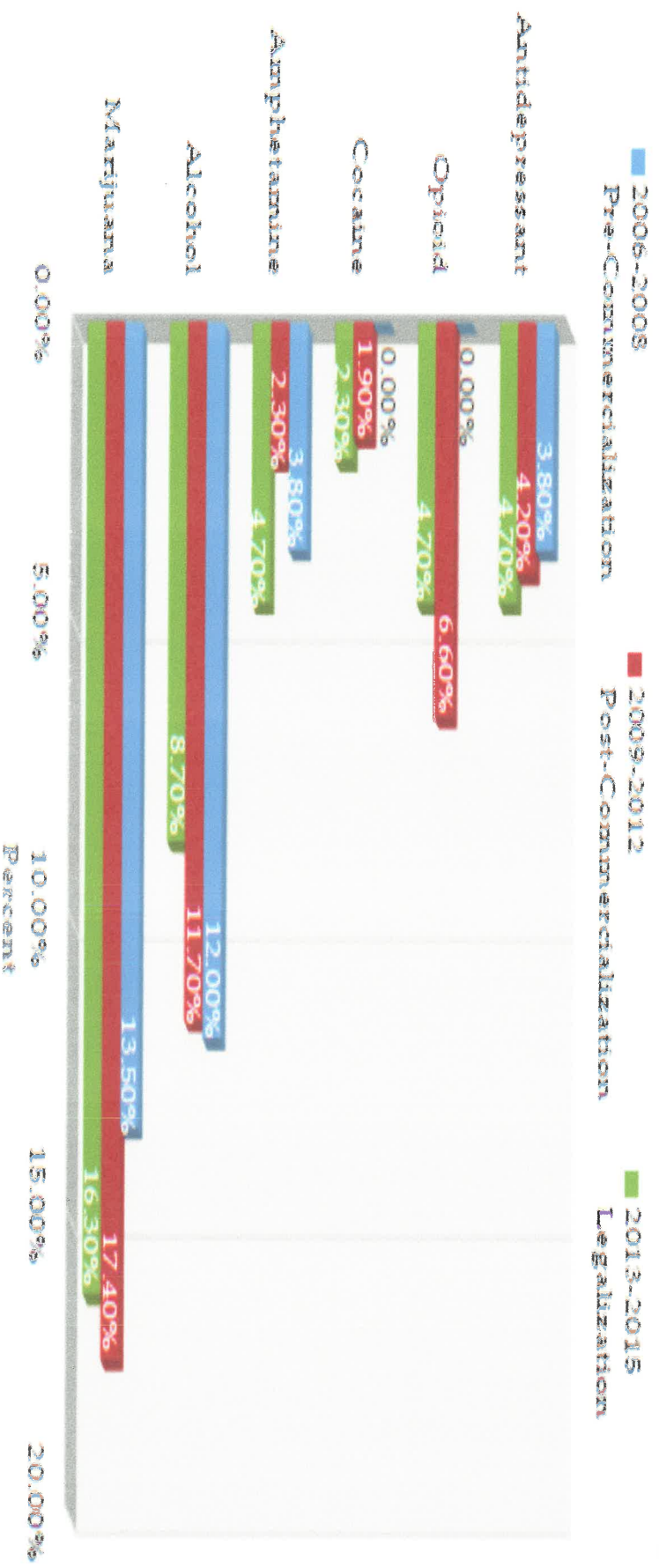
## Luke Goodman Killed Himself in Keystone Because of Pot Edibles, Family Says

*On Saturday, March 21 2015, Luke Goodman, a 23-year-old from the Tulsa, Oklahoma area, **took his own life** in Keystone. Now, his family has come forward to argue that his suicide (he **used a gun**) came as a result of him eating marijuana edibles. He's said to have ingested five times more than the recommended dose prior to the fatal shooting.* His cousin purchased **\$78 worth of edibles** in Silversthorne earlier in the day.



Included among them were **peach tart candies** that featured the following warnings: "The intoxicating effects of this product may be delayed by two or more hours... The standardized serving size for this product includes no more than 10 mg." He's said to have **started by eating two** of the candies, and when they didn't have an immediate effect, he **consumed three more**, bringing the total to five times the recommended dosage. In the hours that followed, Fowler tells the station, Goodman **seemed "jittery,"** wouldn't make eye contact and otherwise acted "pretty weird and **relatively incoherent.**"

# Average Toxicology of CO Suicides Among Adolescents (10 - 19 yo), 2006-2015



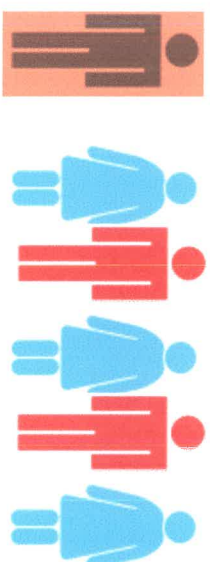
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Violent Death Reporting System



*“Kids will be kids ...” “It’s no big deal ...”*

# Fact: 1 in 6 teens become addicted

1 in 10 adults and **1 in 6 (17%) adolescents** who try marijuana will become **addicted** to it.



- The adolescent brain is especially susceptible to marijuana use.
- Adolescent marijuana use results in more than a two fold (2.4) increase in suicide risk
- More youth (12-17 yo) are in treatment for cannabis use disorder (CUD) than for ANY other drug, including alcohol

Sources: Anthony, J.C., Warner, L.A., & Kessler, R.C. (1994); Giedd. J. N. (2004) Moran, P, et al (2012) Lancet, Madras, B (21 USC, 812(b)(1))

