

Rio Dell City Hall  
675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562  
(707) 764-3532  
cityofriodell.ca.gov



February 6, 2024

**RE:    Letter of Opposition to Measure A**

To Whom it May Concern,

On March 5, 2024 the California Presidential Primary Election will be held. This election includes a local initiative that will be voted on in Humboldt County called Measure A, the "*Humboldt Cannabis Reform Initiative*." The Council wishes to oppose this Measure.

There is no doubt that past decades of unregulated and illegal marijuana operations have taken a toll on the environment and public safety while simultaneously creating a local economic engine that has fueled a significant portion of Humboldt County's economy while other sectors have declined. With the legalization of cannabis via Proposition 64, Rio Dell has looked forward to the legitimization of the economic benefits of this industry while pushing back on the deleterious environmental impacts and the impacts to community safety. This is the promise of legalization that can only be realized through prudent policy and regulation.

A March 2023 analysis from the County of Humboldt's Planning and Building Department determined that Measure A would have "dire consequences to the cannabis industry in Humboldt County if passed" by "discourage[ing] existing permit holders from modifying their permits in any way." According to the County this would restrict modifications intended for environmental protections or modifications that adapt to the evolving industry, regardless of operation size.

As a voter initiative and if approved, Measure A's language could only be changed or removed by voter initiative. This creates innumerable obstacles to the success of the industry in an already highly regulated market that will continue to be dynamic and changing for the foreseeable future. In order for the legal cannabis industry to succeed, the County will need to retain flexibility and responsiveness to public input and maintain an appropriate balance between all interests.

For these reasons, the Rio Dell City Council is opposed to Measure A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Garnes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debra" and last name "Garnes" clearly distinguishable.

Debra Garnes  
Mayor  
City of Rio Dell