



To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Cannabis farmer in Humboldt county and I'm writing you this letter to inform you that some of the draft regulations specifically concerning setbacks from class 3 waterways will be crippling to farms like mine. The draft setbacks will drastically and unnecessarily reduce the size of my cultivation area. This would make it impossible for my farm to operate. I understand the surface runoff is an issue and I want to preserve our water resources as best as I can. In this case, the topography in the area does not allow surface runoff from the cultivation area to discharge into the class 3 waterway that runs adjacent to the cultivation area. The cultivation area is in compliance with current setbacks. The farm is currently in compliance with the regional water board requirements. Schackow Farms has a current agreement with California Department of Fish and Wildlife. For which I have made major modifications to the onsite pond to satisfy water storage requirements. I have also had culverts updated to current standards and purchased an extremely expensive water meter as per CDFW demand. I hope you can understand that I have done all that has been asked of me thus far and it has been a fiscal hardship to do so. It would be unfortunate if the rules were to change now. Because I have limited agricultural space, I would not be able to shift my cultivation area to accommodate this unreasonable setback. This set back would cause the complete shutdown of a large section of the cultivation area.

Another draft regulation that places unreasonable hardship on the farm is the one that disallows the use of plastic trellis. Plastic trellis is the most cost effective way to protect plants from the environmental influences of wind and keeps plants from breaking while holding them up as they mature. The alternative is using thousands upon thousands of bamboo stakes imported from china. Materials alone would cost thousands more but the real problem is the time it would take to install all the bamboo. With plastic trellis, we simply wrap the plants, with bamboo we have to attach every single shoot. It's unreasonable to ask of farmers. We always recycle all of the trellis carefully after the season. In 10 years of using this method I have never seen wildlife effected. This is an unreasonable and unnecessary regulation.

I would request that Farmers currently enrolled in the regional water board order (that are in good standing) should not be subjected to the proposed state order until the regional order expires.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Schackow".

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