November 3, 2020

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California 94901

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH INDUSTRIAL HEMP FEES

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution establishing fees for the Industrial Hemp program, as per California Food and Agricultural Code, Division 24, Section 81005(c).

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures is requesting the Marin County Board of Supervisors to approve the establishment of specific Industrial Hemp fees, which will accurately reflect the reasonable costs of implementing, administering, and enforcing these requirements. Fees will offset inspection time for verifying seed requirements, evaluating commercial cleanliness, taking crop samples, transporting samples to approved labs, enforcement (violation notices, fines and oversight of crop destruction), and other administrative requirements.

Since industrial hemp became legal to grow in California in 2019, there has been limited interest in growing this agricultural commodity in Marin County. To date there are no industrial hemp growers in the county. Industrial hemp plantings may be limited in the county due to lack of available water, available land, soil conditions, and climatic factors.

FISCAL IMPACT: There will be no increase to the General Fund Net County Costs associated with this resolution. There are currently no industrial hemp producers in the county. Future fee revenues will be used to reimburse the department expenditures for administering the Industrial Hemp Inspection program.
ALTERNATIVE TO RECOMMENDED ACTION: Not adopting the resolution to establish Industrial Hemp fees would result in the department incurring program costs with 100% general fund monies.

REVIEWED BY:  
( ) Auditor-Controller  
( ) County Administrator  
( ) County Counsel  
( ) Human Resources

( ) N/A  
( ) N/A  
( ) N/A  
( ) N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Stefan P. Parnay
Acting Agricultural Commissioner
Acting Director of Weights and Measures

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