



MENDOCINO COUNTY – COUNTY COUNSEL

NEWS RELEASE

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY - COUNTY COUNSEL

Ukiah, California January 11, 2012

***THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TO REVIEW THE COUNTY'S 9.31 ORDINANCE***

In response to the threat of litigation made by representatives of the U. S. Attorney's Office and ongoing concerns regarding the effect of the recent court ruling in the case of Pack v. Superior Court of Los Angeles (Long Beach), the Board of Supervisors directed that a review of County Code Section 9.31 be on the January 24, 2012 Board agenda. At that time County Counsel Jeanine Nadel will present proposed amendments that will conform to the Pack decision and the concerns expressed by the U.S Attorney's Office.

Chair John McCowen who assisted in drafting the current version of Chapter 9.31 said, "The 9.31 permit program created an above ground regulatory framework that balanced safe access to medical marijuana with public safety and environmental protection. The Pack decision and the Federal crackdown will have the effect of driving medical marijuana back underground making it more illegal, profitable and dangerous."

If approved on January 24, 2012 the amended ordinance will be on the February 14th agenda for final adoption and will take effect 30 days thereafter. In the meantime, consistent with the current advice of County Counsel, applications for permits will not be accepted.

McCowen also stated, "If the Federal government is not going to provide the resources to eradicate all the marijuana that they consider illegal, then they should not interfere with local regulatory efforts to protect public safety and the environment."

Released by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmel J. Angelo".

Carmel J. Angelo, Chief Executive Officer