

## **North Coast Regional Summit on the Economic Impacts of Legalized Cannabis**

### **Overview**

Over the past year, the North Coast Counties have been informally discussing the possible impacts of legalized cannabis on the economies, the environment and public safety. With a desire to coordinate a larger discussion and possible action, a small group of supervisors and CAOs decided to move forward with a regional summit to share information and ideas and if possible, develop a unified regional public statement.

On March 5, 2015, the North Coast regional summit on the Economic Impacts of Legalized Cannabis was held at the City of Santa Rosa Utilities Field Operations Center. The goal of the Summit was to develop a regional and unified position statement to help shape state legislation in order to influence cannabis policy and potential legalization with appropriate local control. Supervisors and Chief Administrative officers (CAOs) attended from the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma and Trinity (Attachment A). In addition, legislative representatives, California State Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of California and county staff participated in the summit.

Guest speakers at the event included:

- David Baumgarten, Esq., from Gunnison County, Colorado: Keynote presentation entitled, "Lessons Learned: A Colorado Attorney Perspective Regarding Legalization Recreational Marijuana."
- Assemblyman Jim Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> District: Update on Assembly Bill 243
- Representatives from California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and legislative advocacy firm Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc. provided updates on marijuana-related legislation.

The majority of the day was spent in breakout groups and a roundtable discussion between the Supervisors from the participating counties. While the primary focus of the Summit was on potential economic impacts to the region, participants also discussed important impacts on local governments that need to be addressed in a regulatory framework. Breakout group topics consisted of the policy areas of local control, revenue and taxation, environment and economics.

The results from the breakout groups were compiled to craft a working outline for a regional policy statement. Subsequent to the Summit, the Supervisors and CAOs have collaborated repeatedly to create a uniform policy statement that reflects the priorities identified through the event. Comments and feedback were solicited and incorporated into the development of the statement from the entire group of Supervisors, CAOs and the larger participant group. On April 22, 2015 the group of Supervisors approved a final North Coast Counties Marijuana Policy Statement. Adoption of a unified regional statement provides the opportunity for counties to come together and influence the state legislative process to protect, support and enhance our economies, environment and quality of life, while retaining local control. The North Coast Counties Marijuana Policy Statement will go before each County's respective board in May for possible adoption as a companion statement to the individual Board of Supervisors Legislative platforms on Marijuana, coupled with the marijuana platforms from CSAC and RCRC. Upon regional adoption the Policy Statement will be sent to CSAC, RCRC and all rural counties for consideration.

## Attachment A

North Coast Regional Summit	
Supervisors and CAOs Attendees	
Mendocino County	
Mendocino Supervisor	John McCowen
Mendocino Supervisor	Tom Woodhouse
Mendocino CEO	Carmel Angelo
Humboldt County	
Humboldt Supervisor	Estelle Fennell
Humboldt Supervisor	Mark Lovelace
Humboldt Deputy CAO	Amy Nilsen
Lake County	
Lake Supervisor	Anthony Farrington
Lake Supervisor	Jim Steele
Lake CAO	Matt Perry
Trinity County	
Trinity Supervisor	Judy Morris
Trinity Supervisor	John Fenley
Trinity CAO	Wendy Tyler
Sonoma County	
Sonoma Supervisor	Susan Gorin
Sonoma Supervisor	David Rabbitt
Sonoma CAO	Veronica Ferguson
Del Norte County	
Del Norte Supervisor	Gerry Hemmingsen
Del Norte CAO	Jay Sarina