



## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT** **TRINITY COUNTY**

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### **February 8, 2019** **PRESS RELEASE** **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RETAINS LAW FIRM**

On January 3, 2019, the Trinity Action Association filed a lawsuit challenging the County's Commercial Cultivation Program on the grounds that it is non-compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The County strongly disagrees and is prepared to defend its program.

As its first step in defending its Commercial Cannabis Program, the County has hired Cole & Huber, LLP, a law firm that specializes in CEQA and is very familiar with Cannabis in Trinity County. Derek Cole, the County's lead attorney with Cole and Huber, LLP, has prepared responsive documents and met with the Board of Supervisors regarding their strategy.

"The Board of Supervisors would like to assure the license holders and applicants of the Commercial Cannabis Program that the County is prepared to stand behind them and the Program," said Board Chair, Judy Morris. "While we cannot publically discuss legal strategy, we are putting together a legal team and will take all necessary steps to keep the program functioning."

# # #

Independently, the County, along with its contracted environmental consultant Ascent Environmental LLC, will continue to perform a full environmental study on the Trinity County Commercial Cannabis Program. Work began on this August 27, 2018, and we anticipate the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to be completed by the end of this upcoming June, 2019.