

## CANNABIS

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letter to the county Planning Commission's Permit Sonoma division.

Secondly, the Farm Bureau wants to allow property owners to combine parcels and get approval to grow on a large piece of land, rather than by 10% on each parcel. Currently, cannabis is only allowed on 10-acre plots.

Even with the cannabis issue, the farming and ranching advocacy group also continues to push its core organization

values, suggesting the county toss out its lengthy list of requirements that a cultivator would need to meet in order to get a permit. Some of these guidelines deemed bureaucratic range from whether the land has cultural resources on it to the slope of the property.

"The regulation is onerous and will delay and possibly prevent cannabis cultivation," the letter reads. Further, "no other agriculture crop is required to do" a survey of the land.

If passed by the supervisors at a later date, the rules would apply to the rural

part of the county. Cannabis operations within city limits are handled by those local jurisdictions.

### HOW WE GOT HERE

Sonoma's local government was an early adopter of cannabis, permitting medical cannabis dispensaries in 2007. Proposition 215 granted that use across the state in 1997, a few decades before voters gave the green light to adult, recreational use.

In 2016, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors directed staff to bring

forward a comprehensive cannabis ordinance, a proposal that resulted in an estimated 750 people attending town hall meetings in all districts and more than 1,100 people responding to a survey. Its findings showed many citizens supporting legalized commercial medical cannabis but expressed concerns about crime and other nuisances.

The county adopted a land use ordinance covering cannabis cultivation in December 2019. Last May, the agricultural

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## NORTH BAY PEOPLE & BUSINESS SHOWCASE

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### Summit State Bank Promotes Cindy Hume to Vice President

Summit State Bank (NASDAQ: SSBI) has promoted Cindy Hume to Vice President. Hume is a Senior Underwriter.

"Our philosophy is to provide ongoing support and training so our leaders can excel in their careers. Cindy is a tenured and valued leader on our team. She plays a key role in the overall success of the Bank and we are fortunate to have her expertise and talent. In addition, she is active in the community which is an important part of the Bank's role as a community bank. It gives me great pleasure to work with her daily,"



said Brian Reed, President and CEO of Summit State Bank.

Cindy began her career at Summit State Bank as a temporary employee in the Accounting Department and quickly moved to Credit Administration as a Credit Analyst. In 2017, she joined the Underwriting Team as an Underwriter and was promoted to Assistant Vice President in 2018. Cindy earned her current position as a Senior Underwriter in 2020. She has been a long-time volunteer and is currently the Secretary/Executive Director of the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation. Cindy enjoys volunteering throughout our community and spending time with her family.

About Summit State Bank  
Summit State Bank, a local

community bank, has total assets of \$866 million and total equity of \$76 million on December 31, 2020. Headquartered in Sonoma County, the Bank specializes in providing exceptional customer service and customized financial solutions to aid in the success of local small businesses and nonprofits throughout Sonoma County. Summit State Bank is committed to embracing the diverse backgrounds, cultures and talents of its employees to create high performance and support the evolving needs of its customers and community it serves. At the center of diversity is inclusion, collaboration, and a shared vision for delivering superior service and results for shareholders. Presently, 76% of management are women and minorities with 60% represented on the Executive Management Team. Through the engagement of its team, Summit



State Bank has received many esteemed awards including: Best Business Bank, Corporate Philanthropy Award and Best Places to Work in the North Bay. Summit State Bank's stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol SSBI. Further information can be found at [www.summitstatebank.com](http://www.summitstatebank.com).

Summit State Bank  
500 Bicentennial Way  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

### Chelsea Hamada to Lead TLC D Architecture's Healthcare Practice

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Chelsea Hamada to Healthcare Practice Leader at TLC D Architecture. Chelsea has flourished in the healthcare team and her role has grown exponentially on projects as well as within the firm. She thrives in the challenging world of healthcare design and architecture, and embraces the inherent complexities that come with these types of projects. From resolving infrastructure needs for sophisticated medical equipment and technologies, to finding the right balance of form and function in public spaces, Chelsea works seamlessly to find the best solutions.

"It's been a pleasure to work alongside Chelsea and I believe she will be integral in the development of our staff and



client relationships for many years to come," said Jason Brabo, Healthcare Principal at TLC D.

Over its 55 years, TLC D Architecture's mission has been to build community through collaborative, inspired design. Located in Santa Rosa, TLC D's diverse architectural and interior design practice offers experience in healthcare, educational, commercial, municipal, and multifamily/mixed-use housing projects that serve our communities.

**TLCD**  
ARCHITECTURE

TLCD ARCHITECTURE  
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For People & Business Showcase  
Announcement Inquires, call 707-546-7355 Opt. 2  
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Deadline every Wed at 4pm

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commissioner's office began drafting an update that would reflect an expansion of commercial cultivation in designated zones.

### AGRICULTURE IS KING IN THE WINE COUNTRY

Whether or not Napa County labels cannabis as an agricultural product in the land of world-renowned Cabernet Sauvignon, it would still need to satisfy the region's thirst for grapes that make premium wine.

Senior Planner David Morrison said the issue is "limited land," and the county should not write rules allowing parcels to be taken away from wine production.

"Our agricultural land has to be protected. You can grow cannabis in other places," Morrison said, pointing out the quality and care that go into grapes grown in the valley don't just happen anywhere.

"The majority of the board of supervisors is not interested in exploring (other occupiers)," he said.

This point of view is commended by the Napa County Farm Bureau, which vehemently opposes cannabis commercial cultivation in the region.

"It has zero place in the Napa Valley," bureau CEO Ryan Klobas said.

The concern is cannabis will take away from the region's longstanding dominance for some of the best wine in the world.

"This is work we've built up over time," he said. "We've never taken issue with access. Cannabis delivery companies can be called from anywhere. It would be too detrimental to the Napa name. Why should we cultivate here?"

Even cannabis suppliers in Napa get that argument — to a certain extent.

"I have mixed feelings. I understand the concern (about the image) but feel we also need to diversify," said Napa resident Alicia Rose, who runs the HerbaBuena cannabis supplier but has also worked 20 years as a wine consultant.

Rose cited the majority of registered voters in the county approving recreational cannabis use (Proposition 64) in 2016 and singled out a certain age group as representing a prime market for cannabis.

"Millennials are not caring as much about your \$300 bottle of cab. Cannabis makes so much sense," she said.

Still, there are limits to the push for more cannabis representation in the Napa Valley.

"I don't think that I would want to show up at Robert Mondavi and sell cannabis," said Rose, who's been awaiting permit approvals with the city of Santa Rosa to develop an 8,000-square-foot-plus cannabis wellness center.

### ANOTHER WORLD IN MARIN

Cities have long been the anchor for retail

operations since the early days allowed for medicinal use.

Lynette Shaw, who owns the CBC Alliance in Fairfax — California's first medicinal use dispensary — believes local governments will be wrestling with their receptiveness to cannabis operations for quite some time.

Shaw remembers the days of industry strife and civil unrest like it was yesterday. There were arrests and raids when cannabis first came on the scene.

Today, Marin County only allows for medicinal delivery under the MCDOR program, which stands for Medicinal Cannabis Delivery Only Retailer and was passed as an ordinance in 2017. Nothing new appears on the horizon for the supervisors.

The county remains relatively calm and

quiet on the issue, with only four applications to start delivery operations in the review process, Senior Planner Sabrina Cardoza told the Business Journal.

"We were ground zero (for the cannabis movement). It brought terrible publicity. Sure, this is an excellent place to grow cannabis, but no one wants to go through that fight again. I don't blame the county for not wanting to go there," Shaw added.

California aside, the federal fight may just be starting, despite the United States entering a phase of more states legalizing cannabis.

The National Cannabis Industry Association announced it opposes a report issued by the Senate Caucus on Interna-

tional Narcotics Control that recommends placing severe limitations on the amount THC allowed in regulated products. Some states are also considering more restrictions, despite the U.S. Congress pushing to decriminalize it.



*Susan Wood covers law, cannabis, production, agriculture, energy and transportation as well as banking and finance. For 25 years, Susan has worked for a variety of publications including the North County Times in San Diego County, Tahoe Daily Tribune and Lake Tahoe News. She graduated from Fullerton College. Reach her at 530-545-8662 or susan.wood@busjrnl.com*

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## GHILOTTI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENT OF WILLIE GHILOTTI TO FACILITIES AND PROPERTY MANAGER

Ghilotti Construction Company's (GCC) CEO Richard Ghilotti and the board of directors are pleased to announce the key leadership appointment of Willie Ghilotti to Facilities and Property Manager after 29 years of employment at Ghilotti Construction Company.

In light of recent developments for the approval and expansion of GCC's corporate headquarters, maintenance facility, 20 acre equipment storage yard, and five divisional offices in the Bay Area, GCC has decided to assign Ghilotti to his previously held position as Facilities and Property Manager to fulfill the demand

for an experienced player in this essential, evolving role.

Ghilotti will be managing the building maintenance, property strategy and expansion, communications infrastructure, testing and inspections, building administration, contract management, EHS (environment, health, safety) compliance, security, and renovations at GCC's five facilities throughout Northern California. When it comes to overseeing and tracking the company's assets and job-site offices located at major projects throughout the North Bay, Ghilotti will work with President Brian Ongaro, General Manager Ali Yazdi, VP of Operations Rich Dericco, VP of Private Works Brad Simpkins and various area construction managers at our five satellite offices.

Ghilotti is on the board of

directors of The dg Foundation, a non-profit established in honor of Dino and Nancy Ghilotti, and a board member of Ghilotti Construction Co. Ghilotti won the Facilities Manager Award from the North Bay Business Journal in 2012, received the 40 Under 40 Award from the North Bay Business Journal in 2016, and received The California Commendation Medal from The Military Department of the State of California for his efforts in the 2017 fires. GCC and the entire community are extremely grateful for Willie Ghilotti's efforts and dedication to help restore our communities after the horrific firestorms in 2017, 2019 and 2020. Due to Ghilotti's experience with flood and fire cleanups, he will also lead emergency response projects in the future.

Ghilotti is extremely detail oriented, and passionate about



any project that he touches. His experience and team oriented mindset makes Ghilotti a valuable and powerful player. His appointment completes the key leadership team and sets up Ghilotti Construction for success in the future. GCC is proud to have Ghilotti in such an important leadership role.

Ghilotti Construction  
246 Ghilotti Ave  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

