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## Closed Loop Cannabis Cultivation

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**Darryl Cotton** <indagrodarryl@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 11:23 AM

To: jenaefried@waterboards.ca.gov, toccarra.thomas@lakecountycal.gov

Greetings Ms. Fried and Ms. Thomas;

Over the last few days I've been reaching out to various local government authorities that are responsible for cannabis cultivation permits being issued in their communities. What I've been told is that early on in the application process the applicant needs to have local water authority approval for the project before that application can be considered. The reason for my reaching out to you is that we have been growing cannabis in a closed loop system of fish water that is not only completely scalable it does not rely on existing aquifer or groundwater resources. In order to quick launch the system we can develop the initial tank fill which would depend on the size of the system with these existing water resources but in places where there is limited water resources we can run entirely off of captured rainwater and solar power to the pumps that service the plant tanks. Ultimately the only water loss in these systems is from plant uptake and a small amount of evaporative losses. Compared to traditional soils cultivation this design uses <5% of the water.

My questions for you and Ms. Thomas are as follows; If the applicant did not require the local water authorities connection would they still be required to have your approval for that application? And for farmers considering this type of cultivation would there be any opportunity to incentivize that decision to cultivate in this fashion?

Thank you for your consideration and in anticipation of your reply I will remain.

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