

TO PACIFICA POT

When sale of recreational cannabis does begin in San Mateo County, it almost certainly will happen first in Pacifica. As of January 17, Pacifica is the only one of 15 cities that comprise San Mateo County that approved sale of recreational cannabis and accepted retail license applications. All of the county's other 14 city councils have either voted down recreational sale or have established a moratorium on the issue.

In Pacifica, 34 license applications had been received at deadline last week -- 32 recreational, two manufacturing. Our police chief will scrub that list against criminal convictions and inadequate security plans to cull final applicants for Phase One, which will be submitted to random lottery; six applicants will be given final approval.

Meanwhile, our southern neighbor Half Moon Bay is still wrangling over proposed rules, and the Concerned Coastsiders Coalition started an online petition asking Half Moon Bay to ban all pot businesses until the effects of the new statewide law are understood. The coalition's petition cites concerns about impacts on youth, public safety, and the environment.

To the north, Daly City's governing council passed an ordinance 5-0 banning all cannabis dispensaries, both medical and recreational. Map clockwise: City councils in Colma, South San Francisco, and San Bruno—which along with Pacifica is the only other Peninsula city to still sell so-called safe & sane fireworks—also “just say no” to cannabis.

This is not a discussion about whether it's a good idea to legalize recreational cannabis or to allow its sale in Pacifica. Those issues already have been decided. This discussion is about the local government in Pacifica salivating over potential tax receipts to be found in sativa.

No Peninsula newspapers have printed stories about Pacifica's uncontested lead in establishing retail sales of recreational cannabis. Pacifica alone decided to move forward; shouldn't we advertise it?

That being the case, a citywide celebration is in order on Pacifica's (ergo San Mateo County's) first day of recreational sale, along with the placement of directional signage that reads to palindrome lovers' delight: "To Pacifica pot!"

Alan Wald