

Dear Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission,

I am horrified by the new push from the cannabis growing community to ever expand their acreage in Mendocino County via the Phase Three Commercial Cannabis Activity Ordinance.

I have supported cannabis growers from the beginning, given what I see as the medicinal value of cannabis and the economic value to the larger community when it is grown well and the returns come back to the community that supports the farm in a larger way. However, what I see now is an industry driven by greed to grow more and more and *not* in an environmentally friendly way.

Just down the road from me, for example, is a farm for which the developers clear cut dozens of trees and left them to fall into the watershed for Willits Creek high up in the hills. The farm has put hundreds of black plastic grow tubs over a few acres that they have now abandoned and that are disintegrating. An abandoned car and multiple other signs of neglected equipment, including hoop houses and plastic tarping, are scattered over what was once a beautiful redwood and oak hillside. The ravages of fertilizer containers and other plastic containers (for water, fencing, and even feces) are all littering the landscape. The more that you allow this industry to grow, the more such devastation is riding on *you* as many cannabis growers think they can get rich quick and then leave behind the remains of their crops that helped them go elsewhere, while we're still living with the refuse.

The ever present and ever more serious drought is yet another reason why we should not let this industry expand exponentially. Here we are, householders, being instructed to save dish and shower water to put on our plants while you are inviting in yet more cannabis growers to flood their gardens with precious water. Even if they say they are trucking it in, from where?

Precious range land is still needed for animal husbandry and for growing crops that we can eat. The level of criminal danger associated with the cannabis industry, despite its legalization, also continues to plague us. How many violent deaths have we heard about related to cannabis growing? What do we not hear about? I know personally of one immigrant man hired as help and then left without pay. Many are not getting treated fairly but we *do not* hear about that in an industry that promotes underhanded and greedy approaches to getting the most money from this drug possible.

The Supervisors and the Planning Commission cannot adequately supervise the existing cannabis growers as is. Please do not expand and create yet more trouble for all of us and for the environment. We do not need *that* much marijuana growing in this area.

Sincerely,
Kim Bancroft, Willits