

Good morning, County Supervisors~

I have been a licensed grower for years, first with Sheriff's Tags, and subsequently licensed by both County and State since 2017.

Why are you running to embrace the next flawed Ordinance, in order to avoid the CEQA deadline, which is a problem of your own doing in your prior flawed Ordinance? What is it we say about doing the same thing twice, but expecting a different result?

Why has there been no appreciable efforts made by you to support the Sheriff or enforcement on the explosion of non-permitted hoop houses or of the environmental damage being done to our rivers, our trees, our night skies, and our neighborhoods? It is not surprising that the cannabis community is being thrown into the same bin as the bad actors, given the fact that they unfortunately did not take any logical stand in favor of enforcement years ago, when it could have made a difference. Now we are past the tipping point, and I do not need to listen to Sheriff Matt telling me he has a now-impossible task. All I need do is simply look around.

So: We have a crumbling foundation, topped by a falling-down house. And your solution is: Oh boy! Let's build a whole new second floor! It doesn't take a contractor or engineer to figure out the inevitable result.

Please do not throw the Phase One licensees under the bus. They are trying to comply with an impossible set of rules, taxes, paperwork, fees and County/State Agencies. They are not the ones ignoring the law, but it seems the county wants to ignore them. They deserve to have a leg-up on applying to Phase 3, if it is passed, and helped by staff in every way possible with issues like CEQA.

My permits and licensees expired last month; I have allowed them to expire. It is financially impossible to survive as a true outdoor cultivator with only one harvest, and I am tired of watching all my neighbors ignoring the law, building metal fences and wall to wall hoop houses, being left alone to make more illegal tax-free money than a legal grower could ever hope to earn. I am lucky to still have some retirement left, in spite of all the money I squandered, trying to be compliant and follow the endless rules. But many of my friends do not have that luxury, and they are truly struggling. They deserve more consideration for all the consideration they have given to your Phase 1 ordinance for years.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Susan Schindler