

Open Letter to the Board of Supervisors:

Why haven't the Supervisors, as well as all Mendocino County officials, noticed that they are sending our county in exactly the wrong direction. As the rest of the country acknowledges climate change and calls for sustainable practices, our county is focusing on promoting a recreational mono-crop that is accompanied by water shortages, wildfires, violence and community conflicts.

Historically, Mendocino County has been a high profile role model for bio-diversity. Many native tribes call the county home. We have attracted farmers, ranchers, fishermen, artists, and retirees. Our redwood groves, fish friendly rivers, and rugged coastline have fostered an artistic community that features unique restaurants promoting local organic farms, ranches and fisheries. We take pride in our gardens, our 4-H kids raise prize winning livestock and local festivals feature homegrown musicians, artists and food specialties.

And yet, county officials continue to promote expansion of a single product (cannabis) as our salvation. As springs, creeks, rivers and lakes go dry and wells fail, water trucks continue to pump whatever water they can find and truck it to growers who will drain our local aquifers.

Rangeland should not be transitioned into cannabis plantations and vineyards. It is a formula for more destruction ... wildfires follow expansion into these fragile areas. The lack of proper roads, water, and basic infrastructure leads to more and more damage to our natural resources. Our salmon are on the brink of extinction, our redwood groves are dwindling, and the bio-diversity we need for basic survival is threatened by the short sighted drive to expand a product that is the current financial fad. Remember the gold rush, the salmon canning rush, the timber rush and the other boom/bust catastrophes?

Please don't continue promoting a seriously flawed ordinance. Please support a serious update to our Planning Department (including compliance) and support our Sheriff and his heavy burden of protecting this county with limited resources.

Sincerely,
Dee Mullen
Covelo, California