

September 13, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Rd.
Ukiah Ca. 95482

Re: Sept. 14th meeting agenda item 5g

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am a member of the Steering Committee for "The People's Referendum". I am writing to encourage you to vote to rescind 22.18.

It is important to me that the Phase 1 legacy growers have a viable path to a permit. I encourage you to amend 10A.17, or create a new ordinance to help accomplish this. I am open to a land use discretionary ordinance that would create such a path.

It is my understanding that legally, the Board cannot remove portions of 22.18 to make it acceptable, but can take important components of said ordinance, such as the prohibition of water hauling, the prohibition of gravel pads on Ag land, etc. and incorporate these kinds of protections into 10A.17, or into an entirely new ordinance, without any waiting periods. It is also very important to me that before any further expansion that the County initiate an EIR. We don't know the extent of environmental damage that has been done, and we don't know the status of our aquifers. The data that a quality EIR would give the County would be critical to have before any further expansion. It is also my opinion that enforcement needs to make significant headway into stopping the illegal grows, before we expand. The situation is currently out of control. It is my hope and I think the hopes of many people in this County, that we work together to protect and restore our environment, control the criminal elements associated with illegal grows, and protect our water. I think that the best path to do this is to rescind 22.18.

Best regards,

Ron Stark
Member of the Steering Committee of TPR