

October 19, 2020

From: Willits Environmental Center  
630 South Main Street  
Willits Ca. 95490  
[wece@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wece@sbcglobal.net)

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Rd  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
[BOS@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:BOS@mendocinocounty.org)

Re: 10-20-20 BOS Meeting Agenda Item 5c, Hemp Pilot Program Ordinance

Dear Chair Haschak and Members of the Board;

The Willits Environmental Center urges the Board NOT to approve the adoption of the proposed Hemp Pilot Program Ordinance. This Ordinance sets in motion land use activities without specifying locations, extent, or methodologies; without looking at water use, air quality impacts, or traffic impacts; without assessing the potential impacts of associated industrial processing facilities; and without seriously looking at potential impacts on the existing legal cannabis industry in the County. The Board cannot make the finding that this project has no impact on the human or natural environment and therefore is exempt from CEQA. There is no exempt category that would excuse this project from CEQA review.

If, as one of the public comments states, hemp pilot programs are taking place in Lake and Sonoma Counties, it would seem prudent to learn from the experience of these neighboring Counties before blundering ahead with a pilot program in Mendocino County. We don't all need to make the same mistakes, especially since this pilot program has the potential to jeopardize an emerging legal cannabis industry that is making a significant contribution to the local economy.

Why can't the moratorium be extended?

Why were the cannabis growers associations blind-sided by the sudden appearance of this Ordinance when such an ordinance has the potential to destroy existing cannabis growers?

Why was the general public blind-sided?

In fact, why is this Ordinance even before the Supervisors? It is our understanding that the most recent "direction" to staff regarding this issue was to meet with all parties concerned. It was not for staff to bring a fully formed Ordinance to the Board based on conversations with only a few persons.

WEC supports the opposition of the Covelo Cannabis Growers Association to this proposal.

Sincerely, Ellen Drell, for the Willits Environmental Center

