



# Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

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Via Email: [bos@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:bos@mendocinocounty.org)

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010  
Ukiah, CA 95482

**RE: 6a) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Presentation of Clean River Alliance**

Dear Chair Brown and Supervisors,

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB would like to submit comments on agenda item 6a) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Presentation of Clean River Alliance.

In reviewing the presentation, it is appreciated that Clean River Alliance is working to improve public awareness of the issue of trash and debris being deposited into the Russian River watershed. For agricultural property owners along the Russian River and related tributaries, this has been an ongoing issue that seems to be only getting worse. The uptick in the local transient population and the broader displacement of these individuals has created an increase in trespass occurrences onto agricultural properties.

Agricultural properties along the Russian River or tributaries see trash being illegally dumped, left from transient encampments or washed onto properties in the winter with the first flush of the tributary systems from the more urban areas. This trash often includes bio-hazard items such as needles and hazardous waste such as batteries. Other issues are property vandalism (broken sprinklers, cut fences, stripped pump wire, buildings broken into, etc.), theft and even arson. The cleanup and repair is left to the property owner.

The combination of all of these issues are becoming more critical to resolve with the implementation and enforcement of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Our local fresh market pear growers along the Russian River are subject to rigorous food safety standards and the transient issues mentioned above could lead to FSMA violations and the inability to market fruit.

Clean River Alliance's efforts are part of a solution, but not the ultimate solution. The ultimate solution is to deter illegal camping and trespass along the Russian River and tributaries, so that the garbage isn't dumped there in the first place. This will take the county working with other municipalities and agencies to develop more permanent solutions to the resident homeless population and seasonal transients.

MCFB appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on this agenda item and encourages the Board to consider the points raised above. Please feel free to contact the MCFB office if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

George Hollister  
President