

Dear BOS and Community,

I am a 20-year resident of Mendocino Co. I raised my son here. I have been through the local cultivation permit process and I have been through the State cultivation license process. I read the ordinance and all the different state agency rules and regulations, myself. I personally prepared and submitted all the documents to every agency along the way.

That being said, I'd like to point out a few things:

The importance of the county permit is not what it was. At first, it seemed like the county needed to do everything that the state had on the way. The local permit gave some legal protection and access to the marketplace. But things have changed. At this point, the State license is the only way to be legal. The State license is the only way to access the market. Without a State license, you can't access METRC and if you can't access METRC, you can't access the market. If a grower has only a local permit, then they have nothing. They aren't protected from law enforcement and they can't access the market. The county permit essentially gets you nowhere all by itself, so you [BOS] can be unafraid of making them much easier to get. Our local permitting process can be simple and easy now. The county staff has no reason to collect any of the documents required by the state. The CalCannabis staff are already doing that. The county staff need only collect fees and taxes (true-up) and go ahead and issue permits according to our local limits on size and zoning. The rest of the checklist can be left up to the state and our ordinance would be satisfied because the state checklist is thorough, exhaustive, environmentally stringent. The state requirements mirror and go well beyond our ordinance. The CalCannabis staff are doing the job for you. So again, the county staff need only collect fees and taxes (true-up) and go ahead and issue permits according to our local limits on size and zoning. The BOS could instruct staff to do this today and the ordinance would be "fixed". The point here is to illustrate how simple and easy the permit process could be.

This threat to remove the ordinance from existence and make all the small growers start over is exactly like an executioner's axe hanging over their necks. What will happen is what has happened in other counties; the use permits will get processed at a rate of roughly 60 /yr.

The big guys will get their permits first and the little guys can expect to lose their local and State license while they wait 5-10+ years for a use permit. Then the huge corporate growers would take over the landscape with no limits on their size due to stacking and, of course, they would further want to establish a monopoly. Guess who their first targets will be. Make no mistake, if the ordinance is scrapped.....that axe will fall and all the small legacy growers WILL be maimed or killed.

Respectfully,

A VERY CONCERNED ENVIRONMENTALIST, ANTI-CORPORATIST AND SMALL GROWER

P.S. If it comes to it and I would have to satisfy the State CEQA requirement without the M.N.D., then so be it. I don't see any reason to scrap the ordinance over it. IN FACT, if you throw out the ordinance, then out goes the M.N.D. anyway.

P.P.S. It's clear (abundantly) that the reason anyone wants to destroy the ordinance is inline with a PRO-corporate-rule agenda and not a PRO-people of Mendocino-rule agenda. They desperately want to remove the limits on zone and grow size and stacking by destroying the ordinance. It's a true environmental nightmare for one of the last Californiacounties with the most abundant wildlife and wilderness. It's also a good way to crush the little guy underfoot as you do it!