

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

Please Enforce the Cannabis Ordinance.

At a time when we are seeing record high temperatures, record low rainfall, a proposal is afoot to expand cannabis cultivation into our rangelands. This will demand a lot of water that we can't spare, and it will deposit a lot more fertilizer into our rivers and streams that we don't need. This is exactly the wrong proposal at this time of worsening droughts. It will likely sabotage decades of restoration efforts which we've already invested in to save our struggling salmon fisheries from being pushed into extinction. We must not let our rich heritage of salmon fisheries be jeopardized by the lure of short term profits.

Some Supervisors are proposing abandoning our cannabis ordinance, which has strict requirements and limitations, replacing it with the Use Permits process which will give the Planning and Building staff a lot more "flexibility." Replacing our ordinance with Use Permits, which are at the "discretion" of the planning staff, will also provide few, if any, remedies for complaints from the public. This is a bad deal.

You may have noticed recently the proliferation of large clusters of 14 or more white plastic hoop houses. This has occurred because the 10,000 sq. ft. of cannabis canopy allowed in the ordinance was then changed to 10,000 sq. ft. of white plastic eyesore at the "discretion" of the Planning and Building Dept. Surprises like this that destroy our views and devalue our properties are exactly what we *don't* want. We should, instead, abide by the promises made in the ordinance and work to make it even better.

Instead of the proposal to expand cannabis into our last remaining open space, our rangelands, we could, instead, expand into our industrial and commercial zones where infrastructure and water resources are already developed. Cannabis growers truck in much of their soil and even at times their water, so having these activities in an industrial setting would be a much better fit than in our neighborhoods, or in our open spaces, and it would help reduce their carbon footprint. Electricity instead of generators would also greatly reduce the risk of fire.

Code Enforcement complaints are up by 31%, with only 2 officers on the cannabis beat. Policing is stretched thin, too, and the Covelo cartel problem is spreading. Why expand cannabis to our rangelands where enforcement is much more difficult?

**Measure AF went down to defeat by a large margin in every district in 2016 because it proposed cannabis for every zone. We've already voted this idea down, we plead you to not ignore the wishes of the public.**

Please take a cautionary approach by staying with our existing cannabis ordinance and our existing cannabis zones.

Sincerely,  
Lindsay Dailey

