

Concerned Citizens of Round Valley
Covelo, CA 95428

June 02, 2020
John Haschak
Supervisor
Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010

Dear Supervisor Haschak:

We, the citizens of Round Valley and surrounding area, are writing out of concern for our community. Many of the signatories of this letter are not recent transplants to this County. Our families have lived here for generations. We have been raised in this area and are descendants of the indigenous people, and/or families that had settled here towards the end of the 19th century.

Due to the fast growing cannabis industry in our valley, we are witnessing a massive influx of people to work in said industry. Many who have armed themselves to guard their crops. Along with the population increase there has been a noticeable rise in crime, increased illegal drug trafficking, drug use in our youth, possible human trafficking, graffiti, illegal dumping of the waste, and chemicals used to grow marijuana. These Mendocino County violations are a grave concern to law-abiding citizens. Which include but are not limited to, non-permitted marijuana grows along with non-permitted roads and/or driveways leading to grows, and non-permitted wells to water the marijuana. Fences over 6ft tall surround said grows. It is highly likely these fences were erected without building permits, and do not meet County code. Question, do cannabis growers get free rein to do as they please? According to the county website, there are rules, permit processes, and ordinances. What is the point of these rules, if there is no enforcement?

As citizens of Mendocino County, we are deeply concerned about the impact these sizeable cannabis grows will have on Round Valley's environment, which are: 1) A large fleet of water trucks that is being used by cannabis growers to haul thousands of gallons of water to water their crops daily. Most are illegally overloaded which damages County roads. Many of these trucks, and drivers are not even legal to operate on a public roadway. Will the water table in Round Valley be negatively affected by the use of so much water? 2) Will the chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides utilized in growing these sizable crops harm the environment, or wildlife, as well as the water supply? 3) What happens with the garbage, plastic waste, chemicals, human waste, abandoned vehicles, etc. When these grow sites are shut down, or abandoned? What about environmental impact reports (EIRs), are they taking place? If not, are there plans in the future to conduct such studies?

You, Mr. Haschak, have gained a great deal of respect by declining to take a pay raise, and instead donated it to scholarships for our children. We truly appreciate your sacrifice and consideration of our children's future. We fear that without a clean and safe community for our kids to live, play,

learn, and hopefully someday work in, your generosity will be for naught. Families are leaving, or planning to leave this community. We do not intend to subject the successors of this valley to these conditions. When the future residents of this place ask us; how could you have let this happen? What will our answer be?

The Board of Supervisors adopted the Mendocino County Precautionary Policy Number 43 in June of 2006 which states, "Every resident, present and future, of Mendocino County has an equal right to a healthy and safe environment...The duty to enhance, protect and preserve Mendocino County's environment, community health, and quality of life rests on the shoulders of local government, residents, citizen groups, and businesses alike." We are asking you to help us shoulder this burden, by standing behind us, and enforcing the County's rules and regulations.

Also stated in The Mendocino County Community Bill of Rights Fracking and Water Use Initiative. "Whereas, We the People of Mendocino County declare that we have the right and duty to safeguard our water both on and beneath the Earth's surface, and in the process, come together as a community to insure that local water decisions are made by local people, for the preservation of human and natural communities, whose existence depends on clean, accessible, abundant water." It goes on to state, "Whereas, the people have responsibilities to future generations to secure their right to local self-government, to protect the natural environment of this County, to preserve the local ecosystem's ability to sustain agriculture, business, and tourism, as well promote human health."

Measure S was passed to protect our ecosystems, and communities from the possible damages of the fracking industry. We hope we will be afforded the same protections from any industry that comes into our County.

A former civil servant once said "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." Theodore Roosevelt

Supervisor Haschak, join us in the arena! Help us protect our ecosystem and our children's futures. We need to work together to give the next generation a future worth inheriting.

Please contact us if you have any questions or need additional information. An email can be sent to: ccofrv@protonmail.com

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizens of Round Valley