

I am against dissolving the county's cannabis ordinance, and opening grows to rangeland. I do not understand why you have made such a convoluted, cumbersome ordinance to where citizens are unable to figure out the process and have to pay so much in fees and taxes. Even county employees can't resolve issues. Was this the plan all along? Discourage the mom and pop growers in favor of big business? Sell out our resources for tax dollars and fees from huge grows? Not care that these grows will most likely be funded from out of county entities who have no interest in preserving our resources, do not live here, and take their money with them.

Do you understand what is involved in greenhouse growing? I will list a few things. As a lot of our rangeland is steep, tree cutting and flattening land will have to occur. More than likely, terracing. To accommodate even two or three greenhouses requires a lot of disturbance, you're allowing 14 or 15 greenhouses??

My two biggest concerns are water and fire danger.

How long has our drought been going on, and will continue? Where is the enormous amount of water needed to grow pot coming from? Will there be well digging allowed? What of the watershed, the creeks that are dried up every year in June? We can barely build new housing in the county because of the constraints of no water.

Water trucks are running numerous trips daily to existing grows up and down Black Bart Rd, I'm sure all over the county. Just where do all these trucks fill up?

That means new roads being cut into our hillsides, exposing bare soil to run off during winter rains. Water trucks, and propane trucks, soil trucks, supplies being run in to the sites....the amount of additional traffic being generated in the hills can not help but cause dis-ease to the environment, the wildlife, and the human residents in the area.

I have heard John McCowan express concern for all the miles that asphalt trucks travel from out of county because Mendocino doesn't have their own plant, and in his mind it justifies putting an asphalt plant in a really dangerous place. Are you saying the additional truck traffic into our rangelands won't have an impact??? Will this kind of activity fit into your Climate Emergency Resolution?

So, I don't think I would object so much if this pot was being grown in the open sun, that's kind of like a vineyard. Of course those doing the growing want green houses so they can run three grows a year. All about the money! That means there will need to be power sources for fans, humidifiers, heaters, lights, many lights, with high wattage. 15,000 watt generators are usually used, and more than one for so many greenhouses. These can be run on propane, but most likely diesel fuel. There's a regulation nightmare for you. Diesel spills happen, guaranteed. They have been happening for years.

Which brings me to fire danger. There will be a fire somewhere at sometime started because of one of these grows. We the people of Mendo realize and live with the knowing that someday it will more than likely be our turn to burn. Not sure I trust the people responsible for these grows to know all the safety issues around living in remote hills, much less to take care of our land by not trashing it.

I have witnessed the sell out of land in Southern Humboldt, as I care took 140 acres in the Mattole watershed for eight years. My neighbors were experiencing trees being felled, even from their own land. Water was diverted from creeks, and stolen from water tanks. Communication was impossible because of language barriers. Trash and plastic, pesticide use, guns, booby traps, transient workers, on and on and on. It has taken over all of the southern county. This is not why people move to the country.

Not saying the same will happen here, certainly the potential though for the devastating pollution happening, hasn't the timber industry done enough damage to our forests the past few decades? Will the county even be able to enforce any regulations you enact? Will the monitoring situation change at all from what little is done now? Why would you want to exclude Fish and Game from that enforcement? Why is the planning staff going to be writing the rules? Do they go out in the field to get an understanding of the impacts they are proposing?

There will also be a lot of foreign soil brought in. You can't grow in clay soil. These sites will not have the time, nor want to take the time to develop their own organic composts for growing in. And will they stay long enough to actually invest in taking on organic practices at all? Just making rules will not guarantee growers will be organic.

So, the esthetics around 14 greenhouses lined up, with fencing all around them, does nothing for view sheds. I see these cropping up all around the hills now and pray that I never have to look at that ugliness from my deck!! Some of my friends are dealing with their views being ruined, their night sky not completely dark anymore, and noise from equipment, four wheelers, and generators. Can you put yourself in that situation for just a moment? There you are on a nice piece of land you worked hard to take stewardship of, accepting all the idiosyncrasies of living in the country because this is where you belong. To have it ruined overnight by this crazy plan to allow white plastic now in your neighborhood. To allow a greedy industry to invade our precious public lands, our buffer zones that help protect the land, the waters, and wildlife. Any empathy at all?

These are a few concerns that come to mind.... keep the current ordinance. Make it simpler, stop acting like the state or federal government. The ordinance has some good aspects, why not just throw out the complicated lawyer speak, and come up with a plan even the Legacy growers want to be a part of? After all, these growers helped make Mendo what it is over the past four decades. If you included all the common folk you would get your revenues because the citizens want to take care of this county. They want small business to thrive, and they want to keep the land in preservation for our future. Mendocino county does not have to turn into a Sonoma county.

Seems the people have already voted down this stealing of public land, to be exploited by a few. I would think the board would want the support of the citizens it has sworn to represent.

Thanks for reading my letter, Stacey Rohrbaugh