

I am writing to voice strong opposition to the requests presented in case # R_2019-0009 to Rezone and create a Cannabis Accommodation District off West Road at Mohawk Trail in Redwood Valley. I hesitate a bit to write because this may be publicly read and there has been intimidation by some in support of this case against others who commented on Facebook when we became aware of this issue. I am taking the chance and writing because this is a serious matter.

This case would affect 14 parcels in a Rural Residential zone all because one cannabis grower has requested the area be rezoned, which could result in many future ramifications also. This case could change the entire focus and atmosphere of this residential neighborhood over time if it is rezoned and invites more cannabis operations. Cannabis is grown in many areas in Mendocino County but it need not and should not be encouraged nor catered to in residential neighborhoods, as this case is requesting. Redwood Valley does not need any more drains on water use, nor do we need more generators running, more lights glaring at night, more unnatural noise, not to mention the stench we have to put up with for months on end to the point that we can't have our windows open on a summer night. On top of all that, there is no denying that criminal activity increases related to cannabis grows, yet this request to rezone could make all that an ongoing part of a residential zone!? Cannabis operations are for profit, obviously, but that profit to the operator often comes at a cost to all non-growing neighbors! Furthermore, this case asks for the suspension of the 'Sunset Provision for Residential Districts,' which was put in place by the Board of Supervisors in response to public comment requesting that cultivation sites be removed from residential neighborhoods. There are numerous good reasons that citizens have asked repeatedly that cultivations be removed from residential neighborhoods, yet this case would disregard that. This request by a cannabis operator to Rezone an entire area, plus suspend the limited protections afforded residents by the Sunset Provision for Residential Districts could set a dangerous precedent for us in Redwood Valley, and open unending requests by other growers to suspend protections for residents and rezone in favor of cannabis money making operations over homeowners and renters alike. Please vote no on case R_2019-0009 to protect this area of Redwood Valley for now and for the future.