

November 12, 2020

Mendocino County Planning and Building Committee
501 Low Gap Rd.
Ukiah Ca. 95482

Re: Expanding Cannabis

Dear Planning Commission,

I am opposed to the expanding of cannabis operations, that is now being considered. I live in Covelo, probably one of the biggest examples of “what can go wrong”. From law enforcement issues, to illegal weapons, to murders, to environmental degradation, to unsightly grow operations, it is an example, or microcosm of, what will happen if it is allowed to expand without the proper governmental control. The issues that I see that are front and foremost are:

- Water - Using Round Valley as an example, water is taken from the valley’s aquifer and trucked 40 miles in all directions to properties that are “water scarce”. There should be regulations preventing cannabis on properties without enough water. Now there are no such regulations.
- Law Enforcement – Sheriff Kendall is against this cannabis expansion. Sheriff Kendall cannot deal with what is happening now in Covelo, let alone other areas. The current problems must be under control before any further expansion of cannabis is considered.
- What it will look like – If the proposal to let landowners cultivate cannabis on 10% of their land is put in place, what you will have is acres upon acres of hoop houses, (covered with plastic that will degrade rapidly). For storage, on these sites, you will have countless shipping containers. Tarps will be strung between these shipping containers to create drying areas. Lights on at night affecting everyone’s quality of life. Tiny houses on wheels will be brought on site and inhabited , with no septic, and questionable permitting. Guard dogs will run the fences, intimidating neighbor’s livestock, and anyone who might come within close proximity. There needs to be an ordinance of how these “operations” look, or we will have what we have in Covelo, which is absolutely horrible.
- Rangeland – There is much resistance for expanding cannabis further into the “Rangeland”. Don’t let this happen.
- Who is against this – The Farm Bureau, The Sheriff, Supervisor Haschak, Ranchers, environmental groups and “non growing” citizens who are being sidelined so that the red carpet can be laid out for what was, until recently, an illegal industry.

What you decide will affect the entire community. You owe it to us as a whole to put in place policies that improve the health of our County as a whole. You cannot usher in and expand an industry that has not proven to be a “good neighbor” at the expense of everyone else. Fix what is on your plate first, get it working, fix the complicated permit process, expand law

enforcement so that they can deal with the violence and eliminate the illegal grows. Put in place regulations for water. Then and only then, think about expanding cannabis.

Best regards,

Ron Stark
Covelo, Ca.

Cc via email
Sheriff Kendall
Board of Supervisors
John Haschak