

To: The Mendocino Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Sheriff Kendall

Our once peaceful community of Covelo/Round Valley has seen an almost unbelievable increase in violence and lawlessness this last year. There have been three major unsolved arsons that have decimated the downtown area, numerous hit- and-run accidents, burglaries, and several kidnappings and murders. Gunfire can be heard most nights, and our small-town residential streets have become speed ways with squealing tires and cars crashes. Three people lost their lives in a high-speed car crash just last month on the side street that connects the highway to the elementary schools, a 25 mph. zone. Law enforcement has not kept up with the increase in lawless behavior and state they do not have the resources to do so. Several friends have had wells go dry due to the demand for water from nearby illegal grows. One close friend has had transient workers come through the fence to use her back yard as a toilet. The streets are littered with trash and the beautiful Eel River and its tributaries are being polluted.

Longtime residents, good, community-minded, law-abiding people, are moving away due to concerns for their safety and the safety of their families. Seeing what the town has become, it is a concern that decent, law-abiding people are not the ones who are moving in, in their place.

Please listen to the Sheriff, the environmentalists, and locals who are frightened by the direction our county has taken. Do not approve expansion of marijuana grows into rangeland and find a way to curb the illegal grows that have taken over our community.

Sincerely,  
Pat Sobrero