

To the members of the Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County,  
I would like to make a comment of opposition to item 3b on today's agenda. This issue has been fought for by numerous residents over the past few years and seemingly put to rest for the more residential neighborhoods.

As a lifelong resident of Mendocino County with my roots tracing back five generations in Potter Valley, I am concerned with the changes and expansion this will create for all unincorporated areas of the county. I agree with fellow commenters that phase 1 has all but imploded already and many growers are still hanging out in limbo and increasingly frustrated with the county's inability to efficiently process these permits. So why are we moving on to another phase? Why can't we finish one thought before we move to another?

Aside from this my main fear is that we will see even more expansion and conversion of rich and diverse agricultural land within the county. Many of the conversions that have happened in prime agricultural land are irreplaceable. Fields and range land that at one time housed numerous cattle, sheep, horses etc, are now large swathes of compacted base rock with the equivalent of an industrial complex on top of them. Cannabis is being grown in light, humidity and temperature controlled facilities and being justified as an "agricultural" product. Sorry, but that is a scientific lab not agriculture and can be done in industrial complexes without the destruction of agricultural land, which also happens to be a major industry in this county. Many growers are growing outdoors at the whims of mother nature like traditional agriculture which I am fine with. These growers are typically concerned with building their soil and regenerative farming and often times have additional crops growing on their properties. The conversion of properties and expansion that will come with phase 3 will only benefit large corporate companies from outside of our county and will continually undermine the long time families and rural livelihood that at one point made our county a little slice of heaven.

Please take all of these comments into consideration for today's meeting.

John March  
Langdon Day Farms  
Potter Valley