

Dear Mendocino County Planning Commission and Supervisors,

I do not favor Phase III expansion of cannabis without greater review. I do not favor allowing cannabis farms on rangeland. I am against allocating 10% of a property for cannabis farming. I favor small farms.

First and foremost, we are all aware that American tobacco companies are ready to convert large parcels into cannabis to regain lost profits, and they are probably already in talks with the County.

Mendocino County is rural and large monocultural farms would destroy the oak habitat, create competitive losses for family farms, and smear the Mendocino brand. Of course big tobacco wants to use the famous Mendocino quality name and the Emerald Triangle reputation for large profits.

You, as public servants, know well that this County will bank greater tax revenue. But this will be done at the expense of ALL citizens—growers and those who appreciate the rural nature of our County.

Water and drought are major issues in Mendocino County. Please do not ignore water theft and the ongoing truck delivery of water. After the profits are in, the taxes gained will be nothing compared to the environmental degradation and groundwater loss, and the County will have irreparable losses and greater reparation costs in the long term. An example is less lake water in Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino to fight coming fires, and large-scale residential well water loss due to widespread deep wells.

County staff cannot currently keep up with all the 800+ permitted cannabis grows, that when finally investigated will indicate some grower actions are outside of what was permitted. Take care of the permitted growers first. Do not make Mendocino County “Marlboro County” just to fill the County coffers. Please listen to your citizens.

Thank you,

*Dolly Riley*

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