

I would like to express my support for The Urgency Ordinance placing a moratorium on the implementation of phase III of The Cannabis Cultivation Permitting process.

Mendocino County is in the midst of a significant drought. As of today March 21st of 2021. Annual Rainfall for the Ukiah area is at 57%. A 43% reduction in the rainfall is a disaster. As many municipalities claim in pleas and efforts to reduce water consumption and as justification for raising water rates.

Yet The County of Mendocino proposes a significant increase in Commercial Cannabis Cultivation. Where is the water going to come from ?

It's certainly not falling from the sky in historical volumes.

Decades of work by various agencies have produced zoning and land use regulations. In an effort to responsibly regulate land uses and the impact on lands with Mendocino County.

Now in an effort to accommodate the corporate community that would like to exploit our community. Zoning and land use regulations are to be discarded ?

Which would certainly be disrespectful of the difficult work performed over the past decades that insures a balanced approach to land use.

Phase III would certainly unbalance land use in our community.

What other industry would be granted such a large circumvention of zoning and land use regulations ?

Our Rangelands should be cherished as they are a significant asset to our county residents. As well as to tourists that visit Mendocino County for recreation and leisure.

The Cannabis Cultivation permitting process has been a complete disaster to small farmers. I hold The County of Mendocino and You Our elected representatives responsible for creating a disaster for our community and it's small farmers.

The Cannabis Cultivation permitting process has failed to hold growers accountable for violations of cannabis cultivation regulations. Inspections are not being performed to the degree necessary to insure regulatory compliance.

An expansion into phase III at this point in time is reckless and irresponsible in my personal opinion.

Phase III would exacerbate the challenges that our small farmers face and would exhibit favor to Cannabis Corporations. An un level permitting process is detrimental to our small farmers. Mendocino County must do better to protect our environment, Our Community and Our way of Life.

Phase III is detrimental to Our Community and must be delayed and then rewritten to address the concerns of our community.

I hope that you will exhibit your wisdom and grant the urgency ordinance.

Andy Hilkey

Willits Resident & Small Farmer