

04/11/2021

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Keith Schiessl. I was born and raised in Willits. My family has been in Mendocino County, since the mid 1800's, when they settled on 60,000 acres in Anderson Valley. I left Willits to go to college and again to jump start my law enforcement career. I recently retired from the Ukiah Parole Office, where I was the Assistant Unit Supervisor. I am now a part owner in Backroad Security, and we provide security for some of the large timber companies in the county. I grew up in Willits during the 60's and 70's, a couple years behind Mr. Haschak. I've seen what marijuana has done to our county and I'm strongly opposed to the Phase 3 Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance.

I feel it will destroy our county and way of life, which has already been negatively impacted. Cannabis cultivation has already brought in organized crime and a serious criminal element, at a time when more and more criminals are getting off scot free. These people don't care about our county, our environment, or the law-abiding citizens that already live here. They're here to try and get rich and they don't care if they destroy our way of life in the process.

They're using an incredible amount of water. I read in the Press Democrat that the vineyards in Sonoma County have already been notified that they'll be receiving less water this year, due to the drought. Are the pot growers going to reduce their crops this year to help conserve our water? I seriously doubt it. How long until our wells

and reservoirs go dry? What happens to our county then? We will not have water for basic necessities or to grow food. When that happens all those folks you're catering to will pull out, leaving the environment a toxic mess. What will become of the wildlife, which have already been negatively impacted by all the cultivation? Climate change is already causing a huge negative impact, and this is just going to add to it.

Covelo is probably one of the most lawless areas in our county. How long has it been since you've been to Covelo? It looks like a 3rd world country up there with all the burnt cars and buildings. Crime is off the hook. Hoop houses are everywhere. How about getting in a plane and flying over the county? That will open your eyes to the rapidly changing environment. I worked in the Covelo area yesterday. I couldn't believe how many locations with numerous hoop houses are expanding and adding more hoop houses, during our current drought.

I have seen several colleagues that I used to work with, move out of our county in the last couple years, due to the influx of cannabis cultivation and what it's doing to our county. I'm already having a hard time dealing with the criminal element that's taking over our county. I don't want my grandkids growing up in this environment. I've been contemplating moving myself and if Phase 3 passes, I will have a "For Sale" sign on my house, within a month. When all your hard working, law abiding, tax paying citizens leave, you're going to be left with the criminals you're inviting in.

I know it's a complicated issue. All the more reason to slow down, use the EIR process and do what's best for the good people of our fine county. I feel the future and health of our county is at a tipping point. Which way is it going to go? What's your legacy going to be? The

County Supervisors who saved Mendocino County, or destroyed it?
Please vote no on Phase 3. Keep our county beautiful and a wonderful
place to live and raise a family.