



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

April 11, 2021

Re: Item 5a on 4/12/2021: Discussion and Possible Action Including a Workshop on Water Supply Conditions in Mendocino County; and Approval of Implementation of a Drought Preparedness Campaign administered by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (Sponsors: Supervisor McGourty and Supervisor Mulheren)

Honorable Supervisors,

MCA would like to offer support for this agenda item and CDFW's analysis of the impact that expansion might have on water supply. We believe it's important to have outreach with our community on water conservation, especially given the current drought trend we are facing. We would also like to offer support for Covelo/Round Valley being included in the Water Supply Conditions Workshop presentations planned for distribution throughout the County as mentioned in the CCAG memo.

Our County was devastated by the August Complex Fire last year and it's important to do as much outreach and education on water conservation as possible so we can be prepared as a community when fire strikes again in the future. Many cannabis farms are implementing dry farming techniques, use rainwater catchment systems and only use surface water in the allowed timelines set forth by the State Waterboard. It's important for everyone in the County to do their part towards water conservation and MCA supports this Workshop and community outreach effort.

Further, when considering water use, it is essential that all forms of agriculture, not just cannabis, be equally monitored and evaluated. Many crops in Mendocino County have few reviews or restrictions as to their water consumption, whereas, cannabis is less consuming than most and vilified as a source of water concerns. MCA advocates for fair consideration of all crop water use and the application of consistent and equitable policy.

Attached below we are including Exhibit A, which shows the comparison of water usage among California's crops. As you will see, Cannabis water use is a relative drop in the bucket at this time, and we think it is important to acknowledge concrete data as a part of this conversation.

We thank you for your consideration of this item.

Sincerely,

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance

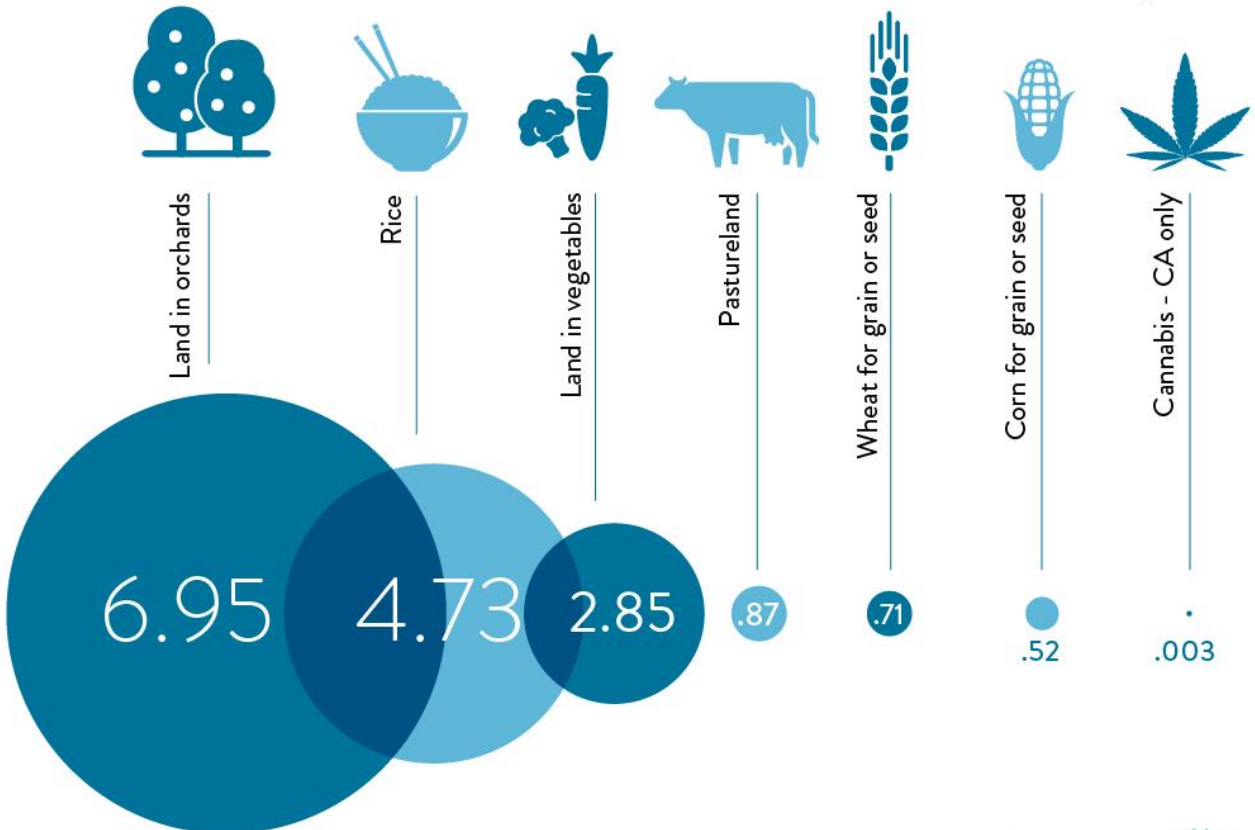
Exhibit A



CANNABIS USES FAR LESS WATER THEN CALIFORNIA'S TOP CROPS

Water Use for California's Top Agricultural Crops*

Total Acre-Feet in Millions Applied



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* Water-use estimates for non-cannabis use crops are from 2013. Cannabis water-use estimates are from the full cannabis market in 2020.

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