

A letter to the board of Supervisors,

I strongly urge you to vote No on the measure to allow the expansion of Marijuana growing in Mendocino County. From what I understand only John Haschak is against this proposal and the other Supervisors are for it. 98% of the people who have expressed an opinion are against this measure. What happened to representative democracy?

Allowing this measure to pass will severely impact the quality of life in our County. We have been in a prolonged drought for too long and marijuana requires too much water. Our wells are running dry and critical salmon and steelhead habitat is diminishing due to illegal and permitted grows sucking up all of the water. Our rangelands and wilderness are what make Mendocino more rural and scenic than our overpopulated neighbors to the South. I moved here from Sonoma County 26 years ago because of exploding population growth and vineyards being planted everywhere, destroying Oak woodlands to plant them and causing siltation of the Russian River.

In Round Valley and elsewhere groundwater is being sucked dry for permitted and illegal grows and crime has exploded with home invasions and drug related crime occurring more often. Permitting a massive expansion of Corporate grows will make it even easier for young teens to get pot and it sends the wrong message to our youth. Is that what we really want? We already have too much marijuana in circulation. I'm afraid that the Board of Supervisors are just following the money and not thinking of the long term implications of this measure.

Please reconsider this issue and listen to the people of our County as well as the Sheriff, former sheriff, the Willits Environmental Center, the Farm Bureau and anyone else who has spoken against this ill advised measure!

Sincerely,

Mike Gardner

Willits