

10 April 2021

Round Valley, Mendocino County

To the Board of Supervisors Mendocino County

Re: Agenda item on a new Cannabis Land Use Ordinance

I hope my comments will be read before your meetings on April 12 and April 19. They do largely repeat the comments which I made for the March 19 Planning Commission meeting on this same subject but I will try to make them briefer and indicate which issues are of most concern to me about this Ordinance.

I have a ranch in Round Valley which in partnership with two other local ranchers is used to **raise grass-fed beef** and sheep (Covelo grass-fed beef, incidentally, is highly prized by restaurants from Eureka to San Francisco). I am also a member of a **grain cooperative based in Ukiah** which is trying to promote the planting of more grains in Mendocino County for the feeding of livestock and thus making it unnecessary to inject hormones into cattle to “beef them up” (Grain growing is also of benefit to the local beer-brewing and bakery businesses). What the proposed increase in legally cultivatable land for marijuana will mean to people like me will be **less potentially grazeable land, greater expense in leasing or purchasing additional grazeable land** because of the inevitable competition for land from outside investors with industrial-scale dreams of cultivating marijuana here, **an increased use of a scarce water resource**, and possible **greater risk of chemical pollution** of existing water sources such as springs, rivers, and groundwater.

I am also a member of an environmental group whose goal has been to **restore salmonid spawning** in the rivers of this County (for which this County was once famous) and I have many friends who would like to visit our County for trout, steelhead, and salmon fishing, and such a dramatic increase in cannabis cultivation as would surely occur under this new Ordinance would surely mean more water diversions, vegetation and tree loss, soil erosion, and chemical pollution and thus a further depletion of our fish (and wildlife) populations. I think, therefore, that an **environmental impact report (EIR)** should be done and considered before this Ordinance is voted on.

There is also the **aesthetic effect** of the sight of hoop houses, other buildings for the processing of marijuana, and high fences and sheets of black plastic to hide and protect the grows on the edges of our grazing and residential land which will detract from the natural beauty of our area.

For all these reasons I oppose the adoption of this new proposed cannabis cultivation ordinance and hope there will be future discussions of how to raise more income for the County from various sources.

Respectfully,

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