

To the Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County,

April 14, 2021

As a 40 year resident of rural Mendocino County I feel desperate to stop the proposed Land Use Ordinance to expand cannabis cultivation. I don't have a problem with the existing permitted grows that are now happening in the county, but isn't that enough? The factor that worries me the most is the excessive and uncontrolled water usage of commercial grows and the effect this use will have on all residents, both wild and domestic. There are other reasons too, but due to the diminishing water tables, low levels in reservoirs, long-reliable springs drying up, and the huge quantity required to grow each plant, I feel water protection is the most conspicuous reason to deny further expansion of commercial cannabis businesses.

We are still suffering from drought conditions. Just look at the wild hillsides and count all the dead and dying trees, ask people how their water systems are holding up and ask those who deliver water how many new (non cannabis-growing) customers they've acquired in the past 5 years. Pot farm water uses have driven up the price of water deliveries. With the added stress and worry over raging fire danger, the last thing we rural residents need are empty water tanks.

More and bigger cannabis gardens will bring higher fire hazards with added people (brought in from elsewhere), more generators with fuel tanks, more wear on our already substandard roads and where will it stop? The character of our communities, both rural and in our towns, is family oriented and nature loving. We all value our peaceful and respectful lives here. The supervisors are voted in to represent the will of their constituents. The expansion of big business cannabis will change and displace what we all love about Mendocino County with profit-driven exploitation of our precious natural treasure, our land, water and

wildlife. There is already a land grab happening, driving up prices, making it hard for our children to stay in the area.

If there are to be future expansions to the permitting of cannabis farms, there should be at the very least environmental impact reports required. Even then, it is impossible to measure the long term damage to the sense of neighborhood and community these expansions may cause. Please vote to deny this and any future expansion of Land Use Ordinances allowing more and bigger pot farms in Mendocino County.

Respectfully,

Judy Hope