

To the County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed new cannabis cultivation ordinance: the Commercial Cannabis Activity Land Use Ordinance.

There is so much at stake here it is not possible to overestimate the potential impact and cost to our county:

- Our environment:

- The proposed ordinance opens the door for massive expansion of cannabis cultivation in the county and thus creates powerful incentives for large-scale commercial and residential development throughout the county's remote, rural, environmentally sensitive landscape. This will add to the multitude of known and unknown impacts already affecting the county's human and natural environments.

- In addition to opening the 738,000-acre rangeland zone to new cannabis operations, lifting the 10,000 sq. ft. cap on cultivation site size, and removing any limits on the number of permits per parcel, the proposed ordinance would allow up to **10% of a 10-acre or larger parcel in the Agricultural, Upland Residential, and Rangeland Zones to be converted to cannabis cultivation.**

- Would strip away prohibition on cutting trees to create a new cultivation site and thus create accompanying erosion

- Would impact our available water or better still, lack of available water to sustain such cultivation

At the very least, considering the magnitude of the expansion plan, the county should do a full Environmental Impact Review.

### **I ask you, who are you representing?**

The **Farm Bureau does not support** this new proposal, the **small cannabis grower does not support it**, **our Sheriff does not support it**, and the **environmental community does not support it**. And this new proposal is NOT the Vision supported by the majority of citizens of this county, as evidenced by the fact that Measure AF, which proposed cannabis in almost every zoning district, went down to defeat in 2016.

This proposal wholly ignores the recommendations of the Mendocino Climate Action Committee regarding appropriate land use development to meet the need for greenhouse gas reduction and carbon sequestration goals.

County of Mendocino  
Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, California

To the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,  
Sent by email, [bos@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:bos@mendocinocounty.org)

Dear Supervisors,

This letter is to oppose the proposed Cannabis Land Use Ordinance.

This ordinance would leave the protection of the County's natural resources and communities in the hands of growers, and the underfunded county staff to manage the Cannabis oversight. Ask your Sheriff. It would open three quarters of a million acres of rangeland to new and greatly expanded cultivation areas. Such an expansion would create massive and irreparable environmental damage to our most sensitive natural resources, including our economy.

In 2016, the people of Mendocino County clearly defeated Measure AF, an industry-driven attempt to open zoning areas to expanded Cannabis cultivation. Proponents argue it would expand Cannabis on 'appropriate' lands. This is hyperbole and has no legal or scientific basis, and flagrantly ignores The General Plan and the EIR that was prepared for that.

Growers do not have the incentive or ability to analyze their impacts into context without a County EIR to provide the big picture. The cost of a EIR will be minuscule in comparison to the damage and long-term cost to taxpayers and the County if this is left to an illogical political decision instead of a scientific study by expert witness.

There have been so many unacceptable problems created a County trying to make Cannabis decisions by ignoring the impacts of their decisions. It is the height of ignorance to modify the General Plan across the county without an EIR and a vote of the citizens.

I urge you to slow down, listen to the experienced and respected voices of your community, consider the facts, and oppose this ill-conceived shortsighted ordinance before you.

Respectfully,

Alan Nicholson

*Mendocino County*

*April 14, 2021*