

I think that many of us in Mendocino County thought that when Marijuana was legalized that our Board of Supervisors would work hard to protect small grow operations which had been the backbone of our economy for many years. Instead, our supervisors chose to go the way of the usual corporate takeover, allowing big grows and big business to move in and swarm over our county in unprecedented numbers. Now, when we look over our beautiful Little Lake Valley we see unbelievable amounts of hoop houses dotted across the landscape. These are big operations that take tons of water and tons of investment. They can afford the the exorbinant costs of licensing and often hire lots of menial workers from poorer countries. I am not against the hiring of outside labor, it's just that the smaller operations often used local trimmers, bought supplies at local businesses, and treated the land with respect. But, this isn't even the biggest issue. The truth is that we have been in an extended drought and every one of these huge marijuana operations uses unbelievable amounts of ground water. This is a huge disservice to the local ranchers and farmers as well as the people who call this county home. It is inconceivable that we are allowing even more grows to be installed in this time of scant rainfall. In 2014, we all had to conserve water to the point that we reused kitchen water to flush our toilets at our local grocery store. Meanwhile, the growers are sucking out ground water in a valley where many wells are already dry. I know the supervisors are looking at the tax revenues which these big operations are bringing in, but this is not the will of the local people. At least put a moratorium on large operations until we get enough rain—and even if we do get more rain, there definitely should be restrictions on grow size. The extra 10% idea that is being floated should be off the books. I hope you will take my viewpoint into consideration. Sincerely, Mary Anne Trevey, owner Mariposa Market.