

Re: April 19 BOS meeting, agenda item

Dear Supervisors and Board of Supervisors,

We are writing in opposition to the proposed Cannabis Expansion Ordinance.

As a resident and tax payer of this county for over 46 years, I am concerned with the serious and debilitating consequences of adopting the ordinance as it is now written. There are real, not imagined, consequences of expansion into rangeland, there is great concern of residents here about the negative effect on water as the drought is also a primary concern for residents, businesses, and wild land protection. The general plan Policy RM-6 says you will promote sustainable management and conservation of the county's water resources. Round Valley is being badly effected by the utilization of our aquifer's water as are other communities in our county. Illegal grows have burgeoned and creeks and the Eel, Black Butte rivers and likely other rivers here are having water illegally pumped from them. CDFW also said that if County bypasses CEQA by adopting this ordinance, the cumulative effects of expansion will be invisible to us. CDFW said that the County should keep development to areas of existing development without sensitive species or habitats, located outside of impaired watersheds, or perform a full CEQA review and or perform an EIR to address cumulative impacts. They also said that any ordinance should be clearly defined by "Standards and Conditions". The current draft ordinance is deficient in Standards and Conditions and leaves too much up to County Planning. The people of this County deserve to have this ordinance clearly spelled out.

"We believe that the importance of this issue for the future of our County requires a full EIR before any expansion is talked about. Water is now a major issue that must be considered. The County agreed, under the current cannabis ordinance, to not allow further expansion in the rangeland zones. The rangeland prohibition "about face" needs to be addressed."

We also have serious challenges with enforcement of the illegal grows and the permits that are in the permit pipeline. Round Valley is a model of what should not be happening in this county. Hoop houses light up the night sky in our community and the surrounding hills. Water is being trucked to illegal grows in a huge radius to the valley. Wells are going dry in parts of the valley and crime is out of control.

We now have an unsustainable out of control system of illegal cannabis cultivation with the local Sheriff unable to contain this situation and make this community a safe one in which to live. I totally support Sheriff Kendall who explained that we are in a Public Safety Crisis.

We plead with you to address this proposed expansion with a

- full EIR, then
- Have a vote of the citizens of the county as to whether they want this ordinance which we voted against last time
- Fund full enforcement first.
- Restore Public Safety.
- If you move forward with a use permit system, take out the proposed expansion, write detailed Standards and Conditions section, and provide a path for Phase 1 & 2 applicants to be able to acquire their licenses.

Thank you for your service as you are committed to protect and ensure the safety, health, and well being of this precious place and her people and lands and waters.

Respectfully,

Paula and Larry Fugman