

It is of great concern to me to hear that the board of supervisors is considering the expansion of cannabis cultivation into areas of the county that our current ordinance has restricted for that use. There is also talk of expanding the amount of land that can be used for cannabis growing.

I want to urge the supervisors to slow down and delay expansion plans and the opening of Phase 3 until the current county plan can be fully implemented.

For that to happen the cannabis taskforce needs to be fully staffed with trained people who can deal with the administrative job of seeing that Phase 1 growers who have a permit application pending are taken care of. It is also imperative that there are enough trained personnel to enforce the ordinance regulations. So far neither of these areas has been functioning successfully.

The residents of the county have voiced their opinions about what the cannabis ordinance should be and to suddenly change direction and jeopardize the land use and environmental protections that were put in place is not right. There should be a chance for the public to weigh in on the changes the board has in mind in an open forum.

I am afraid that the board's plan for expansion will open the county for problems with land use, water availability, environmental protections and the takeover of the cannabis industry by big business. These are already issues that need to be resolved. Don't create a bigger problem with expansion.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Thayer Craig -member of Willits Environmental Center board April 15, 2021