

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you to register my opposition to the proposed ordinance amending Mendocino County Code Chapter 6.36 and Chapter 20.243 regarding commercial marijuana (aka "cannabis") facilities.

I am an American citizen. Two of my grandparents were born in California in the 1890s. I was born and raised in Southern California.

I moved to Anderson Valley in 1991 specifically to live and raise my children in a rural environment. Norm DeVall was my Supervisor. My kids were in elementary school. Thirty years later the results are good - one child was Salutatorian of his high school class, another was Senior Class President of her high school class, and I served two terms on the AV school board in the 1990s to help contribute to the community management of the district. After high school my three kids earned six college degrees, and today they are each married, and are talented contributors to the legal American mainstream economy. Plus I have 5 grandchildren. So that part of life is good.

None of my children are participants in the marijuana (i.e., so-called "cannabis") industry, nor am I. My employment is in information technology and I typically work remotely for clients outside of Mendocino County. The most recent tech project I completed was the deployment of data interfaces to enable an analytical testing laboratory operated by UC Santa Cruz that runs about 1,000 SARS-CoV-2 PCR assays per day to report their test results electronically in real time to multiple destinations, including into the newly created California Covid Reporting System operated by state public health.

In 2016 I was happy to be a member of the substantial majority of Mendocino County voters who defeated Measure AF.

I live in a rural subdivision where the lot size is 20 acres. Over the past 30 years I have seen neighboring parcels of former range land fenced off and planted as vanity vineyards, many for second home speculators, including vines planted on steep slopes that should never have been contoured so precariously. One neighbor cleared an emerging second growth redwood forest on a north slope to plant wine grapes, which promptly created a massive sediment load in our creek.

The current situation out here is too many wells pumping too little water, and too much sediment flowing down into the seasonal creek. Our dirt roads are clogged with vineyard workers and with building contractor traffic for the current boom in second home construction for wealthy outsiders.

Climate change in our firestorm prone environment is also a conspicuous health and safety concern when considering zoning changes that are intended to allow expansion of commercial activity in rangeland subdivisions.

With best regards,

William Ross