

Hello Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for taking the time to read all these perspectives. I know Monday will be a long day for all of you.

I am a phase 1 applicant and I don't know what the future looks like for me and the county. I'd like to briefly explain what I do know. Local businesses rely on the 700+ small farms currently operating in Mendocino County. That number is based on those recently responding to CDFA regarding CEQA. Local businesses do not want them to lose their license. Especially when the county is gearing up for satellite enforcement.

You have an important decision to make on Monday. One that is important to farms large and small. I completely understand why those supporting 10 percent expansion want to expand. They want to cut ties with other local farms and grow their own flower to cut costs. Are you ok with that? Probably. It's a capitalistic country.

I know you have hundreds of letters to read so I don't want to take up a lot of your time. I support phase 3 for those wanting to expand to ONE ACRE. We all know those distribution companies that need two, five, or eight acres to cultivate will find ways to do that. It's no secret. Why allow 10 percent which can bring in some very impactful grows that we have yet to learn about?

Think about it. Instead of growing 8 acres on an eighty acre parcel, they will buy/lease other parcels which will improve that real estate money and increase property taxes. I'm surprised so many vineyard owners and real estate agents support 10 percent expansion. Acre gardens all over the place will be much more profitable to the county in the long run.

Speaking of property taxes, if small farms in the hills don't survive, property taxes will plummet in rural communities. Especially with looming satellite enforcement on the horizon.

I support MCA's recommendations for phase 1 operators transitioning to phase 3. The local economy relies on phase 1 operators. Please find ways to keep them alive. Mendocino County will thank you in the long run.

Sincerely,

Lenny Clayburg