

April 17, 2021

Dear members of the Board:

I have resided in Willits since 1972. I am a partner in a Ukiah law firm. I have extensive experience with property law and CEQA litigation. I served on the bench for 14 years.

I oppose the ordinances currently before the board. I am particularly concerned about permitting use of rangeland for large cannabis cultivation operations. The county's enforcement efforts under the current law have been too little and too late. They will be wholly inadequate if big growers are allowed to devastate the environment — our fisheries and water resources — with impunity.

If large cannabis grows on rangeland are left to the discretion of your inadequate planning staff, I guarantee you that a decade of litigation will ensue. The adverse environmental effects of each grow will be challenged under the California Environmental Quality Act, and the county will be drawn into each lawsuit. This will adversely affect the county's budget for years.

The perception among those I know is that the county has sold out to the commercial marijuana interests. I sincerely hope that is not true and that you will listen carefully to citizens who are not involved the marijuana industry and who oppose the ordinances you have under consideration.

Thanks for considering my letter.

Sincerely yours,

James F. King