

### 3b Cultivation:

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

We still wonder why we are discussing anything above 1 acre. There is no license for over an acre at the State licensing authority at this time. The largest license type that is available now is set at 1 acre at least until 2023. And it might not ever go above 1 acre, because for Type 5 large farms, anything above 1 acre outdoors, will only be approved at that level of expansion if a need or shortage is identified in the supply chain. The State is literally researching this very thing right now. CALIFORNIA MAY NEVER APPROVE OF ANY LICENSE ABOVE ONE ACRE.

We still wonder why the new Phase 3 ordinance / CCAO is tied to a 10% increase. No one has been able to explain that connection. Discretionary Use Permits & a total revamp of the current cannabis program administration are needed but that can happen without such a drastic expansion. In fact, it can happen with no expansion at all. PHASE 3 CAN MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT EXPANSION AT THIS TIME!!!

We still wonder what is the rush?! We have been following closely for many years & it is strange to see this Board now barreling forward when there is so clearly need for more community input. Too much opposition & too many obstacles as it is written now to put the cart before the horse again. From water to fire, from not enough staff to no clear path for the many applicants still waiting to be processed... to name a just a few. Even your own Board member said last week with regard to the drought, "Not a year to expand your garden or landscape." (Supervisor McGourty) Our natural resources are finite & the cumulative impacts must be examined before we take this on. NO 10% WITHOUT EIR.

We still wonder why you can't seem to hear the roar of the crowd (CDFW, along with the office of Mendocino Fish & Wildlife, Mendocino Climate Action Committee, maybe not a quorum but a majority of the members of the Planning Commission, multiple local community advisory councils from Laytonville, Covelo & Redwood Valley, multiple water & sewer service agencies from Laytonville to Calpella, past & present local law enforcement, & many, many, many constituents) asking you to look around & slow down. CDFA shared with the County last week that 700+ Phase 1 farms had returned the recent CEQA in progress document by the deadline. PHASE IN ANY EXPANSION WITH RESEARCH, WITH DATA, WITH FOCUS, WITH PRECISION.

We still wonder why we hear Supervisors & Staff talk about Phase 1 cultivators being upset to lose an edge to more competition in the county as a reason not to agree with the expansion as it's now presented for Phase 3. That is not true. We would rather see a Phase 3 pathway for the 1000s of small farms that for whatever reason have been waiting to get into the program. We are opposed to seeing the entire cannabis program become only a handful of "boom & bust" or as it's literally called in the cannabis industry "turn & burn" corporate cannabis... with their outside investment taking the majority of profits out of the local community. \*Far more folks oppose the "\*\*10%" on the zoning

table than the people who earlier this year rejected growing 6 plants outside, which is legal by state law. Why not remove that “\*10%” asterisk from the discussion today, just like this Board did back in January or February with the personal plant count? REMOVE “\*10%” & THIS SIMPLE ACTION WOULD DIFFUSE TENSIONS 100%.

We still wonder how the Board has no idea how we got here but is pushing forward anyway. Just ask the people in the cannabis program... Long story short: Phase 1 is flawed. Phase 3 is flawed. After the bungling of Phase 1 mainly because Mendocino County created our ordinance prior to the state regulations being set in place. It seems like we are right now poised to repeat that same mistake for phase 3, with much more dire consequences for the entire county. There IS the need for immediate increased enforcement of illegal & environmentally egregious grows, as we small farmers in Covelo ourselves have asked for in our many previous letters to the Board. Not sure how surveillance will help, everyone already seems to know where the cartels are located, now please give the sheriff the back-up he needs. At this time it would be more prudent to proceed in a measured approach overall. THE ENVIRONMENT & ENFORCEMENT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECTS, NOT EXPANSION.

We are asking for reasonable compromise regarding land use & continuity of cultivation for compliant Phase 1 & 2 farms. We welcome & encourage you to create a Phase 3 with a smaller footprint more aligned with state law up to 1 acre. Local associations representing the majority of cannabis farms in the county have put forth ideas & amendments that are alternative workable solutions for bringing as many people into the legal cannabis industry as possible. Our Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group has created a “Best Management Practices” guide to help craft an ordinance that will remain within the ethos of Mendocino County. This sustainable direction includes high level values for the environment & economics, for both living soil & living people. Think of the stewardship of the land as insurance for the future. WE HOPE YOU WILL TAKE THE CCAG & MCA MEMOS TO HEART TODAY.

Thank you for your consideration. Laura & Marty Clein