

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

I am writing in support of the CCAG memo.

I support expansion up to 22,000 sq ft and 1 acre expansion for Ag land.

I recommend an EIR be required for anyone expanding to 1 acre .

I am strongly opposed to 10% expansion in Mendocino County. The Phase 1 ordinance was developed by the Mendocino Board of Supervisors in 2017 prior to the state ordinance and we all have experienced the negative ramifications of a failed ordinance . Here we are yet again with the BOS attempting to create a 10% expansion clause that is not legal according to state regulations.

The list of reasons not to expand to 10% is extensive and outlined well by the hundreds of comments that the BOS has received over the last few months. I would just like to comment on 3 reasons not to expand.

1. WATER CRISIS:

In the 4-12-21 BOS meeting, the water presentation outlined the clear and present water shortage crisis we are experiencing. Supervisor McGourty stated the following during that board meeting “Now is not the time to expand gardens or landscape.”

2. The 6 “P” RULE

Prior Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance.

In 2017 the initial Cannabis Ordinance was doomed to fail from the onset.

- The BOS deigned an ordinance prior to the state ordinance and not in line with the state ordinance and guidelines. This has resulted in 11th hour negotiations between the state and the county in an attempt to correct these critical errors. This lack of vision has resulted in the farmers livelihoods hanging in the balance.

- The BOS implemented an ordinance without the proper staffing, clear guidelines and necessary infrastructure in place to execute the program successfully . Staff turnover, antiquated infrastructure , lack of knowledge by staff on program guidelines have all contributed to lost application , misplaced paperwork, incorrect and or conflicting instructions and lack of communication with farmers has resulted in a program that has collapsed . A program that utilizes literally a trash can in front of the county building as their intake procedure for paperwork is problematic to say the least .

- The 10% expansion proposal must be scaled down to 22,000 ft for the zones recommended by CCAG along with 1 acre caps with an EIR on AG lane. Additionally the BOS must complete an EIR prior to the implementation of a 10% expansion in order to make an informed decision that will have long term effects on our environment . Prior Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance continues to allude the BOS.

3. GREEN RUSH SEDUCTION

All knowledgeable farmers have a keen understanding of the financial trends when it comes to agriculture. Weather conditions , pest control, crop loss, best practices , environmental sustainability , strain development , trends in the market, supply and demand , quality of product

and other issues all come into play when developing and sustaining a viable business. The cannabis community has historically been divided into two camps. In one camp we see those who have been seduced by the greed of the illusion of the green rush thus they operate with tunnel vision. Thirty years ago big money was there for the making. Many of these folks cared little for the environment and the result was contaminated streams, rivers, forest land and loss of wild life and money diverted out of the county. We all know the stories. Most of these folks were unsuccessful in the long run because they did not care and or know how to build a successful sustainable business . These folks are capitalists not farmers. In the other camp there has been the small legacy farmers motivated by environmental, community and family financial sustainability . This group produces high quality clean product for customers, considers the environmental impacts, and knows the importance of giving back to the community. We make a sustainable living by having a working knowledge of the trends in both cultivation and marketing. We understand that any thing we do on our land impacts those around us. We know that if we don't tend each plant and end up with a male in the garden , this male will not only result in crop loss for us but for our surrounding neighbors. We know that supply and demand is a delicate balance financially. We don't outsource to other counties . Our money is spent locally, even when the cost is higher. We contribute to businesses and organizations locally . The Round Valley library is a good example of community donations, many of which came from cannabis farmers resulting in a much needed resource being built for our rural community. We strongly recommend that the BOS oppose the 10% expansion and not be seduced by the green rush. Implementing tunnel vision by a 10% expansion without first assessing all of the impacts associated with 10% expansion will result in another failed program that will not be economically and environmentally sustainable for our county, local business, and residents.

Finally, I strongly urge the BOS to avoid even the appearance of nepotism . Statements made in public and recorded , by specific members of the Planning Commission during their meeting to vote on the issue of 10% expansion stated that they have friends that would like to grow. Additionally a BOS member stated the same thing during a meeting with the public. Nepotism and other conflicts of interest must not play into any decisions made by our elected officials. Now is the time to create a viable cannabis program that is both environmentally and economically sustainable for the long term in for our county.

Thank you

Linnet Lockhart