

Dear BOS Members,

I am writing to urge you to vote no on expanding the pot cultivation in Mendocino County as defined in this agenda item.

We are in a drought and our property burned in 2017. Pot growth takes water, lots of it, and we cannot afford to expand pot growth this year, if ever. How many BOS members had their properties burn? Also, Redwood Valley Water is probably going to ration water. Does this seem right just so more people can get pot? Water is necessary for life. Pot is not.

BOS also doesn't have good control of illegal activities around pot grows, including illegal water trucking, several instances of crime and active shootings within a few miles of our house, generators and lights during the night to disturb the peace of living in the country, and so much more.

We have tried to be law abiding citizens and permit everything we do on our land. But because pot permits make people think of \$\$\$, our permits have been delayed for weeks or months. Friends within the contracting community have certainly let us know that pot permits are always at the front of the line. This discourages people who want to be legal, get a permit for buildings on their properties, and follow the rule of law. Meanwhile our neighbors grow pot and light up the night sky, and also put up buildings with no permits or attention to setbacks. Your policies have filtered down to Building and Planning and generally discourage people from getting buildings permitted. I see setbacks being ignored everywhere, not to mention night lights and generators from pot grows. Thanks a bunch for ruining our peaceful rural lifestyle.

Since the 2017 fire, we have seen the number of cannabis grows directly around us go from one to three, with at least one being a set of huge hoop houses. In addition, the vineyard down our road will now become a huge cannabis grow with ugly fencing already put in place.

Increased traffic down our road will reduce our quality of life a great deal, especially if more staff and water trucks will need to drive on this road.

Please vote NO to this agenda item. Once you vote yes, there will be no turning back. Thanks so much for reading our reasoning for voting NO.

Sincerely,
G. Alan Joel