

4/17/2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

The Tenmile Creek Watershed Council would like to add its voice to the chorus of opposition to the proposed expansion of cannabis farming. We feel the potential authorization of Cannabis Cultivation and Cannabis Facilities Ordinances farming will have a negative impact on our rural, and in many cases privately maintained, roads and bridges with increased traffic, unsafe drivers, large and heavily loaded trucks. But most importantly we fear a drain on our most important resource: water.

Long Valley in northern Mendocino County is blessed with a large aquifer, and underground lake. While we endure water shortage at certain times of the year, the aquifer has remained fairly stable. However we know that long term sustained usage for agricultural purposes will drain down the largest aquifer, as evidenced in the lower San Joaquin over the last decades. Lake Mendocino is at its lowest level ever for this time of year (Press Democrat 4/3/21) and the Department of Water Resources has declared 2021 the third driest year in state history (Mendocino County Observer 4/15/21). California appears to be entering a secular drought possibly connected with climate change, so it would seem logical to begin working on ways to preserve rather than to put further pressure on this essential resource.

Human activity is likely driving our warming planet. It's difficult to understand why the Board of Supervisors would place a higher value on short term tax revenue than on long term stability. We encourage you to think beyond dollars and pressure from lobbyists and do what's right for your children.

Thank you for listening.

Board of Directors, Tenmile Creek Watershed Council

Margret Andrews

Philip Buehler

Susan Barsoti

Dennis Hogan

Alison Pernell