

April 18, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, CA 95482

[BOS@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:BOS@mendocinocounty.org)-sent electronically

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I write to you to urge you to reject the proposed Cannabis Land Use Ordinance. The potential conversion of over 700,000 acres of rangeland to cannabis cultivation will cause irreparable damage to our county and land.

We are already in drought, with likely years of water insecurity to come. Sanctioning cannabis cultivation on the scale this proposal outlines would severely and negatively impact our already tenuous water security, as well as our waterways, and the fish and other wildlife who depend on these waterways. It would impact flora and fauna who depend on rangeland for their sustenance.

This dovetails into fire. We are already fire prone. Adding machinery, humans and vehicles into dry and sensitive areas increases our fire exposure and danger. We cannot afford this.

Cannabis cultivation will mean more restrictive fencing and land division, which in turn will negatively impact wildlife.

The enforcement of this ordinance will fall to already burdened and underperforming county staff. In turn, infractions and problems with the ordinance will become the problems of neighbors and the community, while larger, outside corporate cannabis interests will profit from lack of enforcement and proper government infrastructure to handle and mitigate the negative impacts of this ordinance.

An ordinance of this importance and impact should be subject to a county-wide Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and extensive public input. In fact, the voters had input on this kind of expanded cannabis cultivation, and rejected it in 2016. Why are the BOS now bringing this forward when the voters have already said no?

I have personal experience with cannabis grows on adjacent properties causing severe water depletion and pollution, environmental degradation and negative impacts on our rural roads and neighbors. Growers come and go, with little accountability and oversight, and the long term negative impact is to the neighbors and environment. But the corporations made their profit. It's the county and its residents who lost.

Do what we elected you to do; protect the citizens and resources of Mendocino County. Thank you for your consideration and no vote.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bauer