

Dear BOS:

I have lived in this county for over 35 years and I am not against the legalization of marijuana. What I am against, is the transformation of this beautiful county into hoop houses, six foot fences, deprivation of the environment, no environmental impact study and all the other negatives that have already occurred since the legalization of marijuana in California. What is the vision that we have for the unique qualities that our County has to offer? Do we really want our rural areas devastated by outside corporate interests. The original plan for cannabis, as I understood it, was to protect long term generational growers and allow them to continue their expertise in our County. Instead, we have outside corporate and criminal interests buying up huge amounts of land and planting huge swathes of marijuana which creates light pollution, water shortages and other environmental hazards.

There are as many illegal grows as legal grows and obviously not enough enforcement for either. We are in the middle of one of the worst droughts in California and yet we are going to approve a larger expansion of cannabis on rangelands in this County. Where is the protection for the people who live and work here. We who live within certain areas of Mendocino County are already having to look at limited water for our house and garden. Yet, the BOS wants to expand an industry that can be grown year round and requires lots of water.?

Where is the money to create employees who will provide oversight for this new industry. How many law enforcement are available for response to complaints from neighbors? Has any of this been thought about?

We are continuing to deal with so many crisis – covid, climate change, homelessness, mental health issues, is this really the time to add another potential crisis onto our plate? What about maintaining the roads for all those water trucks?

Please do not vote for expansion of the rangelands for marijuana cultivation. Let us try to get control over what is already happening in this County.