

I was signed up for Public Expression but was not given the opportunity. This is my public expression. Kindly enter it into public record.

Honorable Board Members:

I ask you to rely on CEQA to decide, instead of making up arbitrary rules that you think will allow only CEQA worthy farms. Let CEQA decide instead of an arbitrary date of 2015 for farming that specifically excludes the one crop we're talking about, cannabis. Why punish the farmers of that one crop? Will peaches be next? Kale? Will we be moving back to 2010 the next time we talk cannabis farming, and then 2005? What is the meaningful reason behind the dates you seem to choose, and types of people that are being allowed to farm in Phase 3?

Where is the room for small hill-living farmers who waited out the ruinous Phase 1, believing what they were told - that there would be room in Phase 3 for all who's land could pass CEQA? Let CEQA decide. Be a Lead Agency. Step up.

Instead, you put in place rules that knock out small farmers with established traditional hillside farms, who have suitable water, where they don't bother any neighbors, for larger spaces nearer towns and communities where neighbors are more likely to be bothered. We're strong on our roots and heritage here in Mendocino County. Let's value our roots, our hillside farmers, and let CEQA decide if the land is appropriate.

H. Wordhouse
Jackrabbit Ranch