

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing you again with a plea for a no vote on phase III at least for now, revisiting it later when the state of California and the county of Mendocino are not in a drought emergency.

As a retired 4-H leader who spent 14 plus years teaching children the basics of both plant and animal life. The first thing that we always taught them, the most important element to life is water. Without water life cannot be sustained.

With that being said, you are aware of the current drought situation in our state, and our beautiful county. Without water we are a sitting duck for self destruction. Our county is not considered a wealthy community. As history has shown during a drought water restrictions are put on our communities, our families, and on our agriculture as well. With those water restrictions come increased rates for all water users. It is during these times that many families of our communities can barely make payment for the simple water they need to survive, forget about growing any food to put on the table.

Even those who are lucky enough to grow some food, the amount of food grown is now decreased by a substantial amount. So now look at that as a whole, if the state doesn't have enough water for basic supply, the water allotted for agriculture use is now minimal at best. Less water means less crops in which to feed our residents.

It has been stated that people will have to truck in water when wells go dry, but where exactly is this water coming from, not the state of California as we are in a severe drought. And at what price does this water come by? With less water and reduced crops, food prices will rise. Mendocino county is below the median income level. We are creating a lose lose situation here.

I believe in agriculture and all it stands for, but to implement something new during an emergency situation is to me a bit selfish. With families flailing from the pandemic, and faced with even more debt due to a drought from the increase in water rates, and food prices due to less product, I believe you should table the matter at hand for now and revisit it during a better time.

As we have seen in the past handful of years a dramatic rise in severe wildfire that has not only affected our state, but also our very county. Where will the water come to help fight possible future fires? And at what cost? We already have no water to draw from Lake Pillsbury or Lake Mendocino if we were to see another fire storm. I can guarantee you that our state and local fire agencies will be worked to the bone without respite and may not be able to combat a fire without water. These are our hard working county residents putting their life on the line to save the county during these trying times.

As stated in my previous letter, work on the current issues with growing in the county, finesse the process, make it a profitable asset to the counties bottom line. Think about the residents that voted you into your office and work in the best interest for them. This isn't a pretty matter at hand right now, but as history has shown, there will be better times ahead.

Once again I urge you to not move forward at this time with your phase III cannabis ordinance. Revisit it at a later date when our state is in a better place.

Regards,  
Kim Pinson, Retired Mendocino College