

Hello,

We hope all of you are well. We are hoping to see a successful outcome at tomorrow's important meeting regarding expansion, taxes, and more in the cannabis community. We support the memos of CCAG and MCA, with the only exclusion on MCAs memos regarding amount of expansion. We support up to 22,000sq ft outdoor expansion, with no mixed light, nursery or indoor expansion for now. This is because enforcement must take place before people get the idea that this motion of beyond 1 acre expansion is happening and they begin to buy out all the land in the county (making it impossible for families and young food farmers to have an opportunity here), cut down the trees, drill the wells, and start to take from the neighborhood resources. And they will start this process well before 2023 because they know no one will stop them since there are no systems in place to protect legal operators and residential neighborhoods from this.

The county has enabled the amount of plastic and trash build up within our county when they decided to give outdoor growers a cap at 10,000 sq ft and nurseries and mixed light double of that square footage. Of course people are going to get permits for what has more sq footage and it is encouraging waste and degradation in our county. Encourage outdoor grows that have Best Management Practices in place as this type of cultivation will strongly improve our environmental climate. Outdoor plants have the ability to collect and store water in thier root systems and sequester carbon. However, NOT when done in a monocrop style such as would happen with too large of an expansion. Monocrop agriculture, as much of the wine and food industry is, has negatively contributed to the drought and wildfire crisis we face. With constant tilling of the soil and spraying for pests year after year (because at larger scales, the level of problems on a farm also increase) is depleting the earth's ability to retain water and hold life. This is basic soil science. Our soil represents our wealth. If we have dead soil and depleted water resources from large grows that are not practicing Best Management Practices, the whole county will suffer loss and no one will be able to successfully grow anything at all. We must consider long term effects over short term profits. Slow and steady wins the race. It may not seem that way now, but I encourage you all to reflect on what our future will look like if unregulated monocrops take over this beautiful county.

We understand that our county as a community and cannabis industry is divided and is in need of great mending and protecting. It is your position as the board of supervisors of Mendocino County to support and hear your constituents voices, and make desicions that keep the community intact and healthy.

As a member of CCAG I have been working to put together a comprehensive Best Management Practices program. We wish to continue this discussion after tomorrow's meeting and keep working together to create the best outcome and cannabis program for us all.

Sincerely,

Patricia Vargas
With Sun Roots Farm