

June 2, 2021

Board of Supervisors

County of Mendocino

Dear Supervisors Gjerde, Haschak, Williams, Mulheren, and McGourty,

The current cannabis push in our community is further threatening our resources. Water is already scarce and is being utilized for crops which are illegally grown and leaving wells low or dry, threatening livestock and perennial plants. It appears that citizens feel entitled to break the rules and hide their crops with high fences and hoop houses. The odor is so offensive that permeates our community. My neighbor's house next to new hoop houses is so pungent that one cannot escape the smell.

My children are growing up in a culture that winks its eye at crime. This is invasive. Cultivators who have hoop houses without permits must be held to the law. These create land and homes which lower the value of real estate in our valley. The owners of such properties should be prevented from selling the property until the damage has been abated. The crime associated with "grows" is increasing. Sirens and speeding vehicles in the night have become so common that we just try to go back to sleep. Investigating is pointless as we know it is another high-speed chase for criminality associated with the illegal industry.

The notion that "my neighbor is growing, so I can too" is eroding this valley. We are facing the impacts of legal and illegal cultivation on our community. Our agrarian culture is threatened by those who disregard prudent policies in maintaining stewardship of the land. Crime will continue to rise and increase in severity until measures are in place which disrupt the current trend.

Respectfully,  
Cynthia Livingston  
Redwood Valley