

June 2, 2021
Board of Supervisors
County of Mendocino

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

I am greatly concerned about the current cannabis push in our community which 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. The crime associated with "grows" is increasing.

People seem to feel entitled to break the rules and hide their crops with high fences and hoop houses. The pungent odor is so offensive and ubiquitous that one cannot escape the smell. My children see that crime is okay, because laws are not enforced. We have had alerts that criminals are loose in the area and we must stay indoors and hide to protect ourselves.

The notion that "my neighbor is growing, so I can too" is eroding this valley. 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. But again, we are allowing existing rules to be ignored and crime to flourish.

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,
Jeremy Livingston
Redwood Valley