



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

June 7, 2021

Re: Item 5c on 6/8/2021 - Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Re-Establishment of the Mendocino County Water Agency as a Stand-Alone Agency with Additional Capacity for Public Health and Safety Issues Related to Drought Response and other Critical Tasks.

Honorable Supervisors,

We fully support the re-establishment of the Mendocino County Water Agency as a stand-alone agency. Licensed cannabis cultivators are one of, if not the, most regulated businesses when it comes to water usage. While cannabis uses only a tiny fraction of the water used by orchards, rice, vegetables, pastureland, etc.(see Appendix A), it is essential to consider the impact of this drought on our local licensed operators and ensure that they have access to local programs and services designed to support the Mendocino community through this state of emergency.

We recommend the Board include the following items as part of the direction for the MCWA:

1. Proposed Staffing - We recommend the proposed Environmental Compliance Specialist have a working knowledge of environmental compliance for cannabis irrigation and other water uses, so they can provide the Mendocino Cannabis Program with direct support for our local licensed cultivators.
2. Priority Workload - We request that support be included for grant submissions and the funding of water storage and rainwater catchment infrastructure for local licensed cannabis cultivators, as well as other types of agriculture.
3. Streamlined Permitting - We recommend that a streamlined process be developed and implemented to reduce the process cost and time required for the county to permit and approve the permitting of ponds and other water storage techniques.

We thank you for considering the local, licensed cannabis cultivators as part of the County's targeted drought relief program.

Sincerely,

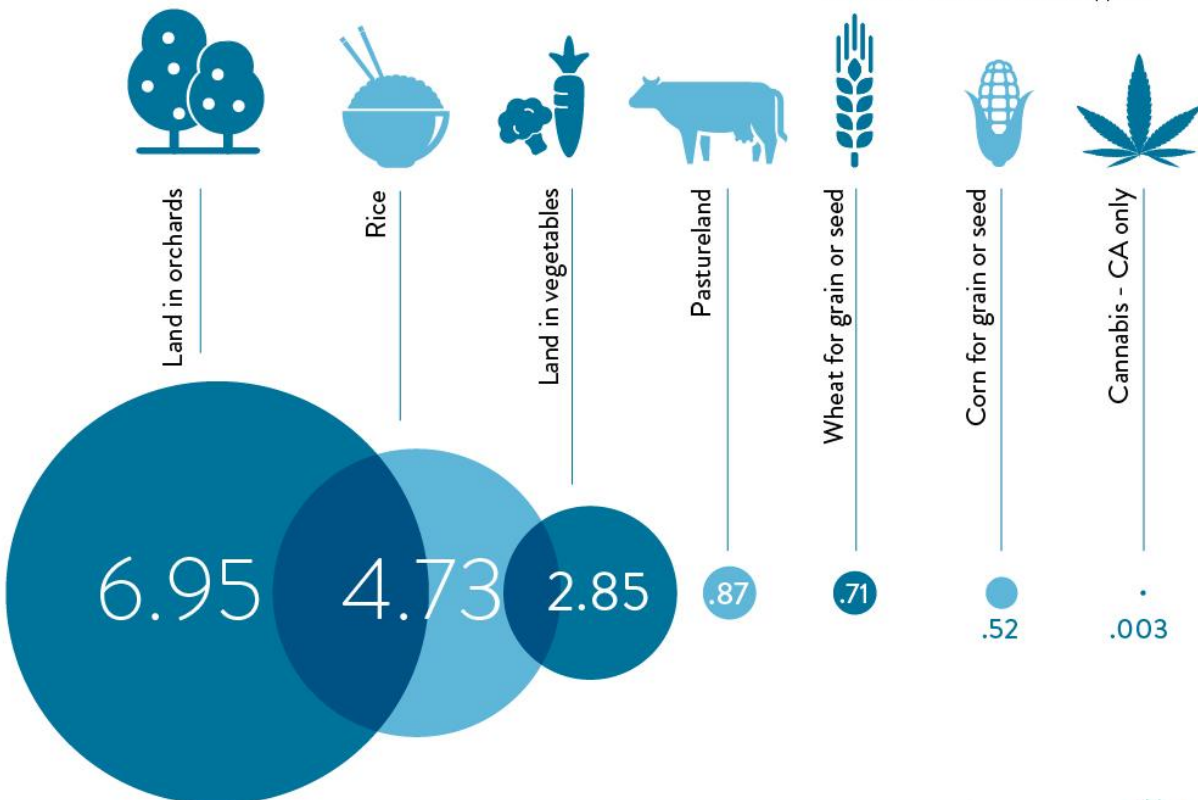
Mendocino Cannabis Alliance
e: info@mendocannabis.com



CANNABIS USES FAR LESS WATER THEN CALIFORNIA'S TOP CROPS

Water Use for California's Top Agricultural Crops*

Total Acre-Feet in Millions Applied



For More Insights Like This, Visit: **NewFrontierData.com**



* Water-use estimates for non-cannabis use crops are from 2013. Cannabis water-use estimates are from the full cannabis market in 2020.

©2014-2021 New Frontier Data | Source: Johnson, R., Cody, B., California Agricultural Production and Irrigated Water Use, Congressional Research Service, June 30, 2015, New Frontier Data

¹ <https://milled.com/new-frontier-data/is-cannabis-contributing-to-water-shortage-TkvGE7Wvi1cBSZg>