

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

6/21/2021

re: Cannabis Expansion

Dear Supervisors,

Cannabis and Water Availability

It is hard for me to have confidence in this Board, and this Cannabis expansion plan, when you wait til the last hour of the last hearing to ask one of the most important questions: How much water does Cannabis need?

You were informed that the smallest grow site would need 2400 gallons, but you never asked what the larger grow sites would need!
So, here's the math:

10.000 sq. ft. needs 2400 gallons per day.
1 acre needs 9,600 gallons per day
2 acre needs 19,200 gallons per day

The standard is one gallon of water per day for each pound of processed flower you expect to harvest from each plant. A good plant yields 7 lbs. of flower which requires 7 gallons of water per day.

The central problem here is that Cannabis needs a lot of water and a lot of fertilizer. We aren't talking about olives here, but a water thirsty crop.

Toxic Algae

In all of the 25 or more hearings on this matter I have never heard the word "algae" enter the conversation. Yet, the fact is the toxic algae, caused by nitrite fertilizers, is killing our dogs and making our children sick. The Eel and the Navarro River, in particular are heavily impacted. This expansion proposal will only exacerbate the problem, and you all have never bothered with a discussion, much less a remedy, tho I did ask my Supervisor for one.

Water Contamination

Covelo is now having a problem with Nitrite/Nitrate contamination of their water supply. Potter Valley will likely follow suit.

These **nitrites** in the blood cause changes in hemoglobin, or the molecules that help move oxygen in the body. **Nitrates** can **make** it so that less oxygen is available for the body to function properly.

Symptoms of nitrate/nitrite poisoning include • Bluish skin from a lack of oxygen (likely noticed around mouth/lips first). • Difficulty breathing, • Nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, • Dehydration (from loss of bodily fluids) • Fast pulse, dizziness, weakness, coma and/or convulsions.

Grant Funding for an EIR

From Sonoma County I received the following:

If you are referring to the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program, the budget bill (SB 118) is working its way through the legislative process. Once approved, we will review how the funds will be allowed to be used.

McCall Miller

Department Analyst | Cannabis Ombudsperson

Sonoma County Administrator's Office

E: cannabis@sonoma-county.org | sonomacounty.ca.gov/cannabis-program

Lack of Public Support

The public does not support this expansion proposal, so why is it only Supervisor Haschak who is willing to acknowledge this central fact?

Who are you working for?

A Referendum Question ?

Please have County Council clarify whether a “portion” of an ordinance being challenged through the referendum process can be struck without negating the entire ordinance.

Sincerely,
Sheila Jenkins,
5th District Resident, Willits