

6/21/2021

To Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Re Cannabis Land Use Ordinance, item 5g

As a 30 plus year resident of Mendocino County I am asking you delay expansion of cannabis cultivation in this County until an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been completed. Even your proposed cap of 1-2 acres represents a 400-800% increase from the quarter acre that is currently allowed. Humboldt County did complete an EIR and uses it to inform their land and water use. Sonoma County, because of public pressure and concerns of potential lawsuits, is pursuing one. We need to understand the cumulative impacts of cannabis and other agricultural (i.e. grapes) endeavors on our County water and land resources prior to any expansion of cannabis.

An EIR is the responsible response to our current drought and uncertain future which may include more droughts. It's an assessment we need. Trying to bypass the State requirement for an EIR by passing the new cannabis ordinance prior to the July 1 cutoff date is shortsighted and poor stewardship.

A property with a dry well is not worth the same as a property with an operating well. It is a devastating loss to the owner, both financially and in the day to day activities of living. Please do not put the people who have wells for their primary source of water at further risk.

This current emergent situation has occurred because of little or no enforcement by this County on the estimated 9000 illegal cannabis grows that are draining our water.

Please do the right thing. Put the needs of citizens ahead of the desires of large or illegal cultivators, wanting to make their money and scam before the last drop of water is gone. Please continue to support the environmentally responsible legal cultivator who wants to grow responsibly with our valuable land and water resources, by having no expansion until an EIR is done.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Magoffin
Covelo/Albion