

June 21, 2021

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

Re: June 22, 2021 BOS Meeting, Agenda Item 5g

Dear Supervisors:

Thank you, for the opportunity to participate in this important issue.

I am writing to object to and request that you table or reject passing the proposed cannabis cultivation ordinance that expands the area previously allowed to grow cannabis in Mendocino County, even the proposed compromise of an initial or “phased-in” two acre expansion. Instead, I request that the BOS first undertake an appropriate Environmental Impact Review so that you and your constituents (me, for one) have the necessary data to make an informed decision about a matter that is reasonably certain to have a significant effect on our environment . . . our home.

Underscoring the urgent need for additional consideration and data collection before forging ahead with this project that has such a tremendous potential for environmental impact, is our current State of Emergency due to draught. Draught caused by climate change. Decades and decades ago, our citizens and our government forged ahead with revenue-enhancing projects, giving little or no concern about the future consequences of their decisions. And those decisions, although made in the spirit of bringing revenue and jobs to their country/towns/homes/families, ultimately are now costing us dearly. We must learn from our past mistakes so as to preserve our and our children’s future. We have the capability, expertise, and resources (and time, I submit, as we are in a draught-induced “pause”) to review (and if needed, amend) the planned ordinance from an informed position. We currently have available to our County, financial resources through State grants, to assist in funding an EIR.

You have the support of the majority of our county’s citizens to **not** move forward with this expansion. What harm can collecting critical data (that may or may not change some hearts and minds) cause when compared to the harm and permanent damage from a potentially ill-planned, but well-intentioned policy?

Mendocino County is unique and wild and beautiful and full of opportunity and promise. And I believe that each member of the BOS strives to do what is best for our county. But as is with water, our natural resources are finite and precious. We cannot afford to enter into agreements, practices, policies, or laws that have the potential to permanently impact our environment without the appropriate and necessary information, consideration, planning, and *informed* citizen input.

Again, thank you, for the opportunity to speak.

Krista L. Pickens
Resident of 3rd District, Mendocino County