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5/3/2021

Planning & Building Services

To: Planning Commission

Cc: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Re: Commercial Cannabis Activity Land Use Ordinance.” (Agenda item: 6c).

Dear Planning Commission

Re the Commercial Cannabis Activity Land Use Ordinance: I support no expansion into Ag land. Due diligence would be biting the bullet and getting an EIR done for all agricultural activities requiring water. Only an EIR will show the cumulative effects of all the multiple activities that are now draining our precious water.

As a long time resident of Mendocino County (39 years) and a 7-year resident of Covelo, I have been watching the overall decline of my beautiful Covelo Valley. Hoop houses are increasing and lighted hoop houses are showing up more and more as I drive into the valley at night. Along 162 coming along the Eel river there are new lighted grows.

This is out of control. We desperately need enforcement. If I begin building a house on my property without a permit I would be stopped. Why is it that these grows are allowed to continue to flagrantly turn their lights on at night and nothing is done? We have no business expanding cannabis cultivation until we have rid ourselves of the illegal and non-compliant grows. How will you help the residents of Covelo, who are all on wells, when our aquifers are drained?

As stewards for our County I ask you to consider the long-term effects of an expanding cannabis industry, which is already under-enforced and under-supported, on our land, water resources and current residents. We trust you to look out for the County. As the many letters you have already received state, we are not ready for such an expansion nor are we even sure we have the water or people resources to support an expanding cannabis industry.

Thank you for your attention,

Marilyn Magoffin  
Covelo