

**pbscommissions - Fwd: Meeting on May 6th -Cannabis Ordinance**

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**From:** PBS PBS  
**To:** pbscommissions  
**Date:** 5/5/2021 11:41 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Meeting on May 6th -Cannabis Ordinance  
**Attachments:** Planning letter.docx

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Planning & Building Services

>>> rstark <rstark@mcn.org> 5/5/2021 11:28 AM >>>

May 5, 2021

Mendocino County Planning Commission  
501 Low Gap Rd.  
Ukiah Ca. 954582

Re: Cannabis Ordinance

Dear Commissioners,

I am against this ordinance as it is.

- This County is at a crossroads. The Supervisors are hurrying to push this ordinance through against the will of the people. There will be at least two referendums that will solicit signatures of the voters. If successful they will freeze this ordinance and force the County to have a special election.
- First and foremost, this County needs an EIR (as in Humboldt County), that will address the cumulative effects of all agriculture and land use, not just cannabis. The Senate Environmental Quality Committee has concluded that the environmental impacts of land use ordinances are just too high to allow these ordinances to continue to be adopted without EIRs, therefore the deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup> will not be extended. CDFW says an EIR is needed, John Haschak says an EIR is needed. We are in a severe drought and people are very concerned. Leaving this up to the planning commission's "discretion" is not enough.
- There has been much talk about not allowing hoop houses and greenhouses. The current draft ordinance does not address this. Quite the contrary, it lists mixed light under several permit types. These types of structures are lighted at night and pose a major threat to our quality of life.
- The supervisors don't seem to know how much rangeland could be converted into Cannabis farms, if this ordinance is passed. The guidelines of what constitutes "formerly farmed" is vague and "open to interpretation. There is appx. 12,000 acres of Ag land in Round Valley alone. There could be 1200 acres of Cannabis, in this one area. Wells are going dry, the environment can't take it. One hydrologist recently said that it is possible that, if depleted too much, this aquifer in Round Valley may never recover, as was the case for areas in the Central Valley.
- Supervisor (John Haschak) of the third district, where the majority of cannabis grows are and will be, is against this ordinance. Sheriff Kendall is against this, The Farm Bureau is against this, all environmental organizations are against this.
- Total lack of enforcement: I cannot even get Code Enforcement to shut down the hoop house lights for a grow that is in the permit system. Code Enforcement cannot deal with the so called "legal" grows and the County is doing absolutely nothing about the illegal grows.
- This cannabis situation is totally out of control and this ordinance will only expand the problems and will not address County wide environmental concerns.

I do believe that the ordinance as it stands is not what the majority of the people of the County want. You are our representatives, please advise the Supervisors from this standpoint.

Best regards,  
Ron Stark  
Covelo/Albion