

pbscommissions - CASE#: R_2019-0012

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Date: 1/28/2022 8:40 AM
Subject: CASE#: R_2019-0012

Mendocino County

JAN 31 2022

Planning & Building Services

Hello to members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to describe my concerns about two requests by Brandy Moulton.

1. **CASE#:** R_2019-0012 which I will address as Jade Ct
2. **CASE#:** R_2019-0013 which I will address as Franklin Road

Your approval will send these requests to the Supervisors but I am requesting you negate these. I cannot find a "mission statement" for the Planning Committee but will address the Mission Statement for the Board and hope that will influence you.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors' mission is to create and maintain a responsive and responsible government that enhances the quality of life of the people of Mendocino County. The County's mission is to deliver services that meet: Public safety, health, social, cultural, education, transportation, economic, and environmental needs of our communities.

The citizens of our impacted area have voted overwhelmingly to not allow commercial cannabis endeavors. A vote was authorized by the Board and democracy has spoken definitely. The above mission statement specifically states the ideal of being responsive and responsible.

Allowing a commercial activity that produces a non-essential product in a densely populated residential area, zoned accordingly, certainly will not enhance our quality of life. It is likely to degrade our safety, health, economic and environmental needs. Both areas in question overlie two significant watersheds, Mitchell Creek (Jade Ct) and Digger Creek (Franklin Road.) The latter flow goes west in close proximity to properties south of Simpson Lane, then runs through the Botanical Gardens which uses the water for irrigation just prior to discharging into the ocean. I live on Mitchell Creek Drive, due west of the Franklin Road proposal, where portions of the water table "daylight" with the emergence of springs, all of which coalesce into Digger Creek. I don't have to look in a well to see the effects of the drought as the springs which were active all year now are seasonal with greatly diminished flows or absent. Yet after significant winter rains of several days, our property exhibits huge flows of water. Small waterfalls display mounds of soap bubbles, indicating probable leaching from surface use of cleaning products. The impact of water usage and chemicals leaching into this water source for hundreds of citizens and wildlife cannot be predicted.

Several years ago when commercial cannabis growing in our community was first considered, I wrote to the Board about the increased risk of fire associated with commercial growing. I sent several links to websites with this information. Here is a more recent link:

<https://emergencyreporting.com/blog/fire-code-compliance-challenges-marijuana-grow-facilities/>

We take the risk of fire in our area seriously. Within the last few years, several residents of the Mitchell Creek Drive-Turner Road area, Anna Garza, Ron Hock, Michelle Patterson, and I, initiated the Fort Bragg South Fire Safe Council and have worked diligently with Supervisor Gjerde, Fort Bragg Fire Chief Steve Orsi, and Alex Leonard, Battalion Chief, Cal Fire, Mendocino Unit, to develop a secondary emergency egress in the event of a fire should Simpson Lane become blocked. This has happened many times with downed wires from falling trees and automobile accidents involving utility poles at the many curves in the road. An alternative route east from the coast for fire fighting crews and equipment was established on Gibney Lane through Jackson State Forrest but that is not suitable for automobiles. A possible route through Pearl Drive through private properties has been discussed and visited but obstacles (literally and figuratively) remain that will be dealt with as an emergency evolves. This is not ideal. We certainly don't need to add to the risks.

Please deny this application. It is my understanding, the applicant doesn't even live in our neighborhood. Please consider the significant risks involved with commercial Cannabis growing including increasing the risks of fire, the decrease or lack of water for residents for their daily uses which is becoming more commonplace, and water toxicity involving agricultural fertilizers and pest control. Above all, please respect the expressed opposition by our neighborhood residents not only by a vote authorized by the county but a large turnout for a pre-pandemic meeting where this was discussed.

Thank you and thanks for your participation on the Planning Committee.

Keevan Abramson
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