

MAY 18 2023

May 16, 2023

Planning & Building Services

Dear Planning Commissioners,

This is in response to a statement by Ms. Lerman in a second letter she submitted dated March 22, 2022. Ms. Lerman mentions costs expended by her clients of "approximately \$223, 113." **We respond:** Without seeing documentation, we must take Ms. Lerman at her word, but question whether any of these costs include fines for violations. It is also mentioned Road D site drilled a well, so we question if the cost of drilling is also included in the above amount?

Ms. Lerman further states, "It is unfair to lead a person into such expenditures, and then take the benefits therefrom away from that person." **We respond:** The attorney's clients should have known the cost of conducting this business and obviously had the money to purchase a large agricultural piece of property. Under this ordinance, they may still be allowed to conduct this business for an additional three years if they are fully and legally permitted. It is estimated that Cannabis growers are able to produce 3 to 4 crops per growing season in hoop houses. **There is much talk that pot prices are down to the point where it is no longer profitable to grow. We believe this is mainly true for the smaller long-time Mendocino County growers who are being affected and pushed out by these new mega growers being allowed in.**

Regarding water usage, Ms. Lerman states: "1750/1900 Rd. D had permitted wells drilled, have Redwood Valley Ag water, have had to purchase water in the past (so clearly their well isn't taking water from other properties)." **We respond:** If they had to purchase water and truck it in, and if they had to drill a well, it sounds like there was not sufficient water on the property for this type of business to begin with. This leads to a greater question of how much water is being drawn from their newly drilled well and from the aquifer that is in close proximity to residences which depend on well water only. We have no guarantee 2270 Rd E will not also drill a new well.

The basis of our application to form this "CP" Cannabis Prohibition district has always been from the start: our concerns over enough water to sustain what already exists in our area, a preservation of our environment including clean water and wildlife habitat, and safety concerns given the often cited problems that come along with the nature of the Cannabis business.

Best Regards,

Redwood Valley Eastside Residential Committee/Project R\_2021-0002