

Mendocino County

May 11, 2023

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Planning Commission
501 Low Gap
Ukiah, CA 95482

Planning & Building Services

Re: Rezone request to establish a Cannabis Prohibition zone

We have owned the parcel adjacent to the Road H/Road E vineyard located within the proposed Cannabis Opt-Out zone for 43 years with no problems related to normal vineyard activity and the workers employed by the vineyard management. This proposed commercial cannabis grow, while in a vineyard designated Ag land use, is surrounded by residences where families live, raise animals, have vegetable gardens and fruit orchards. There is a place for commercial cannabis grows, but I do not believe it is in the middle of a vineyard that is surrounded by small acreage residences. Proponents of commercial cannabis recently stated that if this Cannabis Prohibition zone is approved it will put all cannabis cultivation at risk and do nothing to control unregulated cannabis grows. The purpose of the requested Cannabis Prohibition zone is not to eliminate cannabis cultivation, but to allow longtime residents to retain current quality of life with commercial cannabis located in a more appropriate location. Unregulated cannabis sites fall under the jurisdiction of cannabis enforcement and law enforcement, not this group of residents.

It has been said that Cannabis is just a new crop, there was opposition to grapes when they replaced the apples and pears and this is just the same. In the past few years there have been reported home invasions in Redwood Valley that have involved cannabis but not grapes, apples or pears. We are not trying to put the current owner of the subject property out of business, as he bought an established producing vineyard which could be maintained by the new owner without adding cannabis.

Cannabis proponents have said commercial cannabis growers want to be good neighbors. In 43 years we have had many good neighbors surrounding our rural home. Those neighbors have never been the cause of a law enforcement helicopter flying low over our house in order to land at the neighbor's property. Good neighbors have not brought a long line of various law enforcement and other enforcement vehicles to come down the road by our house. Actions by good neighbors have not caused armed law enforcement walking their property that adjoins our fence. All of the mentioned activities were caused by the neighbor at the proposed commercial cannabis site with an illegal cannabis crop of approximately 1600 plants. Why should this person who knowingly broke the laws by growing illegally be rewarded with approval to grow commercial cannabis in our neighborhood and law-abiding tax paying neighbors pay the penalty?

Mendocino County has the opportunity currently to decide where commercial cannabis grows are located and also preserve established small acreage residential areas for longtime residents. The question must be asked, does the county want to gain any short-term benefit from allowing commercial grows to establish uncontrolled in the valley and lose long term residents. Having a commercial grow in our backyard will reduce our property value and eliminate some potential buyers. My son in law and oldest grandson are both in law enforcement and neither one would purchase a home alongside a commercial cannabis grow. If we are forced to sell our property so as not to live next to commercial cannabis, will more commercial cannabis replace our home, vegetable and fruit tree gardens? Is this future Redwood Valley?


Lois A Goforth


Mervyn L Goforth