

Kneeland School District

9313 Kneeland Road • Kneeland, California 95549

County of Humboldt
Planning and Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, California 95501

Re: **Opposition** to Commercial Cannabis Cultivation
Record Number PLN-2020-17313; APN 314-311-037

Dear Zoning Administrator

I am writing in strong opposition of the proposed cannabis cultivation site on Cross Creek road. I am the superintendent for Kneeland School District which is one mile from the proposed cannabis cultivation site. Kneeland School is the community's hub and it serves students ages 4 to 14, grades Transitional Kindergarten through eighth grade.

While I realize that the permit requested for this site has been modified to avoid a hearing, the fact remains that the school has an active bus stop alongside the proposed parcel. The bus stop is within 600 feet of the parcel border. Megan Acevedo has produced a graphic stating that the bus stop is 1,000 feet from the cultivation site, but should this zoning adjustment be made, it has already been self-admitted by the zoning department that there is not enough staff to enforce regulations and restrictions. The point at which Mrs. Acevedo indicates is 400 feet from the parcel border, but that does not indicate the edge of the cultivation site, but, rather, the center of it. There are also posts and markers established on the property that are far closer to the bus stop than the singular point that Mrs. Acevedo reports. The school has children as young as four years old walking on the single-lane, dirt road from where parents park to where the bus is located. The cultivation site on that parcel will greatly increase traffic on that road and will place the lives of these young people in danger. The people who live up here enjoy the security of being in a safe area and many people have gone to great lengths to ensure a safe environment for their children and families. The establishment of this grow site in this neighborhood directly and negatively affects many legacy families who have endured numerous obstacles to stay on the hill. Furthermore, there is no other location in the immediate area for a bus stop. This is going to pose a significant hardship for our school, our families, and our students.

The increased traffic, particularly for large equipment to develop the cultivation site, but also the trucks and trailers to haul product will put our school bus at increased risk. Kneeland road has

no shoulder and few turnouts large enough to facilitate a large school bus. We have already seen a dangerous increase in traffic with large trucks and trailers hauling product and they seldom travel at safe speeds. Our bus cannot move over. There are dozens of tight, blind curves on Kneeland road. The safety of our students is paramount and the establishment of another cultivation site will directly impair our ability to ensure the safe transport of our students.

Furthermore, the school must follow strict state guidelines for its established, independent water system that serves the public. Currently, the school is eligible for a waiver for costly monthly testing due to commercial agricultural sites because we have heretofore shown that there are no cultivation sites at the level of or above the school's water source. Because the proposed site is above the school's water source, the state may implement the costly water testing at great detriment to the school.

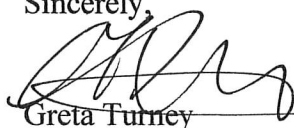
The Astronomers of Humboldt have an existing observatory at Kneeland School. The astronomers hold monthly meetings at the school and have taught our students for the last two decades about the night sky. One such student has enrolled in college to become an astrophysicist because of what he learned from the Astronomers of Humboldt. With the increased light pollution brought through these increasing cultivation sites on Kneeland, the Astronomers of Humboldt are becoming more and more limited in finding areas without light pollution. (Light pollution will also significantly affect the health and safety of our wildlife. This may seem insignificant, but every facet of our ecosystem is an integral part of our environment's health. We NEED bats. We NEED owls. We NEED nocturnal species to balance our ecosystem's equilibrium.)

The safety and sustainability of our school and our community is our first concern. The development of this cultivation site will directly and negatively impact both our school and our community. Please. Please, consider the impacts this cultivation site will have on our neighborhood, our environment, our community, and our school.

There are currently more interim permits that the zoning and planning department have not even awarded a full permits for than there are permitted grows! As of 10/25/21, there are 1,092 permitted grows, and 1,150 interim permits! Why is the zoning department and planning department rubber stamping new permits without first working on what's already on their plate? The safety of our neighborhood, our school, and our young people should take precedence!

Kneeland School strongly opposes the zoning and construction of the proposed cannabis cultivation development.

Sincerely,



Greta Turney

Kneeland School Superintendent