

McClenagan, Laura

Subject: Mad River Family Farms PLN-11728-CUP PLN-1170-CUP PLN-11727-CUP

From: Josine Smits <josinesmits@msn.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 12:27 PM

To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>

Cc: hilkenm@lacoassociates.com

Subject: Mad River Family Farms PLN-11728-CUP PLN-1170-CUP PLN-11727-CUP

To the Humboldt County Planning Commission,

RE: Mad River Family Farms, Public Hearing date: 10/7/2021

Record numbers: PLN-11728-CUP; PLN-1170-CUP; PLN-11727-CUP

My husband Gerard Dirk Smits and I have owned land in the Eight-Mile-Ridge neighborhood since 2001. We are glad that Mad River Family Farms is bringing their cannabis cultivation operation into compliance, and we support their application.

I have read the staff report and all supplementary documents. It was encouraging to see that some of the energy required will be provided by a solar installation, but it is not quantified in the report by how much.

We want to see a concrete path to ending the use of carbon fuels on the site, and a definitive agreement that this will be accomplished in 3 years, for the following 3 reasons:

- 1) The current use of fuels and the transportation of them along River Road are both an extreme fire hazard and a chemical hazard. River Road runs across our property for almost two miles. Over the years, multiple utility vehicles have driven off the road, tumbling down the steep slope right above the Mad River, spilling diesel, gasoline and oil, as well as other chemicals. If the ongoing operation of the Mad River Family Farms requires a steady supply of fuel to be trucked in, the possibility of a spill occurring, or a fire being sparked is high. Replacing the generators by a solar system installed on site will provide a safe alternative.
- 2) This is a remote semi-wilderness area adjacent to the national forest. The environmental impact from the growers' activities that has most degraded our personal experience of our own land is the light pollution of the nighttime sky and the unrelenting noise of generators. We trust that Family Farms will adhere to good neighborly practices by closing the black-out tarps before sunset, but the noise reduction measures do not seem sufficient or enforceable. Noise at 50 decibels is actually quite loud. This benchmark also does not take into account how sound travels in the valley. A solar installation is quiet.
- 3) A solar installation that provides 100% renewable energy will make Mad River Family Farms sustainable and help California fulfill adopted climate goals.

Solar power would fix all these things and it is also cost-effective. Several neighbors are already converting to solar to save money.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Josine Smits