

McClenagan, Laura

From: River Walker <riverwalker1111@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:03 PM
To: Planning Clerk
Subject: North Fork Mattole Farms, LLC, PLN-2020-16766, 9-16-2021 APN105-051-009

Public Comment on North Fork Mattole Farms, LLC, PLN-2020-16766, 9-16-2021 APN105-051-009

We'd like to add our voice of dissent to the proposed operation. The citizens of this community are tired of feeling helpless as we watch greenhouse after greenhouse erected along our roadsides and sightlines. The beautiful land we live here to enjoy is becoming tall wooden fences, plastic water tanks, light dep frames, and flapping poly plastic. The proposed site is on the pastoral heart of Petrolia, a bit of land that gives us pride in our rural landscapes, and it's personally heartbreaking to think of it becoming an industrial source of resentment and frustration to us all.

If the only way to stay competitive (or solvent) in cannabis is to do away with natural in ground, outdoor seasonal farming, and instead construct 10 massive growing greenhouses and divert 22x the amount of water to them as would be used for the field agriculture, why get it in at all. Once we give up valuable flatland to greenhouses and dry sheds, there is very little hope of it going back. Ever lower returns on this individual crop, as will assuredly come seeing it's trajectory to this day, will instigate larger production areas once already invested in. The community sees this and would like to adamantly draw the line here. Our rural and residential town will not become an industrial wasteland.

We believe this proposition will have a net negative effect on our community and town, and hope that the growers and planning department hear that it is not wanted. We also believe that a less impactful proposition for only outdoor agriculture would be embraced. The lower Mattole watershed is not anti-weed, just anti-industrialization of the land. There is plenty of opportunity to have a positive impact on the land and community with this project, but the current proposition is not it.

- River Walker and Jessica Brown