

To Humboldt County Planning Commission
Date: May 3, 2021
From: Bonnie Blackberry
For: May 6, 2021 Planning Commission meeting

RE: Feedback on Plan approved on April 15, 2021 Consent Agenda

Planning Commissioners,

At your last meeting, I heard some commissioners talking about wanting to get the marijuana grows out of the hills. This is a FYI on a mega grow in the hills with 29 plastic greenhouses and 6 generators approved by the Planning Commission on April 15th. PLN 11594 for a 49,198 square foot mega grow was approved by the Planning Commission on April 15, 2021 on the consent calendar. (*parcel 216-174-010 previously Tooby Ranch*) This Plan includes 6 generators, using 610,000 gallons of water for "49,198 square feet", with 9,217sf mixed light, 16,981sf light deprivation and 23,000sf outdoor full sun. Irrigation water sourced from 2 springs and a groundwater well. (we are in serious drought)

Currently the grow has 5 hoop houses, shipping containers, sheds and temporary bathroom facilities. The approved plan is for 29 greenhouses in four locations, plus plans to build a 2,400 sf processing building, and other structures... There will be 7-9 employees for the 3 mixed light crops, 2 light dep crops and 1 outdoor crop per year, driving in and out on the Dyerville Loop Road (a gravel road).

If the allotted square footage is multiplied by the number of crops grown via light deprivation and the mixed light, along with the outdoor, the total would be 84,613 square feet, not the "existing 49,198 square feet". What is considered as "existing" is only assessed by square footage, with no consideration into what type of grow was actually existing. Was it a single crop outdoor, or under some trees, without plastic greenhouse, generators etc?

I have concerns with generators and fires, generators and noise. I am very concerned about the fire risk with all the generators going, especially when it is dry and hot with the workers not required to be at the generator site when running. I also have concerns about covering the meadows with 29 plastic greenhouses, as well as the projected water use of 610,000 gallons of water during a climate crisis and drought to grow multiple crops to make more money. How much is enough? What about the wildlife?

Large grows in the hills are creating more traffic on county roads that are not built or maintained to handle all of the trucks and vehicles. And then there is the dust, covering everything. Our private roads were not built for commercial use, and categorizing them as Category 4 or functionally equivalent, when in reality they are not functionally equivalent, is setting us up for dangerous situations, especially in the event of an emergency such as a fire.

The Eel River running by Garberville has very little water, some of our creeks are drying up or already out of water. Permitting these mega grows out in the hills is NOT SUSTAINABLE. Is there going to be any water for those of us who live here? How about the wildlife when the creeks have no water?

I've attached the plan PDF in case you want to check my facts. I hope you take this into consideration when you are saying you want to get the marijuana grows out of the hills. And please take into consideration the reality that we are in a climate crisis and ongoing drought when you approve these multi harvest grows using wells and surface diversions.

Respectfully,
Bonnie Blackberry, Long time resident property owner and neighbor to the Tooby Ranch

