

From: [Lee Dedini](#)
To: [Planning Clerk](#)
Subject: Public comment on Mezzrow Farms, LLC; Record Number PLN-2020-16621
Date: Wednesday, May 04, 2022 12:18:45 PM

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Public comment on,
Mezzrow Farms, LLC; Record Number PLN-2020-16621; Hearing May 5, 2022 @ 10am, will now not be considered to the Zoning Administrator, and instead be referred to the Planning Commission.

Public notice on zoning-
Lee Dedini, Vice Chairman of the Mattole Council for the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center, owned by Presbytery of Redwoods and Managed by Mattole Council. Our parcel is #104-301-001, 9 beautiful acres along the river.

The Mattole Council is strongly opposed to the approval of the Special Permit, based on its negative environmental and economic impact to Mattole Camp and Retreat Center.

We understand and appreciate that the Special Permit request will be removed from the Zoning Administrator consent agenda and brought before the Planning Commission.

The continued economic viability of our Mattole Camp and Retreat Center depends upon our ability to attract reservations from groups who wish to visit our site for its peaceful, serene nature. The continued expansion of industrial-scale cannabis agriculture threatens our equally valid, and arguably more socially and environmentally responsible, industry. We are strongly against the proposed industrial cannabis farm, which could negatively impact our ability to continue to attract visitors to a beautiful and peaceful place, and therefore affecting our economic viability.

We have groups attending our Mattole Camp and Retreat Center this year from mid-May through September. Taking the number of people in these group and the number of camper nights, brings a total of 1600 camper nights for this coming summer season. We suffered economic losses and were effectively shut down for the past two years due to covid and are now just beginning to get back financially.

While reliant upon guest reservations from out of the immediate area, the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center is also a cherished part of local Mattole Valley culture. We have hosted local weddings, celebrations, family reunions, and local organization retreats over the years. However, if our site becomes hemmed in by large-scale cannabis farms – including the heavy truck traffic, noise from fans and generators when the power is out, and pervasive smell of cannabis, which some of our guests are sensitive to - it rapidly becomes less desirable as a natural location to “get away from it all.” The expected decrease in reservations directly affects our ability to remain open, and to continue to serve the needs for gathering space in the local community.

Our economic bottom line is on the line. Please do not approve this Special Permit that will

imperil our existence.

Approximately 2/3 of our Camp is directly below the questioned parcel numbers: 104-281-004 & 104-311-020. Our spring, which feeds our entire facility, is at the top of our property and about 1200 feet from the proposed greenhouses for growing. A good, clean, dependable water supply is a critical part of the Camp. We can reasonably expect that the productivity of our spring, located below parcel 104-281-004, will be negatively affected by their use of water. While we understand that this permit stipulates the use of no pesticides or fungicides, we've heard of a number of other cannabis farms using fungicides and we are concerned about the possibility for inadequate follow-up monitoring of the permit conditions. Thus we are concerned about impacts to our water quality.

We also have concerns relating to the natural erosion of the land from heavy rains. In the year 2019 we experienced a severe rockslide that buried our driveway. This occurred on our property adjacent to parcel 104-311-020. The more activity on that parcel, the more likely there is for land movement and as we are directly below, we are at risk and concerned. That same day, there was an erosion event that took out our spring box and water pipes connecting the camp's supply to the main spring. This is about 450 feet down from parcel # 104-281-004 and parcel number 104-311-020. That mud slide started at the top of the hill and traveled down through our water system to the river. We understand that living in a mountainous area has its "downsides" and we also know that the more activity occurring above us, could have a negative affect on the camp.

The Mattole Camp and Retreat Center will be significantly affected by the decision on the Special Permit. The Mattole Council asks the Humboldt County Planning Commission for your consideration of our request in this important matter.

From the Mattole Council for the Mattole Camp and Retreat