

## McClenagan, Laura

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**From:** Susan Radebaugh <clearwaterherbals@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:14 PM  
**To:** Planning Clerk  
**Cc:** Holtermann, Michael  
**Subject:** North Fork Mattole Farms, LLC project proposal

Project Title: North Fork Mattole Farms, LLC  
Record or case #: PLN-2020-16766  
Date of Hearing: 9-16-2021  
APN: 105-051-009

I am a long time resident of the Mattole Valley, and I am writing to express my concern over the increased commercialization of the cannabis industry at the expense of the natural habitat, and all that we value above and beyond monetary gain. The detrimental impact of these large grows on the local watershed is undeniable. I do not support another proposal that is seeking to make a profit for a few at the expense of the many.

The proposal sights 360,000 gallons of rainwater catchment in 72 water tanks will be needed to support the cannabis grow. We are in the midst of one of the worst droughts California and the Western United States has seen. Even if it were feasible, what will the negative impacts be on the rest of the watershed, by keeping water from restoring the water table, aquifer, river flow, and wells by such immense storage and usage plans? Will there be wells dug for "residential" use so close to the river that will further deplete the water table and limit river flows that are extremely low already, further endangering native species such as the salmon? Which brings up another point, about the amount of resources required to support the physical needs of said temporary workers. Won't more housing and development be needed on agricultural lands to supply for such needs?

I'm not only concerned about the amount of water that will be funneled off for industrial purposes but the amount of plastic that will be on site for such a project. Many of us moved here precisely because of the unique pristine beauty and serenity nature has to offer in such a place as this. The value of such rare and beautiful natural landscapes can not be overestimated and is deeply appreciated by most who come here to live and visit. This value is being disregarded and eroded in the interest of a few seeking to use a larger percentage of the resources here for monetary gain. As far as adding to the economy, most temporary workers are from out of the area, and money is primarily spent elsewhere, as well.

Along with the use of nonrenewable resources, plastic from petroleum, then there is the need for electricity, and the proposed use of generators to supply it, until which time it is available through PG &E. or the plan to use solar energy is developed. PG &E is already tapped out by the huge grows in the area, so the anticipated use of generators is a given for the time being. Along with that, you have noise pollution and lights not only affecting the immediate neighbors, but all those within a larger radius. Whether at night or daytime, the noise and lights generated by such operations are disruptive to humans and wildlife alike. Have ALL adjacent property owners given their approval to override the 300 ft. setbacks? Even if they have conceded, what about the rest of us who are affected by the very real impact of these grows on the natural environment.

Another concern I have is that the proposal is for 43,560 sq.ft. of "new" dry farmed cannabis for greater than 10 acres of property. The property is 82 acres, divided into separate parcels. Does that mean additional "new" dry farmed cannabis can be added and grown in the future, expanding exponentially. We have only to look at the effects in the Central Valley of excessive growth and expansion with the almond growers, water resource depletion, and the resulting catastrophe to the environment. The depletion of the underground water table can also lead to the very real danger of saltwater intrusion in areas close to the ocean.

Another real danger is the promotion of a monocrop agricultural product that not only has already saturated the market, with last year's returns on hold or undersold, but moreover it lessens the natural diversity that is important to the balance of any ecosystem.

In summary, the imminent detrimental impacts to the environment are

numerous and already apparent in the Mattole Valley ecosystem by these large scale industrial grows that are taxing the land and it's resources for profit at the expense of now and future generations. I appeal to you to call a moratorium on these large cannabis grows, at this time and in the future.

Respectfully,  
Susan Radebaugh