

John Ford

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission , Building Department, Board of supervisors

From: Jim Johnson 5640 State Hwy. 36, Carlotta

Regarding Cannabis grow on parcel 206-~~234~~<sup>341</sup>-019  
Empire LLC



This is my view of how we have arrived at this point. The original cannabis application did not include or properly indicate the neighbors or physical properties of the applicants property.

Many things were overlooked including neighbors setbacks, driveway locations, school bus, ephemeral watercourse (seasonal water runoff through the property). These items have been documented with the building department and buried in the large pile of paperwork required for the process. The inspector for the project was the one that was fired for taking a bribe and as far as I have been told no-one did a follow-up on his inspections.

When an inspector finally came out to investigate the contamination to my well from a large documented fertilizer tank spill many problems became obvious and required remediation. This has caused the grow to reapply for a license under the cannabis 2.0 ordinance. As the application now appears in front of the planning commission I would request you do what the county has not done. Please come to visit and view the actual topography and unique issues of our neighborhood.

8 parcels and 7 homes have their surface water flow across the applicants property. Not a single inspector has come in the WINTER to see our ephemeral zone (seasonal surface water flow) which is a no grow area and requires a setback. Water Quality has not signed off on this grow that has 2 spawning creeks 1 running thru and 1 behind. This surface flow goes directly into Wilson Ck. across an organic dairy and into Yager Cr. The Fish and wildlife has stated after their summer pre-site visit that no fill can be put on the property because of potential flooding upstream. This has been ignored and 2 driveways have been installed with many yards of gravel to allow winter access to the hoop houses and drying shed.

The grow is owned by a multinational corporation and the manager lives in Washington state. They responded to the water contamination 6 months after the 1st documented spill and then only after threat from the building department. The new Cannabis 2.0 rules state the green houses and hopefully the drying shed will

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be sealed with filters. The warm afternoon breeze blows upstream into 8 homes. After the intense smell this last summer I would hope they change / install their filters faster than their response time for the contaminated well.

All of the neighborhood is reluctant to have the county dictate what can and can not be done on private property but this does affect our property: flooding, odor, property values.

The Cannabis 2.0 EIR map has our neighborhood recommended as a rural residential zone and as a landowner fully support this to be approved.

Please visit our neighborhood before allowing this operation to continue or expand. I will be happy to show you our issues, bring waterproof boots for winter viewing.

Attached photos to help visualize situation .

Thank you

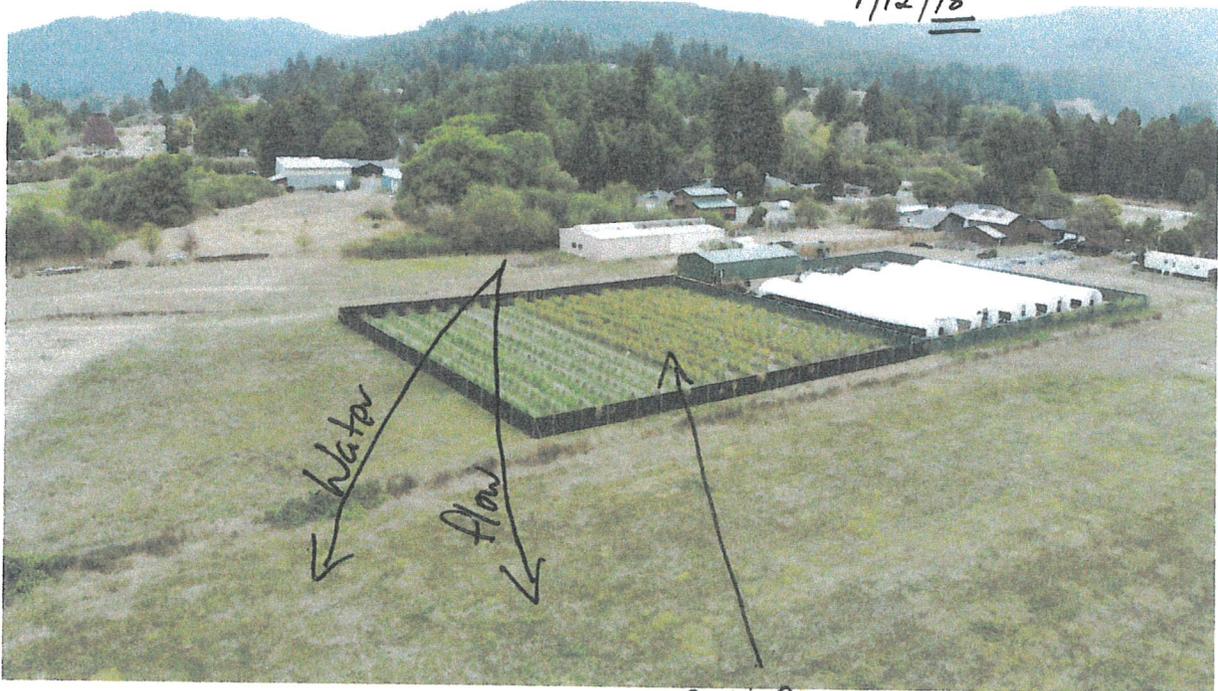
Jim Johnson

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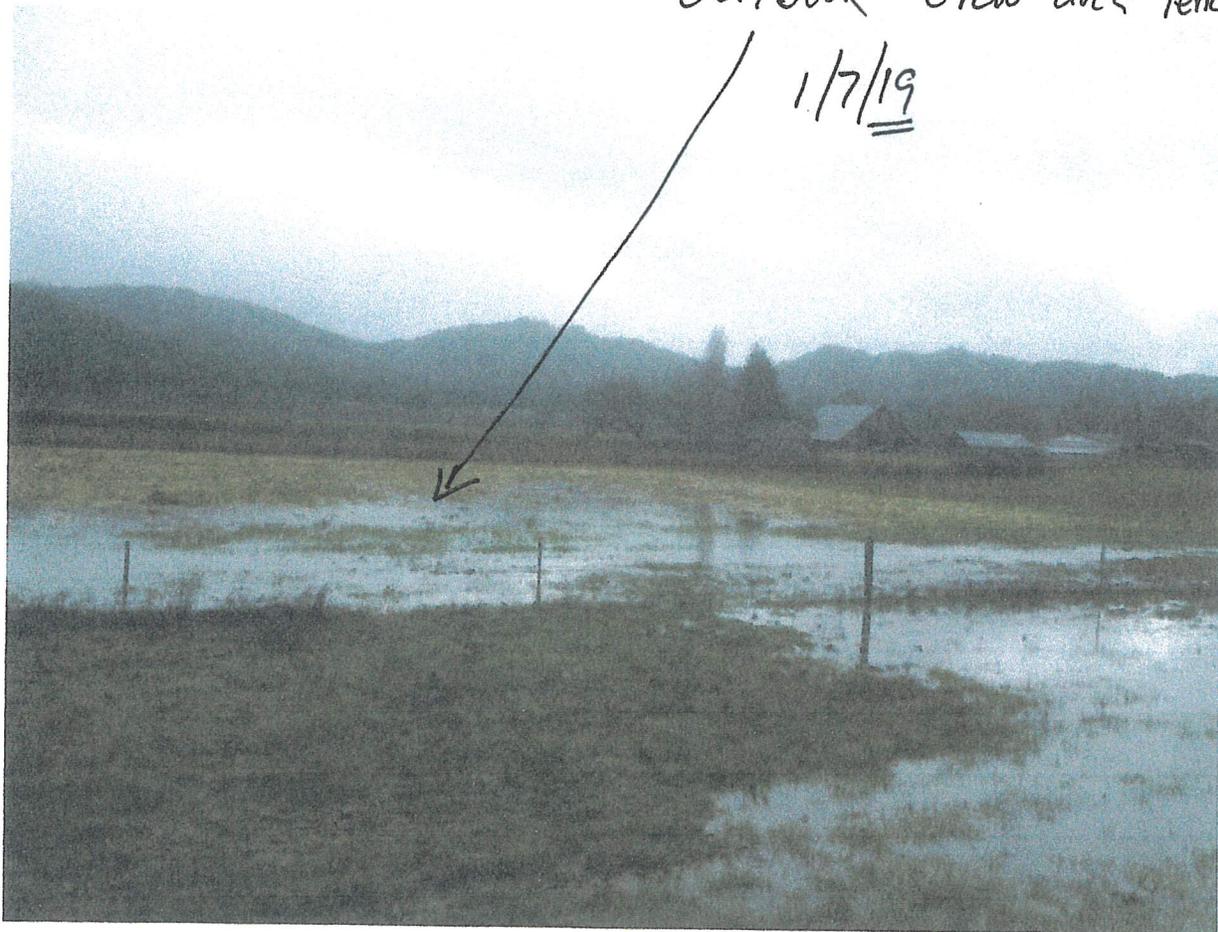
pictures of neighborhood

9/12/18



OUTDOOR Grow area fence removed

1/7/19





Attn: John Ford

January 27, 2019

To: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, Humboldt County Planning Commission  
John Ford (Humboldt County Planning Department)

From: Robert Frechou 66 Creekside Lane

341

RE: Cannabis grow parcel 206-234-019 (The Hempire Corporation)



The purpose of this letter is to express my concerns with this grow and the ongoing issues and the failure of this international corporation to comply with the Humboldt County Cannabis ordinance, State Water Control Board Regulations and California Fish and Wildlife Regulations. It is important to note that I personally support legalized cannabis and my only concerns are with the location of this grow and the impact that it is having on myself and all the adjacent property owners and the environmental issues that it is currently causing and/or may cause in the future. These issues need to be dealt with and mitigated if possible.

- The odor from the hoop greenhouses and the drying shed is unbearable, particularly during the warm summertime. It has reached the point to where the odor has become a Public Nuisance to all adjacent property owners. This calls into question the County's EIR and the negative declaration. The odors alone have negatively impacted the property values of over a dozen homes.
- Water quality issues: The manager for the corporation was informed that chemicals from their holding tanks were overflowing into their unsealed well and now the chemicals were in the drinking water of the adjacent property owners well. For at least six months they took no action to rectify the dangerous situation; their response was "we are too busy now with harvesting to deal with the water issue." Only recently when the County did an inspection and found numerous violations (i.e. too many employees, larger grow than approved, the illegal expansion into an environmental sensitive area, cannabis operations in unauthorized buildings, piles of used soil, the unsealed well and the overflowing tanks, etc.) after the inspection they moved the tanks and are in the process of sealing the well.
- We are all concerned with the historic drainage issues with this property and the adjacent properties. There is an epidermal zone that flows through this property, in the winter time up to 18 inches deep. The recent illegal grow expansion was in the middle of this zone. Anything that impedes the flow of this water, impacts at least six upslope property owners who have already been negatively impacted by an illegal fill from a few years ago. In addition, any chemicals/fertilizers used in the epidermal zone flows downstream (south) across the adjacent property and the organic dairy and then into Wilson Creek, Yager Creek and the Van Duzen.

In summary, these are the three major issues that the neighbors have concerning this grow. There are additional issues that I will summarize in a follow-up letter and for presenting at any future hearings. It is important to note that this is not a "mom and pop" operation, this operation is owned and operated by an international corporation that has over 2 million dollars invested in this operation. Companies like the Hempire Corporation don't make these kinds of "mistakes or oversights". It is pretty transparent that this corporation has deliberately disregarded and violated both county ordinances, State regulations and has shown a total disregard for the health and safety of adjacent property owners. I can be reached at 707 832-4610 or [robfrechou@gmail.com](mailto:robfrechou@gmail.com). Thanks for your time and consideration.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT  
you ARRANGE FOR A  
SITE VISIT BEFORE  
THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
HEARING

*Robert Frechou*

1/27/19

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