

McClenagan, Laura

From: Lacey Cunningham <lacey@eurekabrake.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Planning Clerk; Acevedo, Megan; alanbongio@gmail.com; mrbrian707@gmail.com; hcpcmccavour@gmail.com; mnewman@gpins.com; noah@landwaterconsulting.com; sregon@aol.com; hrh707@outlook.com; Bohn, Rex; Bushnell, Michelle; Wilson, Mike; Bass, Virginia; Madrone, Steve; Ford, John; Johnson, Cliff
Subject: Opposition to Kneeland Mega Grow!!!!

RE: PLN-2020-17313, Steven Luu, APN 314-311-037

Dear Director Ford, Senior Planner Johnson, Members of the Planning Department and District Supervisors,

I am writing to you today regarding my concerns over the recent proposal for a 40,000 square foot commercial cannabis grow and a 4,000 square foot space of ancillary propagation in the Kneeland community. This will adversely affect our community and the environment for many reasons. I am adamantly against a cannabis grow in this area and have listed my primary concerns:

Water – Water is a very limited resource in this area that all Kneeland residents have had to face. The proposed parcel shares a single well with 3 other parcels that have residences already established. The families of those residences experience water shortages regularly and are forced to truck in additional water for basic household needs. According to the USGS, the average person uses 80 to 100 gallons of water per day. With those figures, the average usage for a household of 3 would be between 86,400 and 108,000 gallons per year. Mr. Luu’s estimated annual need for irrigation at 286,000 gallons per year exceeds the annual usage of ALL three residences combined that currently use the shared well. As I understand, it is illegal to truck in water for a commercial cannabis operation.

In addition, this area is in a State Fire Responsibility area. The demand for a commercial cannabis operation depletes water that is available for fire protection for community residences and the Kneeland K-8 elementary school. A 5,000 gallon container reserved for fire protection would be the equivalent of dropping a tablespoon of water on a wildfire.

Water sourced from rain-catchment is not a viable option and affects even more Kneeland community members. There are multiple home sites downhill from this parcel who rely on rainwaters draining from the above lands - including this parcel - to supply their families with water necessary for everyday life and survival. Catchment systems will block this flow and reduce the limited amount of water they already must ration.

Environmental Destruction and Wildlife Endangerment- First and foremost, water catchment systems of this magnitude is a detriment to wild life and native plants. The diverted water will not be available in streams and creeks below as needed to provide drinking water for wild life. The lack of drainage and run off will impact native plants and grasses and will create even dryer conditions leaving us with exacerbated fire fuels and increasing the already dangerous threat of wild fire.

Leaching of chemicals, pesticides and rodenticides used in commercial grows will be grossly increased due to the extreme slope of the land. These chemicals will have nowhere to go except downhill potentially killing wild life and infiltrating the waters that do reach our downhill neighbors. These chemical pose a huge health threat and have been known to cause cancer, birth defects and numerous other illnesses and/or physical disabilities. These chemicals could potentially reach Lawrence Creek, a tributary to the Van Duzen River, impacting more wildlife and families than just those in the Kneeland area.

The proposed use of portable toilets makes us vulnerable to additional chemicals that could potentially leak. Portable toilets are not sustainable and have been known to tip over during Kneeland’s windy seasons when winds can reach as much as 60 to 80 miles per hour on a regular basis. This parcel does not have protection from the winds to insure our safety.

Land Erosion – This land has a very steep slope throughout and has zero flat space for cultivation or for a building site. The steep venue combined with the lack of water and a steep gravel access road likely contribute to why previous owners have never developed this land. The idea that this land is suitable for any type of commercial cultivation is ludicrous. The steep rocky slope is prone to slides and instability. Adding 60 5,000 gallon water tanks along with leveling areas that could be used for cultivation and ancillary propagation will be detrimental to the stability of the entire hillside.

Public Safety – My family and the families of many Kneeland residents have chosen to drive many miles from Eureka up the steep and windy Kneeland Road to be able to live a safe and peaceful country lifestyle. One in which neighbors watch out for neighbors and come together in times of need. There is no greater time of need than that of opposing this plan.

Our friends and neighbors are jointly opposed to excessive noise from generators. We are opposed to the volume of cannabis gases that will flood our homes and backyards with that distinctive marijuana smell.

We are concerned about the migrant workers attracted to cannabis grows. I have personally witnessed these workers of smaller farms camping on private property and leaving behind their trash and pollution. I worry that their campfires and smoking, as many workers receive benefits in the form of a personal cannabis allotment, will further endanger our community with the threat of wild fire.

We have experienced caravans of migrant workers being transported to grows. Vehicles driven by radical drivers on the road where we walk our dogs and our children ride their bikes. This element of workers brings more theft, more crime and severely impacts the safety of our families. In addition, it negatively effects our property values and desirability of future families moving to our area to experience this way of life.

Approving this plan is approving the destruction of the environment, approves killing off of precious wild life and native plants, and puts the health and safety of every community member at risk. I ask that you listen to our community, protect the people, save the environment and **STOP THIS PROPOSED PLAN!!**

Thank you,

Lacee Cunningham
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