

15 September 2021

Re: North Fork Mattole Farms, LLC; Record Number PLN-2020-16766, Hearing Date 9/16/21

Dear Humboldt County Zoning Administrator and Planning Department,

My only objection to this particular project is its contribution to local health hazards. Eight residential dwellings are located on tiny parcels (some as small as 0.08 acre!) within a stone's throw of this site, and more dwellings are adjacent to those. My property is across the Mattole Road from that neighborhood, and upwind of onshore winds that come up the Mattole River Valley. Terpenes, which are volatile organic compounds, are released into the air where cannabis grows, they contribute to air pollution, and they have negative health effects. They certainly irritate my respiratory tract – my husband and I have symptoms for the entire summer that cannot be attributed to allergies. Those are in addition to the irritating stench of drying cannabis that pervades my area at intervals.

This project, while certainly more benign than the other three you have approved that are very close to my residence (two of them adjacent), has raised the **general level of frustration in Petrolia, including mine, with the number and siting of cannabis grows in the most densely populated area of our little town.** Please consider what you are doing to the livability within this area! These permitted grows have brought traffic, noise, dust, air pollution, degradation of our already bad roads by heavy truck traffic bringing soil and supplies, and lots of seasonal workers without adequate housing or services (toilets, water, showers, internet, phones – NO, these are not always supplied by permitted growers).

All of this is in a town that has only two public spaces (the Community Center and the Grange), which are currently closed because of the covid epidemic, a country store, a post office, and a food truck. NO public toilets – the Mattole Valley Resource Center and the Mattole Valley Community Center had to buy two porta-potties for public use and their pumping costs are funding by collecting pennies, nickels, and dimes at the store. The people who help clean them are not involved in the cannabis industry. NO municipal trash collection. NO public water or sewage infrastructure. Many seasonal workers get water from a hose at the Community Center. The Mattole Valley Resource Center has experienced an increased number of people needing assistance and seasonal workers contribute to that.

PG&E power to our town is limited. We're now told that no new domestic drops can be installed for several years. Yet, you have previously permitted large cannabis operations with huge power drops. Didn't you think about what this would do to domestic service?

When the price of cannabis (both legal and black-market) drops to the point where growers pull out of this region, some of them are going to leave huge messes behind. Who is going to clean them up, to pay for cleaning them up?

In great frustration,

Kathryn Radke

Kathryn Radke
29665 Mattole Road, Petrolia