

From: [Maureen Catalina](#)
To: [Maureen Catalina](#); [Planning Clerk](#)
Subject: Nava Ranch expansion
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 3:13:08 PM

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Dear people,

This letter is in response to Nova Ranch Inc. record number PL – 2021–17162. Parcel number 107–1 06–006 of Humboldt county.

Just when you thought bad neighbors could not get worse, Nava Ranch Inc. is asking the county for an expansion. This project report is presented with so many false hoods, sensationalisms, and outright lies, that it has taken me hours to get through it, all 82 pages. I am outraged that I have to look at this paperwork in order to correct the numerous mistakes and assumptions throughout the document. Furthermore Nava Ranch has never complied with the existing laws on their existing Farm. I will provide proof in this letter.

I live one parcel over from this project, right on Honeydew Creek. It is the most peaceful gorgeous setting you could imagine. I have been in this location for 25 years. The night skies are pristine. The sounds are only the natural sounds of the wind, the creek, birds, insects, frogs, and untold wild creatures lurking everywhere, with the very occasional sound of a vehicle up on the county road. I love it. It's heaven. That was, until Nava Ranch moved in. I can hear their generator from my back deck. I can hear their generator from my pasture. There is no peace and quiet. They run this HUGE LOUD generator at all different hours. I live on the grid and that generator is running when the power is on. It is not saved for emergency use.

They DO NOT cover their greenhouses at night. I can see the greenhouse lights from inside of my house. I will attach photos. I can see their greenhouse lights from my back deck. I will attach photos. I also own the property next to this one at 2252 Wilder ridge Rd. and I can also see their lights and hear their generator from up there. It is like a huge amphitheater living in these mountains. Sound travels. It's loud. I can hear it over the sound of Honeydew creek and the tree frogs at night.

If you look at their original permits they only had ONE greenhouse that was 2500 ft.². All the rest of the square footage was permitted for outdoor. Yet there are three huge green houses up there right now. These greenhouses appear to be at least 25' x 100' in size. Why is that? I'll tell you why... Because they are NOT complying with what they agreed to comply with. No one comes out here to check on them. There is no enforcement of the rules! They don't follow the rules and they don't care. I have been so stressed out by this situation. It has destroyed the peace and quiet, and the night skies, in this neighborhood. In this vicinity!

Based on their track record alone, this project should be denied. And the existing project should probably be inspected immediately for all of the other infractions and laws they have broken with the existing permit.

I would like to point out some of these unbelievable statements in the staff report.

1) Rain catchment. Has anyone ever seen the rain catchment system? I don't believe they have enough roof top area to collect the water necessary for what they are growing right now. The plan does not call for another building yet they are somehow going to fill a new pond with 750,000 gallons of rainwater off of a 2000 square-foot rooftop? If Honeydew was lucky enough to get 100 inches of rain each year that would give them about 100,000 gallons of rainwater collection. The math does not add up. There is mention of a "cannabis support building" but there is no description whatsoever of the size or function of that building. Why is it even in the report? It's like wishful thinking... There's no commitment. It would take 10,000 ft.² of rooftop to collect 1,000,000 gallons of water, and that's only if it rains 100 inches every winter in Honeydew California. Who here would like to predict the weather? And what is the back up plan if it does not rain?

2) Am I expected to believe that they are going to be drying, trimming, processing, and storing everything in a 900 square-foot building? Hello! This is physically impossible.

3) One full-time employee. That's right, that's what it says, "one full-time employee". Hello! Have you read the report and seen what this person has to do on this 43,560 square-foot project? There is a month by month description of the workload on this farm. This one person is going to pull the tarps, hand water, apply fertilizer by hand gently massaging it into the soil, bring trash to the dump once a month, remove extra leaves from the plants, take care of the mother plants, start seeds or clones. Shall I go on? Is everyone at the planning department aware of what it takes to "pull tarps"? Have any of the people that are reading this report ever worked on a cannabis farm or have any experience whatsoever with farming? This isn't like going out and covering your firewood with a tarp folks. Depending on the system that is implemented, and there's no mention of this in the paperwork, it would be impossible for one person to pull the tarps on a Cannabis canopy of this size. Hand watering alone would take approximately 48 hours and that's just one time watering. Plants need to be watered every day. The last time I checked, there were not 48 hours in one day.

4) Up to 3 "seasonal" employees. What is the legal definition of seasonal? Well, let me tell you, it means a person that works for six months or less during a particular busy season. If you are having up to FIVE harvests a year, with 43,560 Square feet of cannabis, those employees are full-time, because the operation is full-time. Farming doesn't just end because you cut the product off at the base. There is always something to do on a farm of this size. It is an almost never ending process when you are a cannabis farmer with almost an acre of cannabis canopy and are implementing such processes as pulling tarps and hand watering, and basic processing. Please note that there is no mention of any of these employees doing weed eating or making things safe for the fire season. Please note that there is no housing for these employees and I don't know of any rentals available to them. The idea that only three seasonal employees are needed is absurd and unacceptable.

4) Fire safety. There are no address numbers posted anywhere for the fire department to respond properly, although they were requested to do so when they filed the first staff report on May 21, 2021. Here is a quote from our local fire dispatcher for the Honeydew volunteer fire department, Claire Trower, "The 2 fires were different people, but the last one was the current crew. They didn't call 911, but waited until someone called me (Wren saw smoke from the "Dew Store up Honeydew Creek drainage), and we went on a smoke check. They weren't prepared, and their explanation as to how it started was sorta sketchy. 5 acres of grassland burned on that fire." It is my personal understanding that the fire was started when someone poured gasoline into a beehive in the ground and lit it on fire. Brilliant. This is what we have to live with as neighbors to untrained employees. Cal Fire responded by saying "cannot support this project"

5) Will be using PG&E via a green energy program. That sure sounds lovely but that just means that you are buying energy credits, it has nothing to do with what type of energy you are actually getting. It's basically for corporations to get green energy credits towards the pollution that they create. PG&E is 2 to 4 years out on any new major hook ups in our area. The only PG&E service on that property is down by a small house next to their gate. There is no PG&E service where they want to put the green houses! I would be guessing, but I think it's about a quarter mile away at least. It's not a small project to get the PG&E service up there.

5) Handwashing and drinking water shall be brought in in plastic bottles. Do you realize how many gallons of water a day it will take for the employees to wash their hands on a regular basis? They are going to be using bottled water? This is so wasteful and so disgusting how is this even legal? How is this OK with you? It's not realistic.

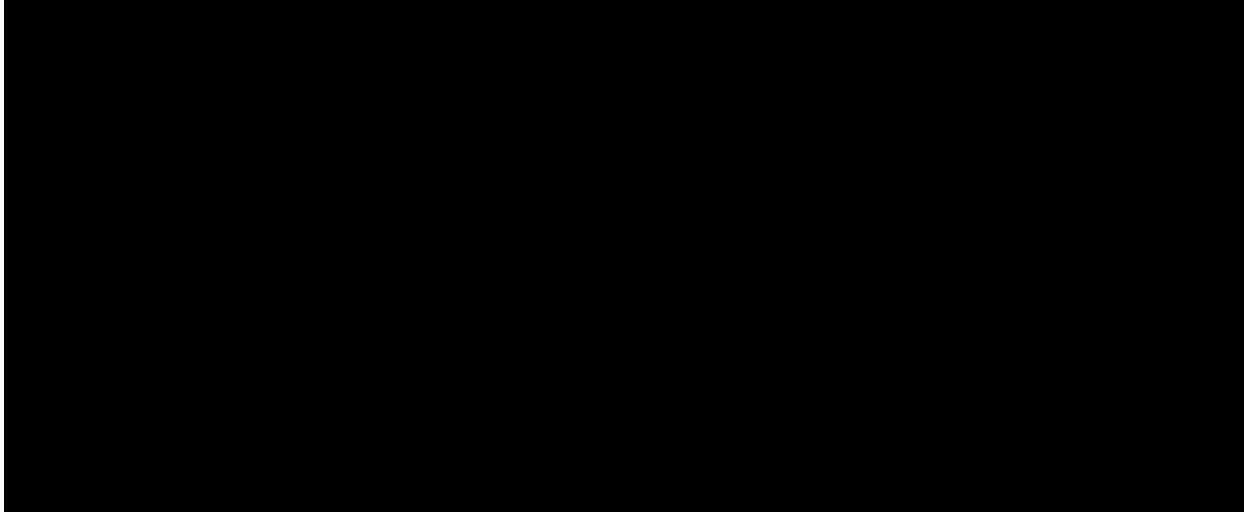
6) Access. The county road is not 18 foot wide. The self-assessment made by the applicant is clearly not accurate.

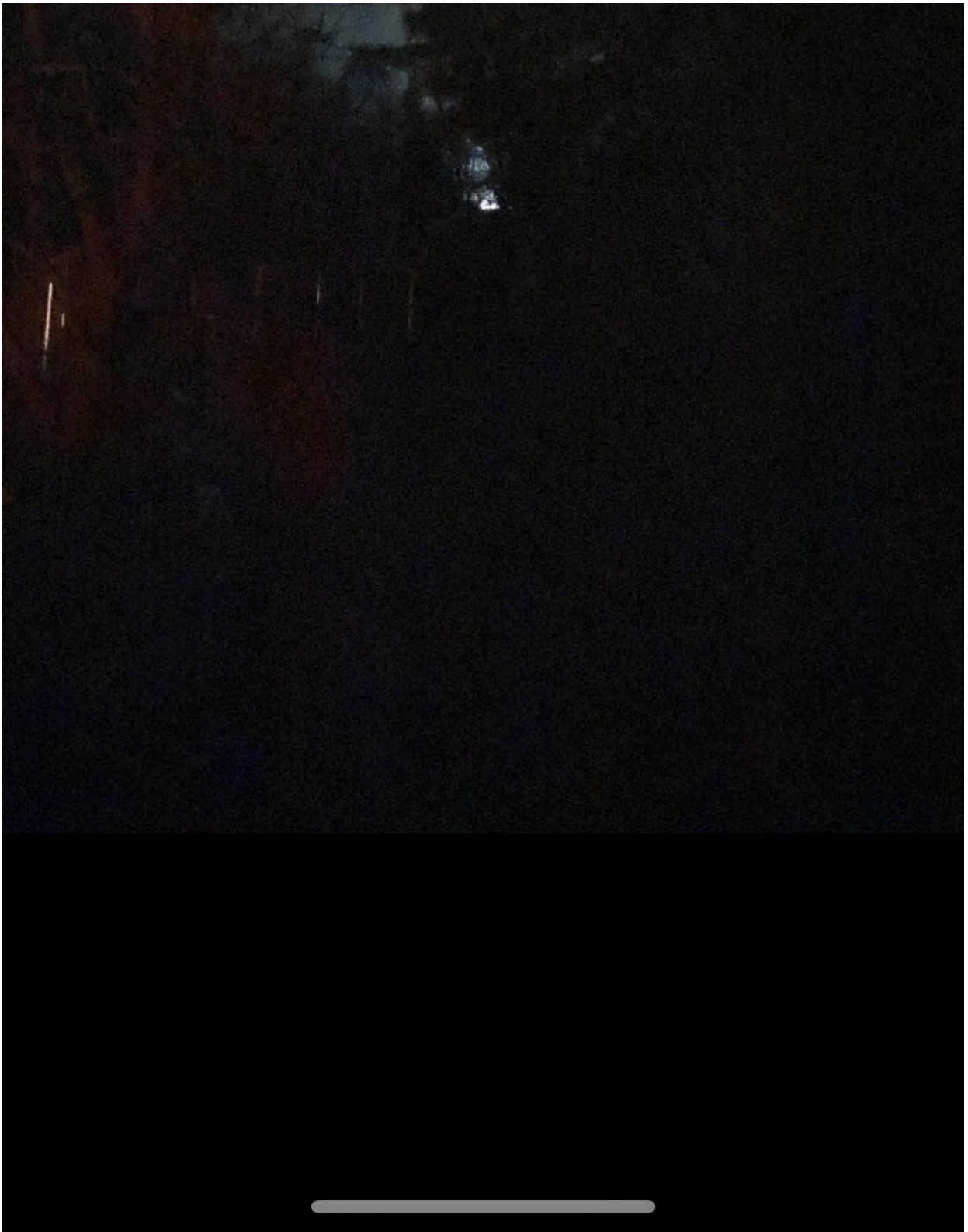
7) Planning department comment, "the cultivation of 43,560 ft.² of new mix light commercial cannabis and the conditions under which it may be operated or maintained will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare or materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity" this is the final comment right above the signature line of John Ford. This comment is not correct. My health, safety, and welfare is affected by this project. Furthermore, the aesthetic value of my property is greatly reduced by this eyesore and will be detrimental to the resale value of my home. Multiple respected reports show that aesthetic degradation in any area will reduce a property's value by 30%. No one wants to live next to this commercial disaster. Please consider the actual vicinity, which means village. Our valley, our village, is greatly affected by these ugly plastic Quonset huts that are sweetly and inaccurately named "greenhouses". There's nothing green about them. We see the lights at night. We hear the generators above the natural sounds. I implore you to stop this expansion and protect the citizens that have lived here for over 40 years. I raised my children here. I donate to the local fire department. I interact with my community on personal and community levels. We have yet to even meet the owners of the project or their employees. I have paid my dues. I have paid my taxes. I deserve to live in peace and quiet, and enjoy the natural beauty of the Mattole Valley. It is my right. It's the law. The applicant has never run the existing farm properly. It has caused me so much personal stress. The lights at night and the generator at all hours should be enough to shut this operation down immediately. An inspection once a year is not enough. The local population should not have to be the ones that enforce the laws. Please stop this expansion.

Sincerely, maureen catalina
2250 Wilder ridge Rd.
Honeydew, California
Phone 7076293699

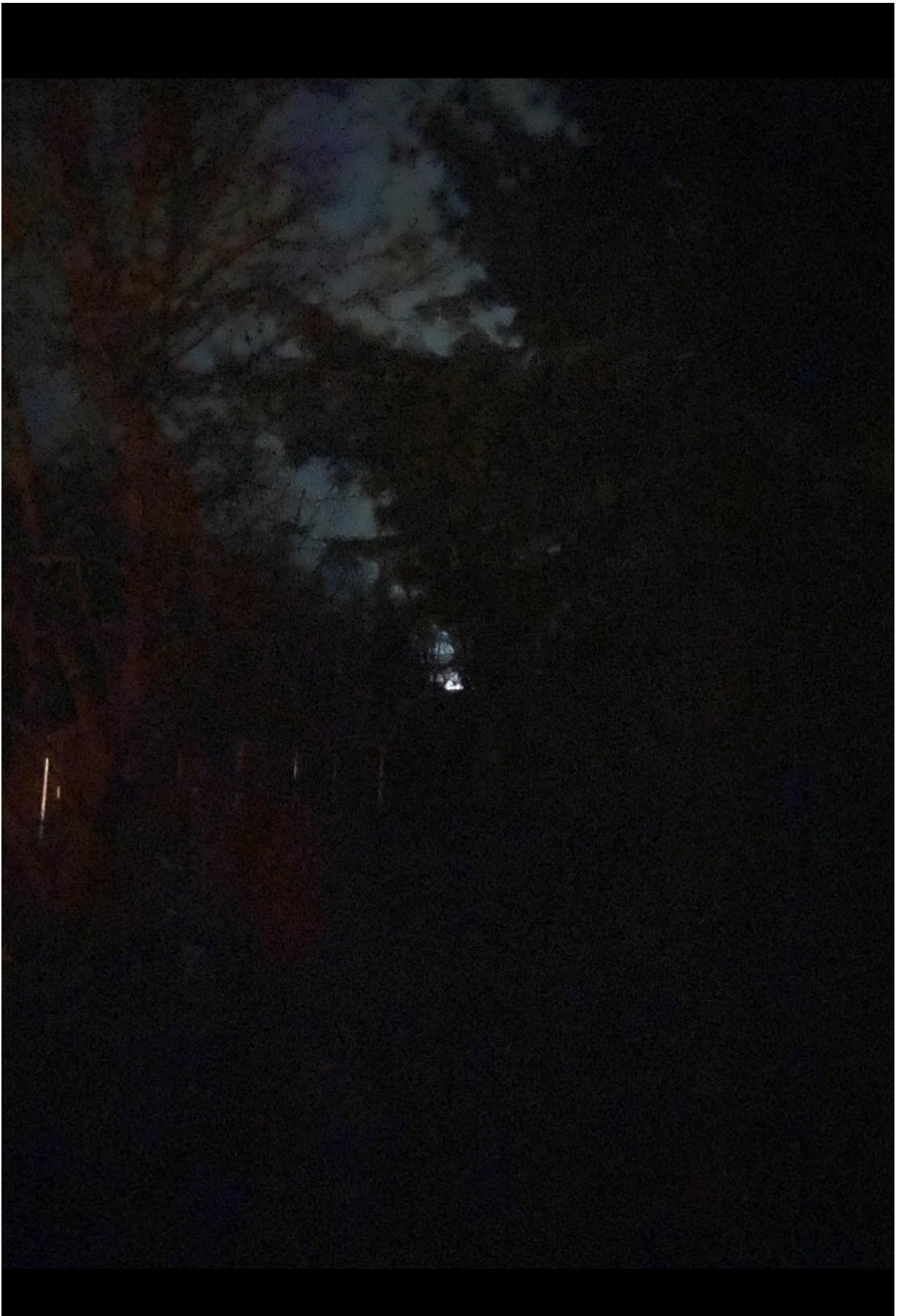
The attached photos were taken on February 21, 2022 and on March 14, 2022. Two are from INSIDE of my home as you can see. In the right hand corner of my living room window you can see the greenhouse lit up at Nava Ranch. The other photos are from my back deck. You may have to zoom in because it's hard to take a photo in the dark, but it's quite obvious that

the greenhouse at Nava Ranch is lit up. And this was only three days ago!!!











Sent from my iPhone