

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission
Date: May 3, 2021
From: Bonnie Blackberry
For: May 6, 2021 Planning Commission meeting

RE: Item 11 Seeking Roots PLN 10871-CUP

Dear Commissioners,

I have the following concerns about this plan for you to consider.

First of all I am not opposed to marijuana/cannabis. I have met some of the people involved in this operation and consider them as friends. My concerns have to do with the environmental impacts with the major concern being the drought and water and the size of the operation.

Projected annual water use of 235,000 gallons for a "continued cultivation of 28,854 square feet of outdoor light deprivation". From one crop of mostly outdoor annually, to 20 plastic greenhouses for two light deprivation crops annually, is actually much more marijuana being grown than was previously existing when the application was originally submitted in 2016.

Staff's Project Description (page 3) states, "irrigation water is sourced from a ground water well and a point of diversion.". Staff's Executive Summary states, "...irrigation water is sourced from a permitted point of diversion...and a groundwater well."

However, the Site Management Plan, page 6, item #4, Water Uses states, "Water for cannabis irrigation is sourced from two diversions on a class II stream." Even though on page 38 it says Diversion POD 2 is for Domestic and Fire, with, item #10 (pg 39), "no water shall be diverted under this right for irrigating any commercial crop." From my understanding only one diversion is allowed for irrigation purposes and the second diversion is only allowed for domestic and fire.

Also included in the SMP is, "There is a permitted well on the site however the client described the well as unproductive and prefers to divert from the class II". In 2016 the well was presented as the only irrigation water source. Now the well is "unproductive", which is just another indication of the current situation with this drought and the diminishing water table.

Since the well is now "unproductive", all of the water is proposed to be sourced from two diversions on the class II stream, even though the diversion permits limit the diversion for irrigation purposes to one diversion, not two.

Considering the ongoing drought and the current condition of the springs and creeks, and a well that is now "unproductive", it is hard to believe that there is enough water to sustain this large of a multi crop grow at this time. . It's May 3rd and the class II stream is almost out of water, not sure if there will be any water later this summer. I've never seen the creek this low at this time of year. And what about the wildlife, will there be any water for them?

And as always I am opposed to the use of generators to grow marijuana/cannabis and covering the land with plastic greenhouses when marijuana can be grown in the sunshine without more plastic for the landfills. How about downsizing to meet the current conditions with the climate crisis/drought?

Respectfully,

Bonnie Blackberry
A neighbor, and long time resident land owner

