

McClenagan, Laura

From: Ann Constantino <annconstantino@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Planning Clerk
Subject: Public comment on Humboldt Hempire Farms LLC; PLN-2020-16602

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Commissioners,

This letter is to state my objection to the planned addition by Humboldt Hempire Farms of 17 greenhouses on the property APN 223-061-011. PLN-2020-16602

I live directly across the South Fork of the Eel river from this proposed project. The morning after the last planning commission meeting on June 3rd at which this permit application was tabled until a later date, someone verbally assaulted me from the property on which the project is to be done. At about 8:50 on the morning of June 4, I suddenly heard a man shouting at me from the project property as I walked alone along the river. I heard the words "Jerry" and "letter" repeatedly yelled among other words I couldn't make out, and then the assault ended with the sentence, "All your neighbors officially hate you now." I immediately realized this was in response to a letter objecting to the project that my partner Jerry Latsko had submitted prior to the June 3 meeting.

This assault left me shaking for the rest of the day. I called the sheriff who said he could not respond because no actual threat was made. He suggested I get a civil restraining order. He also said he was aware of other neighbors unhappy with the practices of Humboldt Hempire Farms. The assault may not have constituted a crime but is an example of the kind of neighbor Humboldt Hempire Farms has been throughout its existence.

I object to this project because my quality of life and property values have deteriorated since this industrial agriculture venture began many years ago. There is loud noise and dust at all hours, often starting at dawn and going until after dark. My view of a formerly pleasant landscape is destroyed by acres of plastic sheeting and huge water bladders which have been a detriment to my property values. I am sure that when this area was zoned it was well before the cannabis boom which has radically changed the nature of agriculture in Humboldt County.

Additionally, as I understand it, any prospective buyer of my property would legally have to be informed of the unpleasant neighborhood conditions as well as the verbal assault. What rights do I have to protect my property values from this kind of degradation?

During this 2020-2021 winter of a drought year it appears that some of the bladders they have did not fill. Will their catchment system even actually be sufficient for all those proposed greenhouses? If drought is to become our norm, the project may be over-estimating its ability to provide enough water.

Furthermore, if drought conditions persist, it behooves the county to consider whether catchment is a sustainable way to water thirsty cannabis plants at all as creeks and rivers are denied the run-off they would normally receive from the scarce rain. Fish and wildlife are adversely affected by inadequate flows.

How much more wealth do these people need? When will quality of life in the neighborhood ever be more important than sky-high profit? Seventeen greenhouses with multiple harvests each per year represent riches beyond my imagination. My partner and I are both semi-retired and wish to live out our years in peace.

Please consider the small neighborhood of this once quiet and beautiful section of the South Fork of the Eel as well as the greater environmental and property issues raised by this type of exploitative "agriculture" when you make your decision.

Respectfully,

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