

## McClenagan, Laura

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**From:** Margaret Lewis <emell@wavecable.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 7:35 AM  
**To:** Planning Clerk  
**Subject:** Hempire Farms plan opposition  
**Attachments:** Hempire Farms plan opposition.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Please read the attached letter.

Thank you.

Margaret Lewis, Garberville

The undersigned residents are strongly opposed to the proposal from Humboldt Hempire Farms LLC PLN 2020-16602 filed 18 August 2020. Assessor's parcel#223-061-011.

This property owner wants to use rainwater catchment bladders to irrigate marijuana plants that he wants to grow in some 20 or so greenhouses. It is not yet known whether or not the greenhouses will be erected in the flood plain but the bladders clearly have been so for several years now. Jessie Jefferies has been found to be in violation at least four times over the last eight years (see attached) for illegal water diversion and obstruction of a stream flow on a stream that is designated as impaired for temperature and sediment by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Clean Water Act. He has consistently erected buildings, harvested trees, and changed the landscape first and then received permits after the fact. That includes installing those unsightly bladders, which surely go against California Environmental Act standards.

According to the Cannabis Cultivation Land Use Ordinance, water from such bladders is not be used to irrigate cannabis, yet that is his stated intention. Mr. Ford stated in a public meeting that, since Jefferies has been permitted to sell bulk water from these bladders it is okay to violate that ordinance but that is highly questionable. Also, those huge bladders have been and continue to be an eyesore as they lie on the flood plain.

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office has rejected this proposal but no explanation has been given as to why the county is not concerned.

The proposal that the county will inspect the property once annually after giving 24 hours of notice has to be a joke. The property owner has given no indication that he would adhere to any regulations or rules currently or in the past.

We are in a climate situation of permanent drought and year round fire danger. Therefore, allowing one person to hoard millions of gallons of water for personal profit would be irresponsible in the extreme. This is industrial sized taking of water, not somebody catching rain in a barrel for their vegetables. For county government to permit this will possibly make county government responsible for depriving plants, animals, and humans of vital water and also possibly for a decline in property values.

Margaret Lewis, Garberville