

From: Susie Vasquez <mfp48@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 9:40 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Fwd: Public comment, CCUP-A24-0002
Attachments: Blank 19.pdf

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From: Susie Vasquez <mfp48@gmail.com>
Date: May 19, 2024 at 5:30:21 PM PDT
To: edccob@edcgov.us
Subject: Public comment, CCUP-A24-0002

Sent from my iPad

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, Ca 95667
May 20, 2024

Dear Planning Commission,

My name is Susie Vasquez, and my home is due south of Mike Pinette's proposed commercial cannabis grow, application CCUP-24-0002. I read your report concerning the birds seen during your studies of his property, and would like to add a few more bird species to the ones you listed.

We have a red-tailed Hawk that perches on the power lines nearby. Egrets and Great Grey Herons gather around the pond next door and at night, you can hear the soft hoots of the owls. We also have Canadian geese, wild turkeys, bluebirds, red-headed woodpeckers, quail and doves. There are many more.

If you really look, this area is rich with wildlife, including mammals like raccoons, coyotes, deer, bear and mountain lions.

Unfortunately, the demands of cannabis can have a serious impact on the resources that allow them to thrive.

According to California's Department of Fish and Wildlife:

"The combination of limited water resources, a water-hungry crop, and cultivation in sensitive ecosystems means that marijuana cultivation can have environmental impacts that are disproportionately large given the area under production."

Successful cannabis cultivation requires a host of pesticides, fungicides, herbicides and rodenticides, all of which will take a toll on our wildlife.

The direct effect of pesticides alone includes everything from acute poisoning to endocrine disruption, altered morphology and changes in behavior.

Pesticide use is the most important indicator of grassland bird decline, according to Fish and Wildlife.

"Pesticides indirectly impact wildlife through reduction of food resources and refuges, starvation due to loss of prey availability, hypothermia and secondary poisoning."

Rodenticides work by inhibiting clotting, leading to death. Rodenticides have serious impacts on those at the top of the food chain, like the red-tailed Hawk.

If they aren't sickened by the poisons they get from contaminated prey, they will be put at risk of starvation due to loss of food supply. The carnivores of concern were listed in the California Fish and Wildlife study as the Sierra Nevada Red Fox and Gray Wolf, Northern Spotted Owl, California Owl and Great Gray Owl.

Cannabis demands for water, upwards of six gallons per plant per day, will put a strain not only on neighboring wells, but on the environment.

"Four of the five greatest threats to freshwater biodiversity today are flow modification, water pollution, habitat degradation and species invasions. All four are common consequences of cannabis cultivation."

Cannabis is a nutrient-intensive crop. More than 30 soil amendments, from applied nutrient sprays to pesticides, rodenticides, herbicides fungicides and insecticides can be applied, ultimately ending up in the environment's reduced water supply," according to Fish and Game.

"If the polluted water continues to be used, it will add contaminants to the soil, as well as surface and ground water, and ultimately the food chain," according to a study by the Journal of Cannabis Research.

Historically, commercial cannabis cultivation in California has created problems and in Amador County just south of us, a moratorium has been approved. I refer you to chapter 19.84.010 of the Amador County Code.

"Amador County has a compelling interest in protecting the public health, safety and welfare of its residences and businesses, in preserving the peace and quiet of its neighborhoods and in protecting the quality of life and environment from the negative effects of cannabis cultivation, storage, processing, testing, manufacturing, sale and distribution."

Should these pot farms be approved with anything less than a complete EIR?

Protecting the health, safety and welfare of residents should be the primary focus for county officials here, not rushing a pot farm application.

There is a prohibition to cannabis cultivation within a certain distance of public facilities here. Families and children in rural residential communities should be provided the same setbacks and restrictions. To that end, cannabis cultivation should be limited to sealed facilities and greenhouses that don't vent into the atmosphere.

Local government entities must sometimes make decisions that are contentious, but it is usually for the common good, like an extended airport runway.

There is no common good here. Our property values are going down and our roads will still need work.

And in all likelihood, the owls and other wildlife will suffer right along with us.

Susan Vasquez
3021 Squirrel Hollow
Mount Aukum, California 95656

T. mouve BOS 5/21/2024

#42

Composite Outdoor Odor Data from Cannabis Cultivation Operations:						
Date	Time Sampled	Location Description	D/T	Up/Down Differential	Site	=Differential
9/12/19	10:10	Upwind	11	0	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	10:14	Within Hoop House 1	45	34	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	10:20	Within Hoop House 2	298	287	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	10:10	50 Feet From Edge of Grow	19	8	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	10:14	51 Feet From Edge of Grow	11	0	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	10:15	Property Line - 200 feet	21	10	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	10:10	Property Line - 200 feet	21	10	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	13:40	Upwind	11	0	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	13:45	Within Hoop House 1	177	166	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	13:49	Within Hoop House 2	149	138	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	13:40	50 Feet From Edge of Grow	45	34	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	13:43	51 Feet From Edge of Grow	38	27	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	13:45	Property Line - 200 feet	35	24	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/12/19	13:40	Property Line - 200 feet	25	14	1. Outdoor grow with hoop House covers.	
9/30/19	13:36	Center of Outdoor Grow	298	289	2. Outdoor Grow, no hoop houses	
9/16/20	7:16	Harvest Area	75	66	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	7:09	Upwind	9	0	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	7:30	Downwind -500 feet	17	8	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	7:07	Neighborhood	9	0	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	7:18	Neighborhood	8	-1	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	7:37	Neighborhood	10	1	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	14:12	Harvest Area	106	97	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	14:00	Upwind	9	0	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	14:07	Downwind -500 feet	16	7	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	14:23	Neighborhood	11	2	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	14:17	Neighborhood	9	0	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
9/16/20	14:01	Neighborhood	12	3	3. Outdoor grow, no hoop houses, active harvest	
6/24/21	8:00	Upwind, Site Perimeter	9	0	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	7:37	On property, Near active Harvest	35	26	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	8:23	On property, Near active Harvest	21	12	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	8:13	On property, Near active Harvest	27	18	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	8:37	On property, downwind property line	163	154	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	8:48	On property, downwind property line	30	21	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	8:17	On property, downwind property line	8	-1	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	8:33	On property, downwind property line	16	7	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	8:49	Off property, Downwind	13	4	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	9:03	Off property, Downwind	9	0	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	10:49	Harvest Area	3213	3204	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
6/24/21	8:00	Regional Background Sample	8	0	4. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
10/11/21	9:15	Upwind -Spot 1	11	0	5. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	
10/11/21	10:14	Upwind - spot 2	19	0	5. Outdoor grow, mix of open and hoop house, active harvest	

Michael Gorvad
6804 Flat Creek Drive
Somerset, CA 95684
May 21, 2024

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane, Building A
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: CCUP21-004/Single Source (the "Project")

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I live in River Pines Estates at 6804 Flat Creek Drive, Somerset, CA 95684. My property lies within 1000 feet of the proposed project. On April 25, 2024, the El Dorado County Planning Commission denied a motion to approve this project and approved a motion to take the matter off the Planning Commission agenda to either allow time for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or to allow the Applicant to change their project to address concerns raised at that meeting and at a previous Planning Commission meeting on March 27, 2024. The Applicant has chosen to appeal the April 25, 2024 Planning Commission decision.

There is substantial evidence to support a fair argument that the published plans and documentation for the Project do not adequately cover the environmental impacts of the Project and therefore the Project should be required to submit an Environmental Impact Review (EIR). I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors deny the Applicant's appeal.

There are at least four areas in which the published plans and documentation for the Project are lacking: 1) Water Usage; 2) Odor Control; 3) Biological Resources; 4) Acoustic and Air Quality Studies. I pointed out my concerns about these areas in my (emailed) May 19, 2024 letter to the Board of Supervisors. Since we are limited in our time to make comments in this meeting I will not elaborate.

However, two additional points I wish to present to the Board of Supervisors are 5) Character of the River Pines Estates Community and 6) Safety Issues Associated With The Project.

5) Character of the River Pines Estates Community

River Pines Estates (RPE) was established as a residential community. It consists mainly of single family residences, some with small private vineyards. It was never intended to have commercial activities such as the Proposed Project. The Project is completely out of character with the RPE community.

6) Safety Issues Associated With The Project

The Project will potentially be an attractive nuisance at the least, and more probably, a criminal magnet. If the project is so innocuous, why does it require security lights, fences, cameras, and sensors? It also potentially puts an additional burden on the sheriff's department.

A common (spurious) argument for legalizing cannabis growing and legalizing cannabis farming has been that such activities will be "safer". I list below five references (Reference 1 – Reference 5) of articles easily found on the internet that contradict this argument. They all describe strong arm robberies at legal cannabis farms. This list is not exhaustive. Please do not subject the RPE Community to similar criminal activities.

Respectfully,

/s/ Michael R. Gorvad

Michael R. Gorvad

References

Reference 1 Armed Robbery at Miranda Cannabis Farm
<https://humboldt.gov/civicalerts.aspx?AID=5253>
July 25, 2023

Reference 2 OVER 700 POUNDS OF CANNABIS STOLEN FROM LEGAL FARM
<https://kymkemp.com/2022/02/05/over-700-pounds-of-cannabis-stole-from-legal-farm-near-hayfork-by-trusted-workedr/>
Saturday, 5 February 2022

Reference 3 Four arrested after burglary on legal California pot grow farm
<https://original.newsbreak.com/@golden-gate-media-1351221/3216712566028-four-arrested-after-burglary-on-legal-california-pot-grow-farm-one-suspect-climbed-tree-to-hide>
2023-11-03

Reference 4 ARMED ROBBERY WITH SHOTS FIRED AT PERMITTED CANNABIS FARM

<https://kymkemp.com/2019/10/10/armed-robbery-with-shots-fired-at-permitted-cannabis-farm-this-morning/>
10 October, 2019

Reference 5 One Shot at Cannabis Farm Robbery

<https://www.northcoastjournal.com/NewsBlog/archives/2019/10/07/one-shot-at-cannabis-farm-robbery>
Oct 7, 2019

Kathleen Gorvad
6804 Flat Creek Drive
Somerset, CA 95684

21st May 2024

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Clerk of the Board
330 Fair Lane, Building A
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: CCUP21-004/Single Source (the "Project")

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

My comments this morning refer to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Governance Handbook which, in part, states "Our mission is to enhance the well-being of all residents".

I am here to remind you to keep this simple obligation in mind as you decide if a pot farm in the middle of River Pines Estates is appropriate; something that will "enhance the well-being" of the residents living there. This area was developed as a rural/residential community. That atmosphere has been maintained over the years and we would like to keep it that way.

Making exceptions favoring something that would negatively* impact any community in El Dorado County is contrary to what you have committed to uphold in your own Mission Statement.

Thank you for considering my remarks.

*I'm sure you have read the ample and detailed documentation of the concerns submitted by others who are opposed to this project, so I will not elaborate any further here.

/s/ Kathleen Gorvad

Kathleen Gorvad