

From: ["James Fitzgerald" <jbfitzgerald96@gmail.com>](mailto:jbfitzgerald96@gmail.com)
To: [CannabisEIR <CannabisEIR@santacruzcounty.us>](mailto:CannabisEIR@santacruzcounty.us)
Date: 10/31/2017 6:30:12 PM
Subject: Cannabis EIR

To whom it may concern,

I oppose allowing commercial cultivation of cannabis in the San Lorenzo Valley due to the inability to enforce the regulations and the inability to prevent significant negative impacts on county residents and the environment. I am especially concerned about the potential fire danger of all cannabis cultivation operations but I am especially concerned about the fire danger of unregulated illegal operations.

Consider this paragraph from the EIR:

"Further, this EIR programmatically analyzes the secondary impacts of the Program on changing and expanding unregulated and unlicensed cannabis cultivation and manufacturing in the County. Secondary impacts of the Program would create significant and unavoidable impacts to all resource areas analyzed in Chapter 3, Environmental Impact Analysis, except for aesthetics and visual resources, which would have less than significant secondary impacts. This is because it is not possible for the County to completely eradicate all unregulated cannabis activity. These illegal activities would not necessarily adhere to existing County regulators and/or mitigation measures in this EIR, and could therefore cause significant adverse impacts due to practices such as not following grading restrictions and causing erosion, using chemicals hazardous to biological resources, diverting streams and causing water supply and quality issues, and using diesel generators that contribute to air pollution and GHGs. Although this EIR introduces mitigation measures that would lessen these impacts through enforcement and surveys of unlicensed cannabis activities, as it is not possible to bring all unregulated cannabis activity into compliance with the Program, secondary impacts remain significant and unavoidable."

A program that is not enforceable will not be enforced, and a law that is not enforced is no better than no law at all. For this reason, I am opposed to allowing commercial cannabis cultivation operations within the San Lorenzo Valley.

I am not opposed to people growing a small number of plants for their own use, say 6 plants, assuming that they are grown outdoors. Indoor grows should be prohibited due to the extreme fire danger of the hot lights and associated wiring.

The problem with legal, regulated, commercial cannabis operations in the San Lorenzo Valley is that the illegal operations will be able to hide in plain site. How will anyone be able to recognize if an operation is illegal? Will anyone come to enforce the law if a neighbor calls the authorities? I do not believe the authorities will be able to respond to complaints. The illegal growers will overwhelm the system and there will be significant environmental damage to our community. Eventually, the illegal growers will cause a large fire with the potential for significant property damage and loss of human life.

Sincerely,

Jim Fitzgerald
10751 Visitar St
Felton, CA 95018
ph: (831) 252-0334
email: jbfitzgerald96@gmail.com