

Mark Cliser, Staff Planner,
Case #: U_2019-0002,
Department of Planning and Building Services,
860 North Bush Street,
Ukiah, CA 95482

Mendocino County
JUN 10 2019
Planning & Building Services

Dear Mark Cliser,

I am writing in regards to the proposed minor use permit for cannabis cultivation at 16730 Franklin Rd., Fort Bragg, 95437

I am the owner of the property directly to the south of the site of the proposed continuing commercial cannabis grow.

I am against the continued use of this property for cannabis cultivation. Our neighborhood is an Opt-Out Zone for new commercial cannabis cultivation, which is prohibited, and existing permitted commercial cultivation is to sunset in 2020.

In a family neighborhood of one and two acre parcels commercial cannabis cultivation is inappropriate. Since the owner of the residence, Tim Taubold, built the "spec house," and then attempted unsuccessfully to sell it, there has been a revolving door of renters growing marijuana and leaving, growing marijuana and leaving. Over the last 13 years since the house has been used illegally, and now I assume legally, as a marijuana grow house, we have experienced:

- 1) The transformer in our front yard blow up due to a "power surge" (per PG&E) after a power outage was restored. We were told it was due to a large number of grow lights all coming back on at the same time.
- 2) We have heard large trucks come in and out of the driveway next door at all hours of the night unloading and loading items.
- 3) We've had strangers drive in and out the targeted property's driveway, and also our driveway before building a 7 foot gate/fence, then race out the driveway and drive much too fast down Franklin Road. Children and pets live on our road and driving above the speed limit is an accident waiting to happen.
- 4) We've woken to loud conversations and bright lights in the middle of the night multiple times. I bought a home in this neighborhood expecting it to be a rural quiet environment, and it was previous to the construction of the "spec house."
- 5) We've had items stolen from our yard, in spite of a seven-foot perimeter fence. We now have an 80+ pound dog for protection.

6) We frequently smell the odor of marijuana burning in the wood stove or fireplace next door. My husband has a lung issue, and granddaughter has asthma. Large amounts of marijuana burning, and unknown chemicals used in the cultivation burning of cannabis are a health hazard. The smell pervaded our yard all day today.

Additional concerns:

1) The potential for increased crime due to criminals looking for a high-dollar crop. We are fearful of home invasion scenarios as have happened numerous times in our county.

2) Physical safety. How does the owner of this ongoing commercial cannabis grow intend to protect the crop? Will we now have persons with guns guarding marijuana in a family neighborhood? What happens if criminals invade the property? The potential for violence and injury increases with commercial cannabis cultivation.

3) Excessive water use. This neighborhood has water issues with a history of wells going dry. Excessive water use for cannabis cultivation draws down the local water table and affects water levels in surrounding wells. Tim Taubold, the owner of the property, once advertised the property in our local paper (Advocate News) as having a well producing 50 gallons a minute.

Please do not allow this minor use permit for commercial cannabis cultivation. Please protect the health and safety of our neighborhood.

Sincerely, Lonnie Mathieson
16700 Franklin Road
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

