

Pleased be advised that on February 10, 2021, the Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council (LAMAC) took action that approved submitting this letter of recommendations and comments to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and Mendocino County Planning Commission regarding the proposed rule that that “Parcels in the AG or RL zoning district that have a minimum parcel size of ten (10) acres or larger may cultivate up to 10 percent of the parcel area.”

The Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council is opposed to the expansion of cannabis cultivation based on the 10 percent rule in Ag, Rangeland, and Upland Residential zoning districts.

The following concerns have been identified by the community:

- Planning staff is already overburdened and unable to keep up with the workload required to manage the permitting process for those who have already applied. Expanding cultivation prior to getting caught up with issuing the permits to current applicants would only add to their burden and seems inappropriate at this time.
- Law enforcement is already unable to keep up with the increased number of cannabis violations. By encouraging big grows this inhibits easy accountability to those who are in the system and those who are not.
- Water resources are already negatively impacted by the existing cultivation from lack of best practices and drought. This crisis of losing water within the District would be exacerbated if cultivation were allowed to increase by such proportions.
- We have wildlife and contiguous habitat concerns. We are a county rich with wildlife. It is not in the best interest to move forward with huge grows that may not leave any room for wildlife corridors, fence them off from fleeing from fires, and sucking up the water table. We are fragile and this impact will severely hurt or possibly even kill some sensitive ecosystems.
- It's important to also note Mendocino County's goal of protecting small legacy cultivators. Large corporate grows are the antithesis of this. Although it is much more challenging to permit and oversee a multitude of small growers, as opposed to a few large corporate players, this is what the county promised with the original ordinance creating the cannabis program. The intent of honoring and protecting small legacy cultivators should be upheld.
- As you can discern with the issues above, expansion of cannabis cultivation is not in the best interest of the Laytonville Area community. Therefore, the Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council opposes the proposal to allow expansion of cannabis cultivation to up to 10 percent of parcel size.