

Cannabis Visioning Session - Water Considerations - August 11, 2021 - 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

#	Asker Name	Question	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)
1	rachel Zierdt	Need to get an accurate set of reports as to current water conditions in the county. Do not use old information. Otherwise the EIR will not be accurate.	Good point!	Agree!!					
2	Moira Jacobs	There must be an immediate moratorium on all marijuana production operations in Sonoma County. We are in a serious drought and these THC drug production facilities require 6x as much water as vineyards. No additional licenses should be granted until AFTER the EIR is completed. Moreover, the EIR must include an extensive updated assessment of the water resources in Sonoma County, including full review of the impaired water sheds, updated maps, updated technical water studies, updated review of f	including full review of the impaired water sheds, updated maps, updated technical water studies, updated review of flora, fauna and fish populations along protected creeks such as Matanzas Creek. The water studies need to look at Sonoma County projected population growth for next 50 years, and planning for development corridors in high density areas and needed water resources.	Spot on	Yes - we're worried enough about our Sonoma vineyards drying up our water in Sonoma Valley.				
3	CECILE ISAACS	Ministerial Permitting I love the idea of ministerial permitting. For one thing, it removes the friction from citizen interactions with government departments. Definition of the person empowered to grant "ministerial permits" A person who may/must grant permits to all projects that exactly fit the code and regulation definitions for that type of project. No judgement is required or allowed. If the project fits, it gets a permit. If it doesn't, it doesn't. No discussion is allowed for whether unusual benefits of the project outweigh detriments. No evaluation of mitigation is allowed. Obviously that requires extraordinary front loading on the workload to get the codes and regs in great shape before such permitting is put in place. What are the disadvantages? Every parcel in the develop-able area must be evaluated in advance in case an applicant comes forward with a request to develop it. Many parcels will be evaluated which will never be developed. This is a cost that can't be re-couped in fees	Disagree. Neighbors deserve the right to know about any pending permits next to their homes. These are large scale commercial operations. We are impacted directly by noise, odor, dusty gravel driveways, light, environmental impact, impact on our wells, property value, and more	Building an operation only 300ft from someones home (any commercial facility) will cause friction if there's no notice given to neighbors	That's why codes and regs need to be so carefully drawn in advance. Perhaps not feasible to have ministerial permitting, but trying to lay out what is required to make it work.	I feel the same way when you build houses next to farm land and then complain about agriculture			
4	Barbara Barrielle	How can I get the recorded session for Monday and Tuesday and the slides? Writing for industry publication.	Hi Barbara. You can find the sessions here: https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Cannabis/Comprehensive-Cannabis-Program-Update-and-Environmental-Impact-Report/	thanks Sarah -	Will this include the recording?	Are copies of the Q&A available?			
5	rachel Zierdt	stop permitting now. There needs to be a moratorium on permitting on any projects (not just cannabis) that requires increased water usage. Otherwise the EIR will have a moving target on water availability and will not accurately reflect the true picture.	Agree!	agree	Totally agree. We need to stop all the permitting under the no plan plan, which is currently not working.	I agree			
6	LAURA WALDBAUM	If net zero water use is required what parameters will be used to determine if use is actually net zero and how will this be enforced.							

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7	CECILE ISAACS	Other disadvantages of Ministerial permitting:	The EIR is for a new ordinance, and the State requires project-specific environmental review. Ministerial permitting does not meet most CEQA requirements as it requires discretionary permitting.	No discretion is allowed for ministerial permitting. That is the definition of "ministerial". Check off list is used to evaluate every project. If it fits, it gets a permit. If it doesn't, it doesn't. If the list is incomplete or inadequate, the EIR isn't adequate and ministerial permitting would not be appropriate.					
8	gail cafferata	For two days now I've heard people on screen say, "What are some POSITIVE IDEAS about sites for commercial marijuana cultivation, operations for tasting, location of dispensaries, etc. What would an IDEAL cultivation site, dispensary location, etc. look like?" Well, that's simply assuming that the community wants ANY commercial cultivation sites or ANY tasting sites or ANY dispensaries of any kind. Allowing any commercial marijuana cultivation, tasting and dispensaries in this county is outrageous given climate change to our water table and supply, the increasing risk of catastrophic county fires, the absence of any valid and reliable test for marijuana intoxication, and proven criminal activities associated with dispensaries in Denver and elsewhere.	I agree.	Agree!					
9	Rick Luttmann	How can I disable the crawl? It's blocking the screen.							
10	CECILE ISAACS	Advantages Ministerial permitting What are the advantages? The cost PER PARCEL to analyze impacts is lower. Staff time, review cost and enforcement cost are potentially much less once all parcels have been evaluated. Developer time to completion is much shorter. Developer cost to complete can be lower. Developers are encouraged to work on more projects in a climate of increased certainty. BUT Changes in State or federal rules may require the process to be redone periodically.							
11	rachel Zierdt	My concern is how balanced report will be sent to the supervisors. I don't find that this visioning sessions seem to be presenting both sides.	So far only the oppositional monologue	live answered	Opposition, without compromise will make this whole process useless. Pushing for indoor grows in industrial areas has its own issues. POLITICO: https://apple.news/Abfd3TPyGQpGSyU6MXQVlsQ	Great to see you again Rachel. Thank you for joining us. The report we are writing will be part of the 9/28 Board of Supervisors meeting which will be published online before the Board of Supervisors date. You can also contact cannabis@sonoma-county.org around that time. Thank you!			
12	Richard Rudnansky	Great comment Gail. Board should consider whether the citizens of the County want any expansion of the cannabis industry or any at all rather than how to accomplish it.	I fully agree.						
13	rachel Zierdt	explaining the moderator's research does not help with the impartiality of this process.							
14	Carol Taylor	Protecting established residential areas has to be one of the top priorities. We should protect our children as much as we protect wildlife.	Can we have all these verbal water use numbers be shown in written form?	Carol Taylor (You): Can we have all these verbal water use numbers be shown in written form?					
15	kjmil	I am concerned about water use for both legal and illegal grows. If someone is aware of an illegal grow who do they report it to?	Hi kjmil, thank you for joining us. You can report concerning or illegal cannabis activity by calling (707) 565-1992.						

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16	Moirra Jacobs	Ban it! That's what I want to see. If you must have your THC drugs, produce it where all legal drugs should be produced: indoor industrial zone with strong air filtration. Indoor marijuana uses least amount of water. We don't need to produce THC drug production for entire United States. Why are you pushing this unhealthy drug and actively promoting and pushing this when over 75% of residents here don't want this?	Where are you sourcing your information from?	Not true	This comment is incorrect at every level and a lack of basic understanding of cannabis and it's history	I regret you are offended by some peoples medicine. Cannabis is now legal after being legal for medical use for over twenty years voted by the majority of Californians.			
17	Lori Pascarella	This is false information. Vineyards use 3-4 times as much water acre per acre as cannabis. All cultivators are subject to hydrogeological resource studies as part of permitting unlike other water users. All cultivators are subject waterboard permit and reporting of water use to county and state.	Exactly! When you look at water to value cannabis uses much less water. The EIR should look at water to value, not water to area. An acre of cannabis is far more valuable than an acre of grapes.	Not what they are saying-listen.	Cannabis can be grown with 0 water it's call dry land farming	Thank you for your comment. exactly The information I provided comes from the County's published water use guidelines. According to those guidelines, here are typical water use rates: - Vineyards: 0.6 acre-ft/acre/yr - Irrigated Orchards: 1.8 - Outdoor Cannabis: 2.0 - Residential Lawns and Irrigated Pastures: 3.6 - Indoor Cannabis: 4.0			
18	gail cafferata	My vision does not include any "positive" comments on commercial marijuana cultivation. There is no "ideal" commercial marijuana use of water in this county. It is inappropriate given the drought that is likely to reduce our water table for years to come.	I agree	Not true	Cannabis can be grown regeneratively which increases biodiversity/increase of habitat for beneficial organisms and last but not least retaining moisture in the soil positively impacting the environment and waterways				
19	ron ferraro	that would be diaster and no point for a eir cause every operators will not last on such a small footprint	I agree						
20	Mary Plimpton	The session questions would be better couched from the position of "What would the best water policy be for the residents, communities, organizations, businesses, industries of the county" vs what policies would make anything-cannabis successful. We look to the BoS, County depts, agencies (heads and staff) for long-range vision & leadership that represents ALL our interests, not just the interests of a potential new tax source. In a hierarchy of water uses, we ask the county to prioritize & publish how you rank & will provide for needs, including but not limited to: reliable clean drinking wter; water for hygiene; water for food crops; for other ag (incl dairy & non-dairy animals); non-food crops; recreation. The EIR should use current Extreme Drought conditions as a base and looking forward to a future in which water resources may diminish. The questions today on how to make cannabis successful are out of touch with today's realities - and conceivably those of the future.	^^^^ Thank you. Well said.	I hope that the people summarizing these sessions fully capture your view with which I fully agree with you.					
21	gail cafferata	The EIR for the General Plan was completed in 2000. Given the current drought and the UN's changing climate report, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Headline_Statements.pdf , it is clear that any policy decisions about marijuana commercial cultivation in Sonoma County need a NEW EIR reflecting these realities. The UN Report (attached) says unequivocally: "Many changes in the climate system become larger in direct relation to increasing global warming. They include increases in the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions, and proportion of intense tropical cyclones, as well as reductions in Arctic sea ice, snow cover and permafrost. Continued global warming is projected to further intensify the global water cycle, including its variability, global monsoon precipitation and the severity of wet and dry events."							

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22	Lauren Marra	Permitting cannabis operations in unincorporated sonoma county, where the operation uses well water impacts an entire neighborhood. If one operation uses a lot of water, you risk all of our wells running dry. Water is incredibly expensive, its essential to life and we need to protect our resources.							
23	LAURA WALDBAUM	Water resources we should protect - watersheds identified by the state as critical Green valley, Mark West, Mill Creek and Dutch Bill watersheds	Get rid of grapes						
24	Moira Jacobs	Ban it!	Nimby						
25	gail cafferata	What we are confronting here in Sonoma County with the threat of commercial marijuana cultivation is the tragedy of the commons. The tragedy of the commons refers to a situation in which individuals with access to a shared resource (also called a common) act in their own interest and, in doing so, ultimately deplete the resource. This economic theory was first conceptualized in 1833 by British writer William Forster Lloyd. In 1968, the term "tragedy of the commons" was used for the first time by Garret Hardin in Science Magazine. This theory explains individuals' tendency to make the best decisions for their personal situation, regardless of the negative impact they may have on others. An individual's belief that others won't act in the best interest of the group can lead them to justify their selfish behavior. When facing the use or potential overuse of a common or public good, individuals may act with their short-term best interest in mind, for instance, using an unsustainable product, and disregard the	Grapes are the problem 70,000 acres worth						
26	Anna Ransome	PD article today stated "signs of inadequate compliance" with mandated curtailment of water rights in the upper Russian River. Why is the county even considering allowing a new water-intensive crop right now?	It is not a new use. The EIR should study how this is a traditional use.	Opening up 60.000 acres is a new use/expansion	Wrong. This is totally new use, new program. The old illegal activities are not considered at all. This entire program is a huge drug production experiment of a new decriminalized drug. There is no voter mandate given to Sonoma County for this massive and aggressive promotion of commercial scale drug production all over our drought stricken, wildfire susceptible county.				
27	judith olney	Water is our most precious public trust resource, and now is the time for the County to both plan for current and future uses and address cumulative impacts. Multiple reports already show chronic overdraft in impaired watersheds and priority groundwater basins. In addition to projections based on historic use, develop modeling scenarios that plan for multiple dry-years and hotter temperatures.							
28	gail cafferata	In the United States, groundwater is the source of drinking water for about half the population, and roughly 50 billion gallons are used each day for agriculture. Because of the tragedy of the commons, groundwater supply is decreasing faster than it can be replenished. In drought-prone areas, the risk for water shortage is high and restrictions are often put in place to mitigate it. The tragedy of the commons shows us how, without some sort of regulation or public transparency of choices and actions associated with public goods, there's no incentive for individuals to hold themselves back from taking too much. In fact, individuals may even have a "use it or lose it" mentality; if they're aware of the inevitability that the good itself will be depleted, they may think, "I better get my share while I still can." Sonoma County must do a new EIR in compliance with CEQA or the county water supply here will ultimately become unsustainable for everyone who depends on it, especially ranchers and farmers.							
29	Bonnie Brown	Protect ALL water resources.							
30	Moira Jacobs	Water for people and FOOD, not drugs!	What about grapes it alcohol also a drug they should be banned as well						

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31	Lauren Marra	We need to protect neighborhood well water. This impacts an entire neighborhood if you approve a permit on a parcel which uses well water. If one person uses a lot of water, you risk all of our wells running dry. Water is incredibly expensive, its essential to life and we need to protect our resources. How can we afford to truck in water or drill new wells if ours run dry?	I agree							
32	Anna Ransome	Blue line creeks, rivers, lakes and natural ponds, wetlands, springs, artesian wells, seeps, swales								
33	Craig Harrison	It is disrespectful to residents of neighborhoods who feel they are defending their homes against the commercial cannabis industry for pot growers to participate using fake names. Using fake names to cat call and mock the legitimate concerns of county residents reveals a Cheech & Chong attitude. I doubt anyone from a neighborhood is using a fake name, and if anyone is they should be removed from the dissuasions. Who is Henry Burbank? Henry Edison-Burbank? These seem to be a fake names. Who is John Galt, other than the lead character in Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged? This seems to be a fake name. Who is Nancy Nancy? Please take control of this. It undermines your stated goals.	I agree							
34	judith olney	Water related permitting criteria should exclude water scarce groundwater zones 3 and 4 and impaired watersheds. Catchment basins are not adequate mitigation as water scarce areas have confined aquifers subject to overdraft and reduced groundwater replenishment.								
35	Greg Harder	we need to protect those that are here. no permits, residential,commercial,or agriculture until we identify and develop additional water sources.								
36	Vince scholten	Cannabis can be dry land farmed requiring no water at all	Really?							
37	Jean Hegland	We must protect								
38	Ann Storms	County water maps are severely out-dated. An EIR will require a current assessment of water, or the EIR could be null & void.								
39	Craig Litwin	Water catchment should be encouraged, for all water zones.	Agreed							
40	L Williams	Well monitoring Twice a year with well draw down test and visual inspection by county official.	This is a basic enforcement step without which there can be no responsible permitting.							
41	Greg Harder	up until 30 years ago this was primarily dry farmed country because we are in a drying Mediteranian (sp) climate that will be worse based on climate change.								
42	gail cafferata	No cannabis cultivation in Sonoma County because we are living with a tragedy of the commons. No more water permits!	Get rid of grapes as well and all the food farms cause ho needs food							
43	Douglas Fisher	Context: Many scientific studies are currently showing that climate change is advancing significantly faster than formerly thought. In our area drought has become the norm as rainfall in all but two of the last 7 years has been far lower than average. Four years ago rural residents in water-scarce zones were asked by the state to monitor/meter their water use. This year in particular the water crisis is severe in Sonoma County cities and reservoirs. Mendocino Reservoir threatens to run dry during the next fire season; Lake Sonoma is not far behind. Questions: E.I.R.s are fundamental to planning any fundamental change in land use. Why is this E.I.R. occurring now rather than as the beginning and foundation of cannabis regulation.? Why are permits being processed and issued before the results of the E.I.R. are released? Why are we even considering permits in Zone 3 and Zone 4 water-scarce areas?	I agree							
44	veronica madrid	I agree with rachel zierdt - stop permitting now.								

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45	Lori Pascarella	Every single cultivation license applicant must submit for waterboard permit, provide biotic resource and hydrogeological resource studies. All water use is tracked and reported. Many cultivation sites are utilizing filtered recycled water, not ground water. The current regulations regarding water use and reporting are more than adequate to address water use on an individual site basis and collectively for the cannabis industry in Sonoma County.	I definitely agree.						
46	Jean Hegland	I agree with T Levey's comments							
47	Lauren Marra	Its been 40 years since the county has assessed the 4 water availability zones. A detailed study of this should be a critical part of the county environmental impact report. In the meantime, there must be a moratorium on pending and new permit applications as we don't fully understand the impact these facilities will have.	This is essential before permitting more water intensive uses of any kind.						
48	Anna Ransome	Cumulative impact studies of all proposed cannabis grows are needed to determine impact on water resources.							
49	Craig Litwin	Permaculture like design principles should be encouraged, with on contour swales infiltrating water, companion planting, mulching, and topsoil building.	Agreed	Good point.					
50	Kila Peterson	Rainwater catchment and permitting small farms that can meet that condition.	Agreed	Cannabis is not the only crop we should be thinking about. Maybe county needs to revamp all criteria for all agriculture and urban development .					
51	katherine yates	In a drought, many large trees come under threat of dying. Trees are crucial for keeping temperatures down, particularly in urban areas. So they should have a priority with water allocation	I agree						
52	Bridget Beytagh	How does the County plan to provide water, when it has stated that it would allow up to 60,000 acres?							
53	judith olney	Both the Sonoma and Napa county studies estimated that 1 acre of cannabis cultivation uses 1 million gallons/ acre/ harvest/ year. All resources must be protected - especially adjacent wells	This is not true	This is true					
54	Craig Harrison	Cannabis cultivation can adversely affect directly or through habitat modifications at least five aquatic or riparian species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species. A biological assessment for a cannabis cultivation found that Matanzas Creek and its riparian corridor provides good refuge habitat for amphibians and reptiles, and identified five rare species that are found in this watershed: California giant salamander (special concern); foothill yellow-legged frog (candidate threatened); red-legged frog (federal threatened); reed-bellied newt (special concern); and California freshwater shrimp (federal endangered). The piecemeal diminution of aquatic habitat is why the species that live in this habitat are listed as threatened, endangered, or are being considered for listing. A factor the California Department of Fish and Wildlife considers in listing a Species of Special Concern is when they occur in small, isolated populations or in fragmented habitat, and are threatened by further	By further what? Any human activity can disturb any habitat, that's common sense. Cannabis has to follow the same laws regarding water habitats and protected species as any other activity.						
55	gail cafferata	The alarming UN report on climate says that precipitation will decrease in CA and soil moisture will decrease: "Precipitation is projected to increase over high latitudes, the equatorial Pacific and parts of the monsoon regions, but decrease over parts of the subtropics and in limited areas of the tropics." And "Annual mean total column soil moisture change (standard deviation)" will be affected "Across warming levels, changes in soil moisture largely follow changes in precipitation but also show some differences due to the influence of evapotranspiration." Because of proven impending catastrophic climate change, to assure sustainability of water in the county, Sonoma County must: Do a baseline analysis and determine all current and projected water usage needs in the County. include all uses (residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial) then determine amount of water available for new uses under 1. drought conditions and 2. historical averages.							
56	veva edelson	I would like to see a moratorium on all cannabis permits until an EIR is completed. We time to study the availability of water during our extreme drought. WE don't miss our water till our wells run dry							

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57	Jonathan Saler	Needing protection are Rural areas depending on wells, near creeks that empty to Russian River such as Franz Creek, Porter Creek etc.. Vineyards have already been tapping these for decades. To add more agriculture in a drought prone area is	To add more agricultural water drain in a drought prone county with unstudied conditions is not a wise idea at this time.						
58	Bob Storms	If cannabis is fostered in our beautiful area, the valuable cachet that attracts tourists & visitors from around the world will be degraded.	Not true	TRUE					
59	Anna Ransome	Farmers and ranchers are abandoning crops and sacrificing animals due to drought. Is there a significance shortage of cannabis to justify taking water from these established businesses?	Not true						
60	Carol Bokaie	I question the amount of water used by cannabis grows stated by the moderator. Cannabis uses 6 times more water than grapes.	That is false- please cite your source.	Pease State why it is wrong	Not true	False information			
61	ron ferraro	water availabilty should be the determining factor for giving permits and how much acres, NOT what zones they are in, but the availbilty of the property well, and should be net zero impact. i believe this was already figured out by cannabis ad hoc and ag deparment	Exactly. Assess the property of what water is available. If there is enough there is enough.	Would you agree to dry farming?					
62	Bridget Beytagh	Would the industry be willing to dry farm?	Some						
63	gail cafferata	You are not listening to me. I have cited the UN recport on Climate Change.							
64	judith olney	No water or recycled wastewater trucking to cannabis operations as the nitrates and other unprocessed chemicals may degrade confined aquifers and impair the health of residential well users.	Not true						
65	veva edelson	The climate is becoming more Mediteranian and I would like to see all farming be dry farming.	Agreed	Agree-grape should be mandated to replant and practice dry farming					
66	steven sommer	I have vineyard and cannibus uses less water winery use propbly wineryuse more water then both cannbus vineyuae together	Why don't we dry farm grapes in this county!	Good question veva					
67	Craig Harrison	County water maps are 40 years old. It is unscientific to base cultivation decisions on ancient information.	Agree!	This is so important!	And yet the wine grape industry should also be looked at	County water maps need to be updated before any cannabis land use decisions are made			
68	Lindsay Blyth	By further what?							
69	gail cafferata	Because of proven impending catastrophic climate change, to assure sustainability of water in the county, Sonoma County must: Do a baseline analysis and determine all current and projected water usage needs in the County. include all uses (residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial) then determine amount of water available for new uses under 1. drought conditions and 2. historical averages. Study rainwater catchment reservoirs (net-zero water plans) and determine if they interfere with groundwater recharge of the aquifers and/or downstream flow. Prohibit cultivation in the already impaired watersheds. Water intensive commercial use will further exacerbate conditions. Prohibit cultivation in groundwater availability zones 3 and 4 and other areas where groundwater supplies are limited, uncertain and vulnerable to overdraft and reduced water recharge. Tests of wells of adjacent neighbors in water zones 1 and 2 should be current. Some are 30 years old.	Agree!	I agree					
70	katherine yates	groundwater does not obey property boundary lines, so one heavy use well operator can suck up the water in adjacent wells. This must be taken into consideration when a permit application is reviewed, particularly in a severe drought	Look at grapes						
71	Carol Bokaie	I agree with those emails that were just read							
72	Anna Ransome	An expanded streamflow monitoring network and direct measurements of cannabis water use would improve our ability to quantify (and mitigate) impacts to streamflow and sensitive species. (UC Berkeley Cannabis Research Center)							
73	L Williams	40 currrent acres at 2 acre feet is 80 acre feet, not really much water use. It seems that protecting neighbors wells is important. So truely proving each cannabis project has water.	40 is current. What is projected?						

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74	Jean Hegland	No operations on water-scarce areas. Not only will it take water from the land and current water uses, but we We also need water for fire fighting.							
75	Jeff Nash	I would say water for food first and cannabis, a mostly recreation last	Tha's how it works already.	Wine grapes are not food					
76	katherine yates	Agreed: the county's data is woefully out of date regrding groundwater							
77	CECILE ISAACS	Is chat disabled for most participants? I am only allowed to write in "question and answer"	live answered						
78	Craig Litwin	The board is moving twoards regulations, not prohibition. Can we please keep this focused on how to regulate instead of falling back to the "Just Say No" mentality?	in light of our climate crisis there might be places in the state that are better suited to growing cannabis IE they have abundant water and fewer people.	And what about grapes maybe they should be grown somewhere else	As the climate changes they probably will be.				
79	Lori Pascarella	Every single cannabis operator must submit a written Site Management Plan that addresses water use, waste management, sight security, and implementation of erosion and sediment control best managment practices to waterboard, Sonoma County PRMD or Agh Deparment as part of the application permitting and licensing process. There are already enough controls, regulations, inspections and processes in place.	Disagree. Once approved these operations use millions of gallons of water per year, theres no regulation or enforcement. This is threatening all of our wells within a neighborhood	Yes, in public meetings officials have said that there is not enough staff to monitor.					
80	kjmil	PD reports that well water main resource for grows and we also see reports of well water running dry. I feel we can ship in cannabis from areas that have more water. We dont really need to grow it here.	Not true and the PD is not facts						
81	gail cafferata	The ideas I am hearing from Rob all assume new permits. There needs to be moratorium on all new permits until there is a new EIR. The current one is too old in view of climate change.	Agree!	Do not agree	I whole-heartedly agree.	I agree			
82	Mary Plimpton	Immediate moratorium on all permitting, until completion of comprehensive science-based EIR that conforms with CEQA.	This is essential!	No	I agree	I support Mary's position.			
83	Gary Allen John Birch	protect our water from ALL polution. organic and narural cannabis growers dont polute the water table at all compared to the pharmcuedical drugs taken by all these old control-freak marxists disguised as cannabis opposition	Agreed						
84	Rick Rogers	cannabis cultivators drill wells to avoid the state water board requirements for cannabis surface water use, which require summer forbearance and storing water during winter high flows. make sure that groundwater use for cannabis cultivation follows the same rules.	cannabis cultivators drill wells to avoid the state water board requirements for cannabis surface water use, which require summer forbearance and storing water during winter high flows. make sure that groundwater use for cannabis cultivation follows the same rules.						
85	judith olney	For new cannabis permits in ALL groundwater zones, use permit conditions must follow the State Agency requirement that hydrogeologist reports, in addition to well pumping tests, are necessary to determine long-term water availability. All tests and reports are to meet industry standards and performed under the direction of licensed professionals.	"Every single cannabis operator must submit a written Site Management Plan that addresses water use, waste management, sight security, and implementation of erosion and sediment control best managment practices to waterboard, Sonoma County PRMD or Agh Deparment as part of the application permitting and licensing process. There are already enough controls, regulations, inspections and processes in place." -Lori Pascarella in earlier comments						
86	Anna Ransome	It's impossible to limit comments to your questions with an issue so complex.							
87	gail cafferata	THERE IS NO MODEL FOR A SUCCESSFUL CANNABIS cultivation program!!!	these sweet old ladies will never be satisfied	Not true	you should listen to sweet old ladies , we've seen a lot				

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88	Gary Allen John Birch	drug tests for all citizens in order to use septic and polute our water with their poison psycho drugs								
89	Cameron Hattan	a recent study from the University of California Berkely Cannabis Research Center in conjunction with adjunct fellows at the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy shows that permitted cannabis farmers are sonsuming less water than previously thought. Cannabis farms are considerably smaller than other crops, on average so cannabis has a very small footprint and accounts for just a fraction of the water used by California agriculture overall. The study states that "legal outdoor production uses the same amount of water as a crop like tomatoes"	Please add this study to the EIR, Sonoma County!	Exactly!	Thank you Cameraon! Can you please email us a link or the PDF for the study? We apprecaite it: Cannabis@sonoma-county.org	Agreed	email has been sent with summary added	Thank you Cameron!!	is any of this going to be included in this discussion?	
90	Craig Litwin	A succesful program catches silt and runoff.	Yes, all the Water Quality Control Board requirements should be met.	Agreed						
91	Marcy Meadows	No new wells. Monitors on existing wells with fines for going over allotment. Not taking from rivers or steams. Cease and desist oridance if well usage cause nearby residences to have their well production fall or fail.	Agree!	agree	This is already in place.					
92	judith olney	Must be adequate protection against well interference. Deny a new use permit if the hydrogeology report demonstrates the project water demands draw from the zone of influence of neighboring wells or if there is any drawdown on neighboring wells.								
93	Lauren Marra	Protecting our resources: keep commercial facilities away from neighborhoods especially those who rely on well water for cooking, eating, bathing etc. We are in a historic drought. We are all restricting our own personal water usage. Its essential during this time that we carefully preserve water for human consumption as well as for crops and animals that provide us with food. It's irresponsible of the county to even consider approving a commercial cannabis permit during such a critical time.	Quit building on ag land	I agree						
94	gail cafferata	You are leading the witness by asking for an "Ideal" commercial marijuana permitting process. There are many of us who do not want ANY commercial cultivation.	Does this include grapes	no						
95	Carol Taylor	Carol Taylor (You): Can we have all these verbal water use numbers be shown in written form?								
96	Jean Hegland	NO trucked in-water! Also, water catchment takes water from existing water needs. Especially in water-scarce areas, water catchment is utterly inappropriate	Not true							
97	veva edelson	a succesfull operation would implement dry farming on counteur swails on poly culture farms with farmers that are owners living on the land and in the comunity that they are growing.								
98	Lori Pascarella	Cannabis is cultivated in a raised bed or smart pots with drip irrigation with zero water waste, all irrigation water is used by plant. Use is monitored and reported to county and state. The cannabis industry already has more than adequate controls imposed upon it via county and state regulations, inspections, and enforcement.	Drip water is still water being used from aquifers, rivers, watershed, catchment.							
99	L Williams	following State water guidlines of all 102 pages, but without enforcment and monitoring it is useless.								
100	judith olney	Neither conservation nor catchment cannot reduce a water demand of over 1 million gallons per acre per harvest to 'net zero' – these types of mitigations are not allowed under CEQA.	That's not a realistic amount of water. What about recycled water, Judith?	Can't produce enough						
101	Anna Ransome	Moratorium is essential. Humboldt's cannabis ordinance gives the county the right to reduce the extent of any cannabis activity in the case of sustained drought or low flow.	Thanks for this info Anna. This is essential.	Important	Don't agree					

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#	Asker Name	Question	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)
102	Carol Taylor	Are these questions and comments now part of a public record? There are really valuable insights here.	Hi Carol - We post the meetings here: https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Cannabis/Comprehensive-Cannabis-Program-Update-and-Environmental-Impact-Report/ The first two days are already posted. Thank you for joining us!						
103	Gary Allen John Birch	what about the wine industry? why did all the previous generation (read BABY BOOMERS) get to start buisnesses and live their dreams and now these spoiled CHARMED old bullies want to disrupt the next generations.	Agreed						
104	Ann Storms	I see nothing at all wrong in stating an opinion of "No cannabis" in Sonoma County. In reality, only a few well-placed individuals are benefiting(\$\$\$) from the marijuana industry. The rest of us, including our precious lands and our wildlife, suffer.	Agree! I say only allow some long term local THC drug producers in good standing to participate in industrial zone indoor production site. Collocated at that site should be testing labs by multiple top rated drug safety labs to do the desperately needed SCIENCE to study both THC drug products as well as CBD products on human health. You have put the horse before the cart. Any responsible government policy would first assess exactly how safe or unsafe are any of these drugs.	The Indian Hemp Commission of the 1800's showed the safety of cannabis. The La Guardia report of the 1940's confirmed the safety of cannabis, THE Schaefer commission of 1970 showed the safety of cannabis. The American pharmacopiea from the 1800's to 1940 touted the safety and medical benifit of cannabis. Tens of thousands of years of human consumption showed the safety of cannabis. thousands of medical studies from dozens of countries show the safety and medical benefit of cannabis. It has only been illegal for 80 years based on racist policies. The basis of everything you have said is verifiably false!	I feel the same way about grapes and them sucking our wells dry for years already and now that we are in a drought still the water flows to grapes and nobody says a word				
105	katherine yates	Residents have to curtail their water use when there is a drought, and so should cannabis operators.This will require a sufficient county monitoring and enforcement team,							
106	L Williams	inground growing uses half the water as above ground smart pots.	Ah, but fewer crops!						
107	veronica madrid	Dry cultivation. I think I saw a comment that that is possible with marijuana	Yes it is						
108	Cameron Hattan	This study goes on to show that a single large almond farm in the central valley "utilizes 33 times more water than all of the permitted farms in Humboldt combined. crc.berkeley.edu	Thanks for siting sources!	So? We are discussing how much water would be used here.					
109	Bonnie Brown	Sonoma Water does not supply recycled waater now, only for tankers that spray water to keep dust down on new developments!!! This is rediculous.	No one said Sonoma Water, City of Petaluma does.						
110	Anna Ransome	In this equation water is the more limited commodity and, unlike cannabis, is essential for our survival.							
111	Gary Allen John Birch	no poison nutients and pesticides	Not allowed anyway						
112	katherine yates	It is my understanding that over 60% of the residents of Sonoma county depend on well water. Human livelihood should always trump commercial enterprises.	agree	Agree	Quit building houses on ag land	Agree			
113	Douglas Fisher	Rainwater catchment does not permit groundwater recharge. So called run off goes to streams, It is part of the hydrological cycle.							
114	Gary Allen John Birch	DCC and county mandates extremely strict controls on what you can use fior nutrients and pesticides							
115	L Williams	no dry farming	Explain why						
116	veva edelson	Limit to one crop per year dry farmed	Yes	Agreed					

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117	Lauren Marra	Why not allow these operations in commercial and industrial zones? Then water usage can be easily tracked and monitored, and these businesses can thrive without continued delays in the permitting process and without harming neighborhoods and families?	Stop building houses on ag land							
118	Jonathan Saler	No large commercial grows from outside the county owners should be allowed to sap our precious water. Small local farms should have rain catchment, ponds or reservoirs which many vineyards already have.								
119	Greg Harder	develop more storage, and clean out the Russian River like it was prior to 1976 when the banks were free from water alders and willows the use incredible amounts of water.								
120	Gary Allen John Birch	mandate DRY farming for all crops and we will starve out (read BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION)	Russiandisinformation							
121	Craig Harrison	Water should e protected not just in depleted watersheds. We should employ the precautionary principle and prortect watersheds before they are impaired. Same with aquatic endagnered species. Stop them from becoming endangered in the first place.	Look hard at the grape industry							
122	Anna Ransome	Catchments are not the solution as they can de-water entire areas depleting groundwater and surface flow and depriving neighboring parcels of access to water.	I agree							
123	katherine yates	have the cannabis industry invest in developing strains of cannabis that use less water, and have the county require only these strains be planted	Agreed							
124	Lori Pascarella	Cannabis cultivators are already subject to Sonoma County Department of Agriculture Best Management Practices, inspections and enforcement to address sediment and erosion controls, water usage, pesticides use and reporting, nutrient use and reporting, waste management and many other things. There is no need to re-write something that has been successfully in use in cannabis and other agriclutlural compliance for a long time in Sonoma County.	Apparently there is, as neighbors have been impacted with only 44 acres.							
125	L Williams	limiting mega grows, during this drought.								
126	Richard Rudnansky	Regardless how much water cannabis cultivation uses, how does it make any sense to exacerbate the water problem by even considering expanding commercial cannabis operations given the current drought, on going climate change, and continued developement of housing for people in the County? Please consider a moratorium.	Better yet put moratorium on the rampant residential housing development on rezoned Agricultural lands.	I think we all agree on that.	I agree					
127	judith olney	Net Zero Water Plans and the viability of catchment basins have not been adequately studied	So study them. Isn't that the point of this?							
128	steven sommer	Dry farming vineyard will go broke if you dry farm I have b een farming 60 years	How do other countries manage? Oh right, lower profits.	Not true it farmed here already						
129	Lori Pascarella	These are not cactus plants, they need water to thrive. No water equals no quality to product and unmarketability of product which would kill a thriving local agricultural industry.	During a historic drought, we need to prioritize. We need to preserve water for human consumption as well as for crops and animals that provide us with food. Also water for fire fighting	Not true	I agree					
130	Gary Allen John Birch	the oppostion uses every single issue to damage this young industry. cant anyone see what these same 15 hateful boomers and wash up HACK lawyers like harrison are doing? they are making a joje of this process. these permits need to be ministerial to keep these hateful and spiteful LIARS out of the family farmers lives	YES! There is definitely a hateful prohibitionist group fighting progress in Sonoma County!	What do you think progress is? Seriously asking.	Agreed					
131	Rick Rogers	tackling water resource planning and conservation upon the backs of only one user (cannabis) while conventional ag avoids any regulation is doomed to fail. all water uses should be exposed to the same analysis and scrutiny.	tackling water resource planning and conservation upon the backs of only one user (cannabis) while conventional ag avoids any regulation is doomed to fail. all water uses should be exposed to the same analysis and scrutiny.	Agreed						
132	Gary Allen John Birch	the setbacks from creeks is currently too extrem	Agreed							

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#	Asker Name	Question	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)
133	Craig Harrison	Follow the expert advice from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in its March 2021 letter: CDFW recommends the County assess the aquatic carrying capacity of watersheds to support cannabis cultivation and propose a limit on density or number of cultivation sites. The focus of the assessment should be to determine the maximum water use availability from watersheds that maintains adequate water supply for fish and wildlife species, considering the cumulative impact of existing and future legal and illegal diversions. Prior to issuing permits for new cultivation sites, the County should prepare the assessment at a watershed scale describing a) existing water use and availability, b) potential for sediment and other pollutant discharge, and c) percentage of habitat fragmentation within a given watershed. Hemp should be incorporated into this analysis since it requires essentially the same cultivation techniques and water use.	Thank you for sourcing this!	excellent.	And grapevines as well				
134	Douglas Fisher	How will many of these concerns with water be monitored?	Already happening						
135	Ann Storms	Adopt a Moratorium while Sonoma Co. prepares an EIR to determine environmental conditions-----and water is THE #1 environmental factor.							
136	Gary Allen John Birch	the setbacks from wetlands is more extreme than any other crop	Agreed						
137	Craig Litwin	The EIR should study how the number of cultivators is arguably reducing when you look at how many traditional growers there were under medical rules and the elimination of many of these farmers through legalization. There is a net water savings which should be documented.							
138	Carol Taylor	How fire resistant will the cannabis fields be? Does that depend on the time of year? How does that compare with urban, forested areas, apples orchards and vineyards? What about other crops?	Safety was covered in yesterdays meeting.	data is stil being gathered around this Carol, however, Cannabis appears to be a fire resistant plant because its water content ad because it is manicured routinely and dead material removed = no fuel for fire.	Either it has high wTer or high oil.	Thanks			
139	Cameron Hattan	considering agricultural output per gallon of water used for other crops like tomatoes, lettuce or almonds a gallon of water produces between a tenth of a cent to two cents of value in yield. For Cannabis, a gallon of water produces nearly \$7.00 worth of value making cannabis by far the most water efficient agricultural product in California. study linked at crc.berkeley.edu	Thank you						
140	katherine yates	current research data is so critical to the question of cannabis operations in this county.	I agree						
141	L Williams	Water sheds that have had studies done, and low recharge rates should have proven hydrology reports that it will not effect our water							
142	Greg Harder	why are we discussing using a necessary resource to produce a luxury item. bad decision	Cannabis is medicine for many not a luxury.	Bingo!	It's a luxury. Period. The FDA not only outlaws it , a medicine is dispensed in a licensed pharmacy by licensed pharmacists.	And can be grown where there is water. No problem with that			
143	Gary Allen John Birch	what about GAY FROGS from the psycho drugs these opposition boomers take all day and all night and pee into our water?							
144	LAURA WALDBAUM	The County's well permitting process needs to be updated to a conditional use permit away from ministerial process which does take into effect the effects a newly permitted well has on neighboring wells							
145	veva edelson	Permitting so many vinyards that are maximizing plants in the ground rather than planting on contuere. We should be thinking differently about how we farm across the board.							
146	steven sommer	you cant farm without water is the best fertilizerst	People have farmed without watering for thousands of years. Google it.						

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147	Craig Harrison	More from California Department of Fish and Wildlife: CDFW recommends the County assess the aquatic carrying capacity of watersheds to support cannabis cultivation and propose a limit on density or number of cultivation sites. The focus of the assessment should be to determine the maximum water use availability from watersheds that maintains adequate water supply for fish and wildlife species, considering the cumulative impact of existing and future legal and illegal diversions. Prior to issuing permits for new cultivation sites, the County should prepare the assessment at a watershed scale describing a) existing water use and availability, b) potential for sediment and other pollutant discharge, and c) percentage of habitat fragmentation within a given watershed. Hemp should be incorporated into this analysis since it requires essentially the same cultivation techniques and water use..	That is already required.						
148	Bridget Beytagh	Numbers being quoted by industry does not point out that is for 1 crop-not 3 or 4. Multiply and then multiply again for up to 60.000 acres.							
149	Gary Allen John Birch	cannabis farms have to be very safe with poisons or their product wont pass strict testing and the product must be destroyed. cannabis farmers already are compelled by this to stay haelthy and organic.	Yes! The EIR should study how commercial cannabis is a much healthier way to support the economy than toxic vines or housing developments on large parcels in rural lands.						
150	L Williams	All farms must have LSA's as needed. CDFW must sign off on all projects, as they already do. follow their suggestions on preparing heavy impact areas that are no grow zones							
151	Gary Allen John Birch	on the other hand, these old retired hateful neighbors will never accept cannabis. just like all of the new generations wont accept their terrible influence poisoning this planet since their selfish days as flower children. what happened to grama? why is she so hateful?							
152	Craig Harrison	"That is already required." Not for minsiterial permits that are now stacked 4-5 per parcel to occupy an entire acre. They don't do much of anything.	Not true						
153	Craig Harrison	More from California Department of Fish and Wildlife: "In many watersheds, parcels that do not have access to municipal water sources often extract water from the stream either; through direct diversion from the stream or from near stream wells that intercept subterranean stream flow; or from groundwater wells. Groundwater extraction has the potential to impact groundwater dependent resources and reduce streamflow, especially during the late spring and summer months.."	This is also not true Craig I wish you would site your stats or quit with info that is not true	March 17, 2021 CDFW letter. That's a public expert agency. Where do you get your information?					
154	Greg Harder	we did not have riparian corridors until we had people that chose to protect them. The wildlife and fish did alot better when the ripairan zones were cleaned out. Also the ripairian zones contribute to the movement of the fires in our counties. Maybe we should put them back to mother natures design.							
155	Bonnie Brown	Given this is a Mediterranean climate zone and will probably be in drought for years, perhaps cannabis growers might think of moving their business to the Northwest where water is available. Need to think ahead.	And remove the grapes please						
156	Gary Allen John Birch	the biologic assessments and archaeological studies required for a cannabis permit are ver rigorous. cannabis has to be set back much further than any other crop. on the other hand HEMP can be planted much more liberally and it is the SAME plant requiring the SAME growing techniques.							
157	L Williams	learning that the county has 60,000 acres of vines and 40 acres of cannabis, makes it look like any regulations on cannabis should then be followed by the wine industry. That would truly save our habitats	But they want to allow 65.000 acres of cannabis - hence the problems	Agreed with original comment					

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#	Asker Name	Question	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)
158	judith olney	The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's March 18, 2021 letter warned that Sonoma County has a high density of sensitive species, essential habitat areas and over-drafted groundwater basins that require State regulatory oversight. Thus, the siting and permitting of cannabis cultivation in Sonoma County will continue to be limited.	Cannabis cultivators upon applying for a permit/license must undergo a biological assessment as well as a hydrogeological assessment. If the location is deemed unfit due to being habitated or POSSIBLY habitated by this species- it will not be pushed through.						
159	Anna Ransome	100' minimum setbacks from wetlands, riparian corridors, blue line creeks, natural lakes and ponds to protect the resource and the survival of threatened and endangered species							
160	Gary Allen John Birch	waddle and hay to sop up any overflows or spills							
161	Moirra Jacobs	Best way to protect, ban it!	Not true	the majority of Californians voted to remove racist drug laws.					
162	steven sommer	i dont see my commets							
163	Craig Harrison	More from California Department of Fish and Wildlife's March 2021 letter: "The County should limit cultivation on parcels with the potential to support special-status species and their habitat. The Ordinance should establish a current baseline of permitted cannabis cultivation areas and project where new cannabis cultivation expansion may occur on a map. Geo-spatial analysis should be used at an individual property parcel scale, to exclude ministerial approval of cannabis cultivation within areas with habitat to support special-status species and where special-status species occurrences are documented within the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). Exclusion area boundaries should be mapped at a parcel scale. In addition, species-specific protective buffer distances should be developed as part of the Project MND to limit activities that can occur adjacent to mapped exclusion areas."							
164	LAURA WALDBAUM	Exclusion zones for the impaired watersheds							
165	CECILE ISAACS	Can Mia clarify whether her statement is simply her personal ideas or if those recommendations are grounded in state and federal law and regulation?							
166	ron ferraro	Mia information was great, i think we should be listen to what she has to provide	Well said!	Agreed					
167	Gary Allen John Birch	any disrupted topsoils must be covered w hay and waddled to elimintae dust and runoff.							
168	Carol Taylor	Yes - David's presentation	live answered	Sonoma County Water Supply, Use, and Conservation Assessment Guidelines can be found here: https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Policies-and-Procedures/8-2-1-Water-Supply-Use-and-Conservation-Assessment-Guidelines/					
169	Gary Allen John Birch	setbacks NEED to be the same as ALL other crops.	Sonoma County Water Supply, Use, and Conservation Assessment Guidelines can be found here: https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Policies-and-Procedures/8-2-1-Water-Supply-Use-and-Conservation-Assessment-Guidelines/	Absolutely not. Other crops don't require security fences, guard dogs etc.	Agreed				
170	L Williams	100 foot setbacks are already state law	Exactly.						

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171	Lauren Marra	A way to protect natural habitats would be putting these operations in industrial areas where the infrastructure is already there and no expensive environmental studies will be needed since the area has already been developed. Saves everyone time and allows the businesses to succeed without threatening the environment and endangered species/habitats								
172	judith olney	Protect the larger riparian corridor setbacks defined by the State Water Resources Control Board Cannabis Policy, follow additional protections of the Ca Department of Fish and Wildlife mitigation measures and all other state requirements.								
173	Gary Allen John Birch	if setbacks are made more extreme then you are taking away value from farmers land	Thus reducing farmers							
174	ron ferraro	they need setbacks from habitats and riparian corridros								
175	Gary Allen John Birch	do you see how these folks simply want to BAN. this is a dishonest discussion.	Agreed							
176	katherine yates	Answering this question requires scientific analysis of water flow patterns in any given riparian area. So this analysis needs to be funded somehow								
177	Greg Harder	don't forget about the poachers								
178	Moira Jacobs	Why is it in the public's interest to waste our resources in favor of the profits of the very few?	Please ask the grape industry	my cannabis farm provides quality paying jobs for Sonoma County, our taxes benefit Sonoma County.						
179	Craig Litwin	Cannabis cultivators are natural partners for habitat restoration, fire protection work, and water savings.	Some cultivators actively, in coordination with regulators, put water into the streams for protected species. We should look for these opportunities.	Not at all! The huge, unsightly, noisy, smelly, light polluting THC drug production site near us looks like an industrial operation, nothing "traditional Ag" about it. It's also a net new fire hazard with electrical, generator and workers living in trailer illegally. This is industrial drug production. It belongs in indoor facilities in industrial zone.	Thanks Craig					
180	Craig Harrison	Cumulative water impacts seems to be ignored. Why not study some of the sensitive watersheds such as Matanzas Creek to find the endangered and sensitive species before allowing any pot permitting?	Please do this with grape as well. Please.							
181	L Williams	Figure out if you should double state water setbacks, or follow the most strict standards that are already in place for any ag								
182	Gary Allen John Birch	these folks want to stop all cannabis applications and permits without a new law. they are bullies and are using leftist tactics straight out of RULES FOR RADICALS	Agreed							
183	Diana Barnacle	The only way to truly protect our environment is to grow it inside using recycled water.	Not true-please read this article. Read in POLITICO: https://apple.news/Abfd3TPyGQpGSyU6MXQVIsQ	Not true and do not agree						
184	katherine yates	a hundred foot setback assumes one size fits all, which is never the case in nature								
185	LAURA WALDBAUM	No new commercial water uses in impaired watersheds. Exclusion zones. Please protect our water resources	Please look at the wine industry							
186	Gary Allen John Birch	too bad anne. my land and family suffers from you not letting us live in peace.								
187	L Williams	40 acres isn't a problem. Its cleaner than any other farming in the World	Agreed							
188	Gary Allen John Birch	as boomers stop drinking wine there will be a glut of empty vineyards. the net water use will be lower.								
189	Lauren Marra	Will the county research what other counties such as mendocino have done? And will the county work to understand why marin and napa counties do not allow commercial cannabis?								
190	Anna Ransome	Cumulative impact studies of all proposed cannabis grows are needed to determine impact on water resources.								

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191	Craig Harrison	I agree with Ann Storms. In 2016 the county assumed there were 5,000 commercial growers, which was probably exaggerated since most were for their own consumption. They are the 1% What about the 99% who don't gain anything	Agree!	Yes						
192	steven sommer	David how much water are vegetable are using								
193	Michael Ely	There should be no cannabis farming in Sonoma County. Why shouldn't the costal zone exclusion also apply to the rest of the County	Do not agree							
194	judith olney	The County must conduct an independent Water Resource Availability Study for each groundwater basin or watershed, ensuring supply for all current permitted uses, setting acreage caps and other measures to protect against continued groundwater overdraft.								
195	Jonathan Saler	Many studies will have to be done on each ecosystem where a cannabis farm is or wants to be. For starters, each creek system will have to be monitored several times a year to check for species. This should already be done.								
196	Gary Allen John Birch	no poison seratonin uptake inhibitors like prozac in the toilet. why is grama so mean and filled with poison she pees into the water supply?	this is innapropriate and it is bullying in my opinion							
197	Bonnie Brown	Pollinators are in decline and we need to protect ALL habitats. They pollinate the food we need.	Come and visit my cannabis farm and see all the pollinators I have invited.							
198	katherine yates	As with just about every aspect of cannabis grow, funding to research, monitor, and enforce this subject is essential to success. No amount of wonderful rules will matter if they cant be backed by this	We are visited often.							
199	Gary Allen John Birch	the ladybugs and bees around my crops is a thing of beauty and great from the environment and habitat.								
200	Dr. Natasha Khallouf	I am a licensed cultivator I invite anyone to come to my farm and see how I am increasing biodiversity. The amount of predatory birds, wildlife and insects is astonishing compared to what was present previously. With the endangered Monarch butterfly spotted often. I grow benficals, use mulch, automated irrigation and a covercrop in the down time thus reducing my watere use and retaining moisture in the soil.	I would love to come and visit and talk with you. How can we encourage good stewardship in all farming.							
201	Lindsay Blyth	(13)Property Setbacks - Riparian Corridor Stream Conservation Areas. Structures used for cultivation shall be located outside the Riparian Corridor Stream Conservation Areas (RC combining zone) and outside any designated Biotic Habitat area (BH combining zone). Outdoor cultivation areas shall conform to the agricultural Riparian Corridor setback set forth in Section 26-65-040. Outdoor cultivation areas shall conform to the wetland setback set forth in Section 36-16-120, unless a use permit is obtained.								
202	L Williams	Setbacks is the real Key! Follow science, and double state setbacks if you still dont trust what the science say.	Hope you do this for grapes as well							
203	Lindsay Blyth	County Ordinance 26-88-250.								
204	L Williams	No wells should be at the same height as nearby streams.								
205	Anna Ransome	This is why setbacks are so important. Ag allows all kinds of activity in these setbacks but the attempt to classify cannabis as ag has failed. Cannabis production is not considered ag by the state and does not have right-to-farm privileges.								
206	Gary Allen John Birch	give the authoritarian hall monitor grandmas someone to bully around since grandpa left her and the kids cant stand her. she needs someone to bully. choose the topic. grandma can hate with the best of them. i wonder who though this would happen to america when devlopment projects take 5 years to get accomplished. this eliminates all independent family businesses and mandate banks and corps.	again this kind of othering is no productive							
207	judith olney	Require much larger setbacks for wells drilled near riparian corridors - groundwater drawdown acually does reduce stream flow, impacting special species.								
208	Jean Hegland	Sonoma County's natural beauty is one of our greatest treasures—and also a draw for tourists. We have to protect our ripirian corridors and the creatures who live here	strongly agree!	Strongly agree!						
209	gail cafferata	As a pastor, I follow the Golden Rule. What we do for ourselves we should do for others, and for Mother Earth. That means DO NOT POISON our earth with pesticides and herbicides.	Legal cannabis does not allow for chemicals such as these. I increase biodiversity on my farm not reduce it.							

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210	Gary Allen John Birch	protection would be the saem as now. the ag dept takes this extremely seriously.							
211	Greg Harder	50 years ago there corridors were much smaller a less dense.. Why won't we consider the water loss to excessive foliage. We have stopped the flow so much that the seeds don't get flushed out. Excessive plant material is choking our water supply. This is all recent justification for make people feel good. Quit messing with mother nature.	We used to have more water flowing to flush. Now the water levels are too low						
212	Gary Allen John Birch	the setbacks are too extreme compared to other crops.	The attempt to classify cannabis as ag has failed. Cannabis production is not considered ag by the state and does not have right-to-farm privileges.	It's a DRUG product. We need to first thoroughly test scientifically the exact safety or harms of both THC drug products and CBD based products. Both very different, different potential uses, but still no testing on any of this.					
213	judith olney	Protect the larger riparian corridor setbacks defined by the State Water Resources Control Board Cannabis Policy, follow additional protections of the Ca Department of Fish and Wildlife mitigation measures and all other state requirements							
214	Moira Jacobs	Protect riparian corridors: ban this. Place only in indoor facilities in industrial zone.	Please read this article Read in POLITICO: https://apple.news/Abfd3TPyGQpGSyU6MXQVlsQ	We don't need a huge facility. We only need one facility for the testing lab purposes. Marijuana can be grown in industrial Ag areas with water rich environments. The first step is this: prove to society these THC and CBD are safe drugs! So far ZERO scientific proof, only reams of scientific data on the HARMS of THC!	Do not agree				
215	CECILE ISAACS	Protection of riparian corridors requires frequent, scientific monitoring.							
216	Gary Allen John Birch	double setback are done to penalize cannabis growers							
217	Lindsay Blyth	If you want to protect streams and RC, increasing accessibility to cultivators to legally grow and they will gladly follow laws regarding water.	Unfortunately, where there is a lot of money to be this doesn't happen.						
218	Lauren Marra	We need a thorough EIR. When has the county last assessed and evaluated these areas?							
219	Carol Taylor	There are many other places in California and the US where weed is grown. We are not preventing cannabis production, just preventing it here at least for a moratorium period. The harm caused to the many is far greater than the gain of the few.	Thousands of cultivators reside in this county. Many families reliant.	Thousands? Citation please	I see now a County estimate. Thank you so much for taking the time to answer my questions. I really appreciate your doing that.				
220	Gary Allen John Birch	cannabis grows are extremely beustiful to most younger generations. just like grandma boomer loved the looks of vinbeyards.							
221	Craig Harrison	Growers are placing wells along Matanzas Creek, a sensitive riaprian corridor. They are drawing water from essential riparian habiait. This should be stopped.	strongly agree!	For grapevines unfortunately					
222	steven sommer	all agricultue shouldc treated the same set. out in the ag element	Agree	Agreed					
223	L Williams	Class three set backs should be state setbacks. all other setbacks should conversed with a BOS meetings.							
224	Gary Allen John Birch	the surprise inspections are many and intense. they are rigorous. none of the opposition seems to understand this. they are full of it.							
225	Lori Pascarella	Many vineyard and dairy owners are willing to convert acerage to cannabis to improve their cash flow to sustain their primary agricultural operations. This trade of of 2 acres per 1 of cannabis results in NET ZERO use and should be continued to be allowed in new ordinance in zone 3 & zone 4							
226	L Williams	Please state current water setback. Class 1,2,3 so public is aware.							
227	Gary Allen John Birch	the new ordinance NEEDS to minimize setbacks to treat cannabis like a normal ag crop							

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228	Craig Harrison	Parcels without access to municipal water sources often extract water from the stream either through direct diversion from the stream or from near stream wells that intercept subterranean stream flow; or from groundwater wells. Groundwater extraction has the potential to impact groundwater dependent resources and reduce streamflow, especially during the late spring and summer months.	Please look at the 60000 acres of grapes							
229	Craig Litwin	Create incentives for larger than required setbacks, applicants who work with Conservation Districts to restore riparian areas, and utilize open space money to protect some of these properties that are applying for small grows on large acreage.	I agree							
230	Greg Harder	again, why discuss this without a plan for water?								
231	Gary Allen John Birch	boomers pee poison in the water. GAY FROGS	You are acting like a bully. That's really not cool							
232	judith olney	Current County setbacks do not meet state requirements. Protect the larger riparian corridor setbacks defined by the State Water Resources Control Board Cannabis Policy, follow additional protections of the Ca Department of Fish and Wildlife mitigation measures and all other state requirements.	The county cannot supercede the state requirements.	Not true						
233	steven sommer	ARE uilding more homes hurting Habitat								
234	Bridget Beytagh	The County setbacks have been shown to be completely inadequate- a huge problem. They need to change.								
235	Gary Allen John Birch	soon cannabis will be ag by the state and fed								
236	LAURA WALDBAUM	We need more funding for enforcement of illegal grows using riparian areas for mixing chemicals and withdrawing water.								
237	Lori Pascarella	Setbacks are more than adequate to address odor mitigation and protect wildlife resources. Cannabis operators are subject to very strict waterboard, CA Dept Fish & Wildlife, county and state regulations to ensure resources are protected. County ordinance should mirror state laws.	Agreed. No need to reinvent the rules that already exist at the state level.	Could not agree more!	Odor is not the only issue. 300 ft setback from the wall of my home, with pesticide area, parking lot, dusty gravel driveway, light pollution, parking lot, noise, vibration, environmental impact, and more all even closer than 300 ft affects families' quality of life and well being. 300 ft is not sufficient. There should be a 1000 ft setback from residential property lines. There are so many viable areas for people to grow without threatening families and neighborhoods. We deserve the right to live peacefully in our homes and yards.					
238	Craig Harrison	Any biological stuides aboutt riparian habitats must be done in the wet season. Allowed those studies to be done in, say, August, is calculated and intended to make sure you don't find the rare and endangered species.	Cannabis operators are already subject to complete biotic resource studies, including spring studies.							
239	Gary Allen John Birch	ag land has rights that cant be threatened by spiteful old hipocritical silver pony tails.								
240	Diana Barnacle	What is the disposal process for the soil filled with excess nutrients after cultivation?								
241	Jean Hegland	Excellent point about cannabis about not being an agricultural activity. The cultivators themselves refer to "the industry." Cannabis is an industrial product, and does not deserve the same rights that farming does	It only a matter of time	Agree						
242	Craig Harrison	Whistleblowers should be given a bounty for finding illegal grows and illegal water diversions	Or fined if they are wrong.							
243	L Williams	in season Bio studies should be mandatory	they already are!							
244	Gary Allen John Birch	organic operators should be given an incentive like cheaper taxes if they are organic like my farm and land is.	Good idea							
245	Bob Storms	I agree with Craig Harrison re: wells being drilled on Matanzas Creek now. If there's no oversight now, what will happen if the floodgates are opened??	Look at grapes							

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246	Craig Harrison	Lindsay: I agree with a fine if there was bad faith. But there are few such claims.								
247	Greg Harder	Instead of pumping the clean recycled water to the Geysers, we should irrigate with it and let it recharge the groundwater as if filters and cleans.	Agree that our water resources should be protected for agricultural, and community uses, not pumped to the Geysers!	Agreed						
248	Carol Bokaie	I agree								
249	Lori Pascarella	It is clear as you see comments how misinformed the average citizen is about the already strict local and state regulations, inspections and enforcement that is mandated of every single cannabis cultivator. The county should align with state ordinance and stop allowing prohibitions groups to stop progress in development of a viable economic, jobs creating, tax creating agricultural industry.	Agree	AGREED!	Agreed					
250	steven sommer	thans								
251	Dave Jefferson	Wine grapes and wine making is genericly refered to as "the wine industry." Does that make wine grape growing as NOT agriculture?								
252	Dr. Natasha Khallouf	reducing the loss of top soil by planting beneficials alongside grants for water catchment; ponds and/or tanks cover crop during down time								
253	Gary Allen John Birch	good thing the hateful boomers werent around during the start of the wine industry in norcal. what went so wrong with this entitlkd and privlidge generation? why do they get to keep disrupting and cuasing problems for all other generations? they have made our country broke, weak, and sadly immoral. and now they cause extreme division with silly mask crap so that they never get sick while the rest of us have our lives damaged and our babies grow up in clown world. when will these charmed old sweet boomers butt out like grandparents used to do? when will they pass on the torch to the next generations and stay out of it?								
254	Jonathan Saler	Studies documented from a 1979 report of rural Sonoma County flora and fauna have already shown a severe reduction in species during the last 40 years. There needs to be a published update and all farmers, grape and otherwise, plus housing developers, should be held accountable for what they do to the land henceforth.	So many cannabis cultivators should be praised for the regenerative efforts							
255	L Williams	Starving any crop of water is not acceptable. Proving water availibilty is key. Sustainability is can only go forward from there								
256	judith olney	Conservation mitigation is not enforceable, especially given water self-reporting. Conservation or catchment can NOT reduce a water demand of over 1 million gallons per acre per harvest to 'net zero' – these types of mitigations are not allowed under CEQA.	should be monitored unlike vinyards	Water is not "self reporting" water meters are required to record water use. Get the facts!!!						
257	Gary Allen John Birch	stop using water as a tool to stop this crop								
258	L Williams	Water catchment is not real, unless you have a pond.								
259	Anna Ransome	Catchments are not a benign solution as concentrations of them can de-water entire areas depleting groundwater and surface flows and depriving neighboring parcels of access to water.	And depriving streams of replenishment.							
260	steven sommer	like most vineardshould be on drip	All vineyard are either on drip or dry farmed.	Please include the overhead frost protection						
261	katherine yates	Research into trapping and recycling humidity in inside grows sounds very intriguing, as this would lead to one of the most efficient uses of irrigation of cannabis plants.								
262	Craig Harrison	Protect Matanzas Creek. The creek and its riparian corridor provide good refuge habitat for amphibians and reptiles, and identified five rare species that are found in this watershed: California giant salamander (special concern); foothill yellow-legged frog (candidate threatened); red-legged frog (federal threatened); reed-bellied newt (special concern); and California freshwater shrimp (federal endangered). How can you approve cannabis operations in this watershed?	Sounds like this is personal to you, and not about the county as a whole.	Please look at how much water the grapes in your neiborhood use						
263	veva edelson	This format is really hard. I can't read other peoples comments. I can't believe that this counts as visioning and including resident input.	Agree	Agreed						
264	Jean Hegland	Wine isn't grown under lights								
265	Gary Allen John Birch	boomers cannot keep bulling all next generations after their generation proved that they have made every single wrong decsion. arguing with dishonest boomers point by point is a loser waste of time. TRUTH.								

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266	Craig Harrison	Why do you call marijuana "cannabis?"	it has been called "cannabis or hemp throughout all of human history" in fact linguists trace the age of " a language by it's use of the word "Hemp" The word "Marijauna" was introduced by Harry Anslinger with his Reefer Madness Campaign in the late 1930's he popularized the word marijauna which has nothing to do with cannabis to get unsuspecting people to vote to ban "Marijauna" without them knowing what they were actually voting for.						
267	Gary Allen John Birch	drip is good to control overuse							
268	L Williams	drip system mandatory							
269	LAURA WALDBAUM	While I am pleased to hear about new strategies to preserve water we also need to recognise that conditions now are much different than 50 years ago. We don't have the water now than had in the past. We do have more housing and we need to recognise the reality that we can't just keep giving out more permits for commercial water use when we are cutting allotments for current users							
270	Lauren Marra	There is an interesting new operation under construction near UC Davis right now. (they grow lettuce primarily and are working closely with UC davis). The operation is within greenhouses and thier system uses 95% less water. I think the county could learn a lot from what this operation is doing. https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/gotham-greens-accelerates-growth-with-west-coast-expansion-301237779.html							
271	judith olney	The State Department of Food and Ag regulations classify cannabis as a product - it is not a crop and differs significantly from traditional ag							
272	Diana Barnacle	We are in a drought and all these are great water storage ideas, it's insane we are talking about water storage for pot and not for drinking and growing food.	Cannabis has been proven to be VERY helpful medicinally. Here's a cited source- https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK425767/	Diana please consider updating your vocabulary. Cannabis as it is not referred to has been recognized by the state of California since mid 90s					
273	katherine yates	drip drip drip, and mulch mulch mulch. This can dramatically reduce evaporation and loss	Agree						
274	Gary Allen John Birch	wells are all different depths and rarely interfere with each other. that is a lie.							
275	Carol Bokaie	no dry farming							
276	Jonathan Saler	Franz Creek also has California freshwater shrimp.							
277	Maira Jacobs	Sonoma should focus on being USA Center of testing, collocates with an indoor facility in industrial zone. You all who support this blindly, put your money where your mouth is: prove THC drug products and CBD products are safe. If so great, then produce it in industrial Ag areas in water rich industrial scale farm lands in other areas, not Sonoma. You still have finished step one: testing the product! Even the potency is totally unregulated, untested.	This is false information. All cannabis is subject to testing by and independent licensed laboratory and must submit a Certificate of Analysis to the state which tests potency of cannabinoids and for any contaminants such as pesticides, molds, trace metals, or other non-cannabis material.	Not true about testing it as a drug. No FDA testing, no regulatory regime around THC potency, etc, etc. These are drugs, they need public health policy to drive this issue first. If it turns out to cure cancer, great. Then manufacture it in appropriate areas, not Sonoma.	again, there are THOUSANDS of studies showing the safety and medical benefit of cannabis!!! our final cannabis products are tested at higher levels than any other agricultural product in history!!! please educate yourself and stop pushing falsehoods! your organic produce can't pass cannabis cleanliness and safety testing!!!	Oh yes, all those thousands of pro marijuana industry studies....yep I've seen those. No credibility.			

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278	Craig Harrison	Why do you call marijuana "cannabis?" Propostion 64, which legalized it, used the word marijuana!	The scientific name of the marijuana plant is Cannabis Sativa or Cannabis Indica depending upon the flower strain.	It's a marketing ploy. The two chemical compounds being used are THC for hallucinogenic drug production and CBD for various other drug or therapy products. It's time both drug product categories be looked at separately, fully tested for safety and true scientific benefits or harms. Where is the Science!? Have we devolved into snake salesmen!? Look at visiting 1860s if you wish.	It's pakalolo in Hawaii. Literally translated, crazy weed.				
279	Gary Allen John Birch	send ALL farmers to siberia and starve them at work camps. the cannabis consumers will always get their product. it will be supplid by the blacl market as you continue to make cannabis farming impossible for family organic farms.							
280	Craig Litwin	The EIR should study the economic viability of cannabis to other crops in relation to water use. Arguably, reducing other crops and development will save more water than cannabis.							
281	Greg Harder	adopt the Israel farming techniques.							
282	Gary Allen John Birch	let the friendly old ladies do a rain dance for us. wacky old timers walk aroud the frontage of my parcle with little hand drums and do weird dances already. the more pills they take the friendlier they get. please grandma dont pee that poison into the water my babies drink and bath in.							
283	LAURA WALDBAUM	The "drought" is our new normal.							
284	Craig Harrison	Is "Gary Allen John Birch" also known as "Henry Burbank," or "Henry Edison-Burbank," or "John Galt?" Too many fake names.							
285	steven sommer	cannibbus grower are required to mesure use							
286	L Williams	Many farms in California are limiting their planting to 75% of their available space. Maybe a Perecnt of reduction should be enforced on all AG							
287	Jonathan Saler	Everyone should be conserving water. Let the color brown be the new rage. Dirt doesn't burn!							
288	Gary Allen John Birch	better than a fake person with fake concerns to stop a fake threat in order to bully people.							
289	Rumer Melendrez	The same people complaining about water usage for cannabis, are probably the same people that have grass lawns.							
290	rachel Zierdt	Update all the county tools such as water ground availability. The current map is old.							
291	katherine yates	in times of drought, water-demanding commercial crops such as almonds, alfalfa, grapes, rice, and cannabis should be severely restricted or banned.							
292	judith olney	Agree with County and State Agencies: The Department of Water Resources criteria applicable to priority groundwater basins should apply to all new use permits. Hydrogeologic report prepared by a qualified professional must demonstrate and conclude that commercial cannabis water use will not result in 1. . Chronic lowering of groundwater levels; 2. Reduction of groundwater storage; 3. Seawater intrusion; 4. . Degraded water quality as may happen with recycled water; 5. . Land subsidence; or 6. Depletions of interconnected surface water.							
293	Gary Allen John Birch	how are growers supposed to protect themselves from dishonesty like what we have in this chat?							
294	Lauren Marra	There is an interesting new operation under construction near UC Davis right now. (they grow lettuce primarily and are working closely with UC davis). The operation is within greenhouses and thier system uses 95% less water. I think the county could learn a lot from what this operation is doing. https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/gotham-greens-accelerates-growth-with-west-coast-expansion-301237779.html							
295	Gary Allen John Birch	there are maybe 1% of growers here. most have to WORK unlike grandma boomer and HACKS like harrison.							

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296	Carol Bokaie	I agree							
297	judith olney	Require verified reports that meet all water use requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board, including demonstration of long-term water availability.							
298	Lori Pascarella	The county and state already have a successful programs. Cannabis is one of the most heavily regulated, monitored, inspected and enforced industries in California. County should mirror state regulations and not try to make things even more complicated than they already are to do business here!	Agree	agree	disagree, there are many operations with violations right now that are not enforced.				
299	veva edelson	Cannabis cultivators maybe should undergo training similar to that of surgeon. Learning to farm sustainable is an intensive process that takes a long time. Not just knowing about cannabis strains and how to get the most luscious buds and sell for the most money. This is a fetish luxury product.	This implies that cultivators are uneducated.						
300	Lisa Lai	if you want cannabis farms in zone 1&2 only there will be more neighbors impact. allow 3&4 if hydro reports say there is enough water. allow hoop houses and require water catchment	Agree						
301	Anna Ransome	Wasn't water survey data used for the draft ordinance from 1980, 41 years ago? No new projects should be approved until after the EIR is complete and impacts on water resources are adequately studied and projected.	So needed.						
302	katherine yates	require all grows to be indoors, and recycle water. Power the grows with solar energy							
303	Gary Allen John Birch	the inspections currently are rigorous and intense. this industry is next to impossible							
304	Bonnie Brown	Gary and John, we are not grandma old lady boomers.							
305	Gary Allen John Birch	make regs same as state norms							
306	judith olney	Put new cultivation in greenhouses located in industrial and commercial zones requiring all new water conservation measures.							
307	L Williams	Can't ban plants or ag, but we can regulate it. Lets find a reasonable solution. State regs are very strict as it is.	Agreed						
308	Lori Pascarella	Next year appellations programs, organic and sustainable farming certifications will be available to cannabis cultivators. Currently they are not.	Isn't that in ground only?						
309	judith olney	All water users are required to reduce demand during a drought: Commercial cannabis cultivation and manufacturing should be held to the same standards in terms of required reduction in water use as other commercial uses - residential and commercial users have strict limits with required percentage decreases, and fines attached. The County also has the option to deny permit renewals for plantings during drought conditions							
310	Gary Allen John Birch	these neighbors are usually in smaller parcels that were originally broken off of parcels like mine. why do they have more rights and more of a voice?							
311	Gary Allen John Birch	these people have no respect for cannabis operators. they lie and try to get their neighbors swattes.							
312	steven sommer	we use less water in hoop houses	But hoop houses cause visual pollution for other properties	3 crops, so no, not less.					
313	Greg Harder	Please explain why we are discussing this program without a water supply. Isn't developing water storage more important?							
314	Lisa Lai	anything required by cannabis should also be required for grapes. cannabis is medical and wine is not. food should be a priority but cannabis over laws	Yes!	Do Cheech & Chong use medical marijuana?	cannabis is not medical. FDA approved drugs are medicine. There are cannabis based drugs that are FDA approved on the market which is very different. The majority is recreational	Pretty well agree.	Still it is a drug, a recreational drug. The active ingredient these drug producers market is THC, marketed as "cannabis," since sounds better. THC is listed by State of CA as a toxin, as of January 2020.		
315	Moir Jacobs	Good, I hope our comments end up on front page of NYT!	Send them to "60 Minutes" also.						

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316	Gary Allen John Birch	hoops houses should be able to be up all year and not 180 days to conserve water and protect plants from opposition views.	YES! Hoop houses also help mitigate odor drift, prevent crop contamination from other surrounding ag operators spray drift, and improve quality by protecting against excess heat and sun exposure.							
317	L Williams	Polymers in soil to hold hydration, will not work in the cannabis industry. The Cannabis would not pass the one parts per billion. Most likely the uc Davis study								
318	rachel Zierdt	If permits are only for 1 year, the water situation could be more accurately assessed and production dialed up or down depending on rain situation.	good idea		Excellent point!					
319	Dr. Natasha Khalouf	in ground planting only faster permitting of Greenhouse/mixed light	what do you do about gophers?	it is a challenge. increase predatory						
320	Cameron Hattan	Traditional agriculture should be worried. This can happen to you too!	100%							
321	Bridget Beytagh	Hoop houses produce 3-4 crops a year, so they actually use more than is being stated	incorrect- vs. a full season cultivation it would actually be less water used because the plants would be smaller and use less water.	Still 3-4 crops would use more.						
322	judith olney	In the winter, then hoop houses are protecting plants from natural rainwater.	using the hoop houses as water catchment actually conserves water and reduces ground water evaporation. the covers can also be easily removed to allow the rain in.							
323	Gary Allen John Birch	cannot restrict in in ground.								
324	Jonathan Saler	Again no permits should be issued to out of County land owners. So tired of people only coming here to use Sonoma County's resources and not support it. Live here and farm it!	Agree	Agree	Agree!	yes, agree!!!	Agree.	100%	agree	agree
325	Gary Allen John Birch	same as every other crop								
326	Gary Allen John Birch	he/him/his. cool i got that one right.								
327	Lisa Lai	let's assume that applicants are professionals who got into the white market to comply. enforcement through education the first time. chronic abusers are rare and should be fined.								
328	L Williams	If you don't fund the enforcement through taxation, non of this will work. 30% of the taxes minimum, should go to County infersructure.								
329	Craig Harrison	Heavy fines for rule breakers and a percentage of the fines to whistleblowers. The county's notion of enforcement is 8-4 M-F. You need the public to help locate illegal use or over-use, and incentivize the pulbic. Perhaps use those whsitleblower funds to establish an independently funded and independently-run enforcement organization not associated with a government agency.								
330	Gary Allen John Birch	giving the public private information about their neighbors who they already hate is a terrible control freak idea. bad idea. robust inspections and requirements are already to overbaring. stop treating cannabis farmers like criminals to appease people. they will never be satisfied. give the young cannabis industry a chance to help this county.								
331	LAURA WALDBAUM	We need "real time" monitoring of all commercial water uses and impose specific significant fines for use beyond what is permitted. Self reporting is totally meaningless. We have traffic police monitoring traffic speeds - we dont rely on self reporting for speeding violations	cannabis farmers must have water meters installed in our gardens. we have to report realtime numbers for water usage							
332	CECILE ISAACS	Can David say more about how audits help self reporting work?								
333	judith olney	Agree with Water Board: Self-reporting of water use is not reliable or enforceable. Use well monitoring equipment and periodic inspections or audits are required.	agree	we use well monitors and county and state officials do inspect.						
334	Anna Ransome	PD article today implies that it is impossible to determine who is taking the water illegally. Is compliance going to be voluntary?								

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335	Cameron Hattan	not true. regenerative cannabis cultivation promotes biodiversity, improves soil health and ground water retention.	Is the cannabis still grown in mono culture groupings of an acre of the same kind of plant?							
336	Kila Peterson	Cannabis is not the only crop we should be thinking about. Maybe county needs to revamp all criteria for all agriculture and urban development . New time calls for new guidelines for all! Tired of cannabis being the only crop requiring accountability. Transparency for all!	For ALL! we are tax paying businesses.							
337	katherine yates	Agreed: no permits issued to out of county operators!	then we need to decrease the cost of entry and increase the ease at which the small family farmer can enter the regulated market							
338	Bonnie Brown	Self-control, monitoring, and reporting is problematic. Inspection is expensive and not reliaby done. Don't know the soution.								
339	Gary Allen John Birch	can we also hold to account the neighbors who make repeated calls and emails that are proven to be exagerations and lies to be punished for wasting county time and illegally harrasing their neighbors who grow a plant.								
340	steven sommer	May the david department classes on water use								
341	Gary Allen John Birch	there is too much enforcement already. its CRAZY. this is a LEGAL crop								
342	L Williams	Set up at least two individuals from the county to work with interagency teams.								
343	Carol Taylor	Monitoring neighboring wells should be part of determining effect on total well water impact.	good point							
344	Gary Allen John Birch	heaby fines for HACKS who make up stories and waste peoples time like a HACK would do.								
345	Moira Jacobs	Since state of CA has listed THC as a toxin in January 2020, have any studies been done on THC going into ground? Effects on groundwater? On wildlife? On worker health	What about Prop 65?							
346	veva edelson	If a cultivator is breaking rules, give all their profits to the county for 10 years	I do not support indentured servitude.							
347	Carol Bokaie	Why can't the county identify larger tracks of land away from rural residences, forests, and parks, that are accessed by fire safe roads that then can be subdivided into lots for purchased for cannabis growers. During drought truck water into cannbis grows.	Might be worth giving this idea more thought.							
348	Greg Harder	loss of permit for violations								
349	Moira Jacobs	Loss of license!								
350	Lori Pascarella	The county already has a very intensive inspections and monitoring program through Sonoma County Department of Agriculture and PRMD code enforcement cannabis teams, in addition to all of the state inspections required. It seems like increasing above what is already being done for inspections and enforcement would seem to be more financially motivated by the county, than to actually improve cannabis cultivator accountability. (Cultivators pay fees for inspections as part of their annual permitting process)	Sadly, Ag. Dept. prefers to work with violators - as they keep repeating. This is a very real reason neighbors are fed up. No enforcement.							
351	Gary Allen John Birch	to eavch their own. not boomers and hacks ruke w an iron fist								
352	Craig Harrison	Greed trumps good behavior every time.								
353	katherine yates	set up a grow certification program through the junior college system that will teach responsible practices, and require all current growers and future applicants to get a certificate from the program.	interesting idea	already done						
354	Gary Allen John Birch	cultivators barely make profits	Consider another line of work.							
355	Gary Allen John Birch	most cultivators DONT make profits.								
356	L Williams	enforcement keeps all of your neighbors happy								
357	Gary Allen John Birch	there is a study that shows a psycholigical tweak that happened to the baby boomers that make them have a God Complex.								
358	Craig Litwin	Wells are already monitored, inspections done randomly, and permit holders do lose permits for non compliance. Follow the existing rules!	Nice.	Exactly.	So, why violators still operating?					
359	Mary Plimpton	County must adequatley staff for compliance enforcement. - Budget should be augmented from taxes collected from cannabis businesses.								
360	Gary Allen John Birch	neighbors make up lies or get a hack like harrison. and then the inspections surpise the next day and we get AAAAA from county and state. this is dishonest and they will not listen. they just want to throw everything they can at this industry								

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#	Asker Name	Question	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)	Answer(s)
361	judith olney	Wastewater discharge is a significant issue and unmitigated impact. The County's current permitting requirements do not appear to comply with NCRWQCB requirements, which prohibit discharge into septic systems or on-site treatment systems primarily used on Ag land. NCRWQCB requirements are another incentive to cluster cannabis cultivation, processing and manufacturing on commercial or industrial zoned land with adequate wastewater treatment facilities. The EIR must assess County and city investments in upgrades to accommodate treatment of excess irrigation water or industrial process water at many existing wastewater treatment plants.	Cannabis cultivators have their own State Water Resources Control Board regulations, permitting, inspections, reporting and enforcement program. Why do you feel cannabis needs even more oversight than having it's own separate distinct waterboard enforcement program where most other industries do not?!?!?							
362	Greg Harder	Again, please have our board of supervisors create a water supply before any permits for anything are issued.								
363	Moira Jacobs	Put one indoor coop facility in industrial zone. Test safety of these drug products first before expanding anywhere.								
364	rachel Zierdt	Unfortunately, if current enforcement is an example of how enforcement will go forward, it is very poor. Immediate revocation of permit is needed...fines should be steep....the crop should be destroyed or confiscated. Broad discretion is the verbiage that needs to be deleted.								
365	Gary Allen John Birch	maybe we should send some of the friendly enforcement officials to these neighbors houses and see their illegal residences, illegal land moving, illegal bed and breakfast, etc.								
366	judith olney	Limiting cannabis operations to commercial and industrial zoned lands is important as these areas can be served by water and wastewater facilities. The EIR must assess increased public costs for public utilities, such as the need to upgrade water supply and conveyance facilities, wastewater treatment plants, landfills and compost facilities. The County has many separate Sanitation Districts, some with limited capability to deal with industrial waste streams, such as pesticide residue or high organic constituents from hydroponic operations that generate large quantities of wastewater	Thanks for bringing your expertise to this discussion!							
367	Gary Allen John Birch	these folks are throwing stones from illegal glass houses.								
368	Richard Rudnansky	It is never good public policy to reward bad behavior. Revoke permits for violations.								
369	Gary Allen John Birch	call them into enforcement for their broken rules and there should be zero double standard.								
370	L Williams	40 acres is .0006667 percent of vines. the permits should be expanded.	Agree!	Oh don't worry, they want 65.000 acres. Read the ordinance						
371	Gary Allen John Birch	i want to see water rights for landowners not be interferred with at all								
372	judith olney	Have not addressed wastewater discharge requirements	Water board already addresses this!							
373	katherine yates	A recent study by the Petaluma Groundwater Sustainability Agency found the groundwater basin in the NORTHWEST area of the valley is in decline. As this region has one of the greatest densities of residential wells, there should be a ban on any grow operations in this region.	Thank you for joining us Katherine! Please send us a copy of that study, we would really appreciate it. We want to make sure the County has all the resources they need: Cannabis@sonoma-county.org							
374	Cameron Hattan	Is this just a forum for "fact free" complaining or are the comments citing "real studies" going to be included in the discussion?								

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376	Greg Harder	we need to adopt so. cals methods of water capture and recycleing								
377	Carol Bokaie	Why can't the county identify larger tracks of land away from rural residences, forests, and parks, that are accessed by fire safe roads that then can be subdivided into lots fo purchase or lease by cannabis growers. During drought truck water into cannbis grows.								
378	Gary Allen John Birch	i want to see water rights for landowners not be interferred with at all. this is my god given natural right that bolsheviks in disguise should not be able to touch.								
379	Dr. Natasha Khallouf	We need to be able to truck in wter during emergencies. Especially since many cultivators in California have helped to fight off fires from spreading	So, where does all this trucked water come from??							
380	L Williams	discharge should be regulated by the waterboard, they are the pros. they aren't slouches!								
381	judith olney	The County should heed the findings of the Napa Report https://www.winebusiness.com/content/file/9111_Report_082019.pdf								
382	Greg Harder	For the Presenters:								
383	Cameron Hattan	crc.berkeley.edu multiple comments/ emails citing this study								
384	Greg Harder	Who owns the water below our gound?								
385	Gary Allen John Birch	trucked water also helps fight fires.								
386	Jonathan Saler	This year should be a year of recording effects of the drought on plant demise, stress on trees, wildlife, etc. Who is recording what's happening in various areas? Noticed many more butterflies, baby lizards and toads so someone is happy.								
387	Anna Ransome	Water Board could have a adequate budget for inpsctions on cannabis wastewater discharge								
388	steven sommer	Discharge would b e important industrial growe								
389	L Williams	Lake County has 1000 foot setbacks from certain residential areas								
390	Gary Allen John Birch	stop trying to mess with my private land and well. you dont have the right.								
391	Moira Jacobs	What are ALL the costs of this drug promotion program? Licensing, enforcement, safety, law enforcement, increased traffic, impacts on water resources, fire safety, light pollution, public health, children education on dangers to their brains and hearts, whatever are ALL the COSTS, please add them up. We need to know full costs of entire program.	Echo that hope! We need to know full costs of entire program.	Cannabis is a medicinal plant.	https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/santa-rosa-girl-who-takes-medical-cannabis-to-treat-seizures-attends-her-fi/	People deserve access to their medicine grown locally.	Many children have benefited from cannabis rather than strong and harmful pharmaceuticals			
392	judith olney	Cumulative water demand must be assessed: Many operations harvest 2-3 times annually, the County must determine cumulative impact for current permitted acreage at 1-3 million gallons/acre/year, assess water availability and then set acreage caps by watershed or groundwater basin	Agree							
393	Lori Pascarella	State Water Resources Control Board already has a separate cananbis program that all cultivators must submit for permit from, provide site management plan, monitor uses, be subject to regular inspection, report use and discharge. No need to duplicate stuff that is already intensely regulated at the state level!								
394	Gary Allen John Birch	monitor water for pharmacuedical drugs. if they are in there (which they are) then the local neighbors who have poluted the water supply should be HELD ACCOUNTABLE. these poisins are way more damaging than anything canbabis does.								
395	jim Barnacle	what happens to the soil in these grow bags after harvest... does this affect runoff safety?	Soils are amended and re-used.							

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396	Craig Litwin	Encourage commercial cannabis as supplemental farming on land with other crops. Farmers can reduce water on one use to accommodate cannabis farming. This increases the value per gallon of water used, helping the local economy while saving water.	100%	Agreed! Diversification of agricultural uses and resources makes much more sustainable operations!					
397	Gary Allen John Birch	the water reporting and monitoring is already too intrusive. it is not the right of government to meddle with my properties water rights.							
398	CECILE ISAACS	Water trucks are too heavy for our local unpaved roads.	Agree!						
399	Greg Harder	can anyone comment on the private property rights?							
400	Gary Allen John Birch	there is not a shortage of water in my deep wells. i paid for this property for that reason. why do i have to subject myself to this authoritarian obstacle course to satisfy a minority anti-cannabis agenda?							
401	gail cafferata	Please stop using the expression "ideal cannabis growth site" . It assumes there is an ideal site. There should be NO site, let alone an Ideal site.	Agree! Please stop using your biased language promoting this environmentally costly program.						
402	L Williams	Thank you for this discussion!							
403	Dr. Natasha Khallouf	Thank you for helping support dialogue!							
404	Gary Allen John Birch	cannabis industry are being discriminated against. this is unjust.							
405	Bridget Beytagh	Many people suggest trucking in water, but, where does the water come from??	it's fantasy water	city					
406	steven sommer	beside lookinking rightht to farm would look at the ag elemrnt of general plan							
407	veva edelson	We should not assume that the cannabis industry belongs in Sonoma. The original intent was to bring small local farmers into compliance. Instead we are seeing an industry emerge that has little empathy for residents concerns.	Agree						
408	Gary Allen John Birch	this is torture for cannabis operators. so many lies and so much dishonesty by spoiled brat old folks.							
409	Gary Allen John Birch	thanks everyone							