

Middletown Area Town Hall (M A T H)

P.O. Box 5, Middletown CA 95461 ~ Email: mathtownhall@gmail.com

October 6, 2021

To: Eric Porter eric.porter@lakecountyca.gov
County of Lake, Community Development Department, Planning Division

Re: Request for Review

Project Title: WeGrow Farms: ADDENDUM IS 20-25, UP 20-22 SCH# 2021020311

Project Location: 16750 Herrington Road, Middletown, CA (cultivation site)

APN No's.: 013-060-40 (cultivation site); 013-014-03 and 11 (clustering sites)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Middletown Area Town Hall. As a municipal advisory committee, the attending community membership discussed and considered the above cannabis project at our regular meeting on September 9, 2021. We voted to approve or oppose the project RFR and submit a letter to the County expressing the body's vote.

Of the members present on Zoom we were able to count 39 votes in opposition to the project. There were no votes in favor of the project, and 5 abstentions.

The reasons for our opposition are:

- We believe the project is not an inappropriate land use and the project is not in conformation with the Middletown Area Plan.
- We are concerned that the water use for the project will be excessive and jeopardize the groundwater availability for the area. We are concerned that fertilizers or other chemicals will affect the ground water.
- In the area of the project, the electric power infrastructure is already stressed and this project will jeopardize the ability of the grid to supply power to the area's residents.
- We oppose the current easements through residential areas to access the project. The roads were neither designed nor maintained for the amount of traffic anticipated by this project.

- We oppose the proposed removal of 130 blue oak trees on the property. As an area that has already been ravished by wildfire, remaining trees are a valuable eco-system component and habitat for wildlife that cannot be replaced by replanting saplings.
- We believe there to be errors on the biological assessment regarding plants regarding and animals and most significantly the number of bird species in the area that will be impacted. The number of species is far greater than the report indicates, and some are rare species and oak tree dependent per the Redwood Audubon Society.
- Neighboring residents are concerned the project will negatively impact their quality of life and home values. Specifically mentioned were concerns about noise, odors, dust, chemicals that the project will emit, and significant traffic increases in quiet residential area.
- We are concerned that the applicant's previous illegal activities on the property indicate a risk to the area's residents: CHP Northern ISU Case # F0005-107-20
- The tax revenues from this project are very likely to decline as the cannabis market is currently flooded with product.
- We are concerned that the approval of this project will set a precedent that will make it more difficult to protect our community against such projects in the future.

As residents of the unincorporated areas in south county, the Middletown Area Town Hall provides a forum for issues that directly affect our community. The applicants for this project were offered an opportunity to speak to our membership and address the concerns of their neighbors. They did not attend the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rosemary Córdova
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Middletown Area Town Hall