

From: "Else Ahlmann"

Dear Moke,

It was, as always, a pleasure to talk to you today, and thank you for allowing me to express my concern about the "WeGrow" project. As I mentioned, several of my friends and wine club members live around the potential grow site and they are very concerned about the water usage, as well as the smell from a grow of the suggested size. I have personally inspected the area with Jesse Cude and I'm pleased to know that you are communicating with him. I'm totally in support of the Memo of Appeal that he wrote to the Board of Supervisors.

Let me share my own experience when I applied for a permit to develop my vineyards. When my wife and I acquired our 4,000-acre ranch in the year 2000, we met a lot of resistance toward our vineyard project, in particular from neighbors on Jerusalem Grade. They argued that our grape vines would take water away from their farms.

We consulted a groundwater geologist company, Richard C. Slade & Associates, and asked them to test the neighbors' statement. The company conducted a 24-hour constant rate pumping test, and they found no drawdown of the water level. Based on a suggestion from the Board of Supervisors, we also agreed to have the County come in and measure the water table in wells on both sides of the property line twice annually for a five-year period. Water levels were measured at the beginning and at the end of the growing season. Again, no drawdown was detected. After the agreed-on five-year period had passed, the County wanted to extend the agreement because they had very few data from this part of the County. We happily agreed, so now measurements are available for more than 15 years.

The proposed cannabis grow will have a substantially bigger water consumption than our vineyard project, and I feel the developers should be held to at least the same standard of accountability, transparency, and follow-up. It is my concern that the County doesn't have the resources to make sure that legal grows are in compliance – and history shows that there is very little capacity to deal with illegal grows.

On a more personal note, I want to let the Board know that after looking at properties in all four north coast counties back in 1999, my wife and I could see the tremendous potential of Lake County. We both grew up in Europe, and over the years we have spent a lot of time in France and Spain. Lake County has many similarities with prestigious wine country regions like Rioja and Ribera del Duero in Spain, and Provence in France. Same climate, same beauty and landscape. Pulling together with other wineries in Lake County, we work to make Lake County a wine destination. Construction of an upscale glamping resort is just about to start at Six Sigma Ranch. Also, during the last several years, we have hosted high school kids for mountain bike races and cross-country runs; this year alone, we had more than 2000 kids competing here. During the pandemic, we've also opened our property to the public for recreational activities without charge.

Where would we like to see Lake County in the future? As a magnet for cannabis grows? Or as a travel destination with a stunning lake, outdoor adventures, and wine experiences that can compete with the best in the world?

Best wishes,

Kaj

Kaj & Else Ahlmann, proprietors
Six Sigma Ranch & Winery