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March 15, 2016

Paul Trouette addresses Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Topic: PERMITTING MARIJUANA GROWS IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

I SPEAK TODAY ON BEHALF OF **MYSELF**, THE **MENDOCINO COUNTY BLACKTAIL DEER ASSOCIATION (MCBA)**, AND THE **CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION COALITION**, A HABITAT AND WILDLIFE ADVOCACY GROUP.

WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE BOARD IS NOT FULLY CONSIDERING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THAT WILL RESULT FROM PERMITTING LARGE AND MEDIUM SIZE MARIJUANA GROWS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THE COUNTY.

AS YOU KNOW, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LAND USE DECISIONS AND THEIR IMPACTS.

THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PROVIDES A MECHANISM FOR ASSESSING AND DISCLOSING CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THAT RESULT FROM POLICY DECISIONS, **ESPECIALLY NEW AND UNPRECEDENTED ONES.**

AT A MINIMUM, THIS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SHOULD FOLLOW THE LAW AND, **PRIOR TO APPROVING A MARIJUANA GROW PERMIT PROCESS**, PERFORM AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT THAT ADDRESSES CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO WATERCOURSES AND WATER SUPPLY, WASTE DISPOSAL OF CHEMICALS AND NUTRIENTS NECESSARY TO GROW OPERATIONS, **AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE SEDIMENT PRODUCTION THAT NEW AND EXISTING ROADS AND GROW SITES WILL GENERATE.**

THOSE SEDIMENTS AFFECT AIR QUALITY IN THE DRY SEASON, AND HAVE A SERIOUS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON STREAMS AND WATERSHEDS DURING THE RAINY SEASON, **WHEN THEY CHOKE OUT AQUATIC LIFE AND CLOG THE SPAWING STREAMS OF OUR SALMON AND STEELHEAD POPULATIONS.**

NOT ONLY DO THESE ACTIVITIES IMPACT THE HABITAT AND WATERSHEDS, THEY AFFECT DEER, ELK, BIRDS, FISH, SNAKES, **AND EVEN HUMANS**, WHO ALL DEPEND ON A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR SURVIVAL.

WE URGE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO **FOLLOW THE LAW** AND PROVIDE A FULL DISCLOSURE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THAT ARE CERTAIN TO STEM FROM ANY ACTION PERMITTING MARIJUANA PRODUCTION IN MENDOCINO COUNTY.