

## **Please Vote Yes on Measure A**

I remember how worried I was when our County began to draft its Cannabis ordinance to help transition from medical to legal cultivation.. Instead of following the rather successful path that had been pioneered over the prior 40 years, our County got boondoggled by the age old trap; if something works, let's make it bigger! The earlier successful model relied mostly on small, live in cultivation sites utilizing mostly organic and water wise techniques. The growers experimented with strains that worked in their areas. These crops were highly desirable and made a name for Humboldt product that kept not only the demand high but the price as well.

The original ordinance passed by the County was a great start, but failed to consider many issues raised by the public many of whom read and commented on the Draft EIR. It allowed very large grows and lots of them by people who had no relationship with the watersheds, the old roads, the wildlife or their neighbors. The consequence? There's been a saturation of product cultivated with technologies that cause nuisance in the neighborhoods. The growers aren't making the kind of profit they would like and the neighbors don't like the drying creek beds, nor the intrusion into their multi-generational rural lifestyles. Most County residents don't like the over drawing of our scant water supply and disruption of our wildlife.

Vote yes on Measure A. It's what the majority of people in Humboldt want. It's what we all need for a sane and safe cannabis cultivation model.

*Meighan O'Brien January 24, 2024*