

Measure A for growers who respect environment

When Humboldt County Planning Commissioner Noah Levy recently said that Measure A would somehow prevent cannabis farmers from making environmental improvements, I laughed out loud. The opposite is true.

Measure A will put needed sideboards on the industrial sprawl and ecological impacts of cannabis cultivation. The county has approved massive grows in sensitive habitats and right up against neighbors. Humboldt cannabis growers have contributed significantly to a saturated state cannabis market and crashing wholesale prices. In doing so, many growers (though certainly not all) have polluted and drained salmonid streams; filled dark skies with grow lights run on diesel generators; cut roads and dumped sediment into streams; imported heavy truckloads of soil, all manner of plastic material, and carloads of workers into distant wildlands on narrow county roads unsuited to the weighty traffic; and cleared forests — all approved by County officials.

Measure A is designed to ameliorate these preventable impacts while rewarding the many local growers who respect neighbors and the native environment.

Natalynne DeLapp claims that “what makes Humboldt special is our terroir, our story, and our history.” Yet the story, the history, of Humboldt’s “terroir” is in small operations producing sun-grown cannabis. DeLapp adds that area growers hope to soon take advantage of “interstate and international (cannabis) commerce.” What will happen to neighbors and the environment under such robust expansion?

Now is the time to ensure that cannabis production is conducted with respect for neighbors and the environment alike. Vote YES on Measure A.

— *Greg King, Arcata*