

From: littlehill321@yahoo.com
To: commentletters
Subject: Cannabis water regulations
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Hi,

I am locally licensed cultivator in Trinity County. I am an independent organic farmer not attached to any outside investment groups or entities.

In order to become compliant over the past year i have had to make many changes and improvements to my property at great expense. These changes are mainly to protect the seasonal streams from sediment and run off. Many other non-cannabis related improvements are needed and will happen as per my water resource protection plan. Nothing detrimental to animals or water but things from past owners that were not done correctly as per the regulations for cannabis farmers. The NCWQCB has clear guidelines and many of us have built out permanent infrastructure in order to comply with setbacks and water storage. These regulations were covered in a ceqa study to have no or minimal impact on the environment. They should be suitable for the state water board regulations. No impact is no impact. Additional setback distances will create a huge burden on the environment and the farmer to move permitted and permanent greenhouses, garden beds, irrigation lines, etc. At the very least allow compliant gardens to be grandfathered in to prevent more needless expense and destruction.

Ground water should be able to be used for cannabis cultivation as it is for any other crop. Water storage tank fields will create for more earth work, and the environmental hazards that come with it. These fields of tanks will take up more space than the gardens themselves. Please keep fair ground water use regulation in place.

As this industry moves forward enforcement on non compliant gardens will increase. These gardens are the real hazards where all the environmental degradation takes place. Not just public lands but private as well. Farmers moving into compliance are typically the greatest stewards of their land to begin with. Over the course of this process i have learned so much in being an even better steward. Please allow us a chance to practice out craft in a sustainable way as every other agricultural industry is able to.

Jeff Ghidella