



The Long and Short of it.

With Spring comes some hope that this long year of isolation may one day, in the foreseeable future, return to some form of normal. The Earth abides, and life will continue. For a while.

But was "normal" ever really good enough?

Our world is in flux. Huge problems are everywhere, major change is inevitable, but no one can predict what will happen, there are too many variables, an excess of information to process, and far too many beliefs out of touch with reality.

Embracing truth based on the authority of a gut feeling that conforms to your beliefs or values works well for a spiritual practice, or for interpersonal relationships. It's a very human, biological way to face challenges, our beliefs are a comfortable cloak of personal empowerment. But when a certainty of belief- faith in the veracity of our cognitive observations interacts with the physical realm, that of hard sciences and evidence based reality, and then mixes with the ideological zealotry of our fellow humans, things can get messy.

No one knows it all, and if someone tells you they do it is red flag warning. When the warning is ignored and rabbit holes suck the air out of reason that mess can become dangerous.

Amidst all the chaos of the world, the violence, the wars and strife and oppression, the disfunction of government, the stubborn stalemate of public policy- This week, as Covid19 vaccinations ramped up, a side affect was identified with one.

This minor item led the news cycle, deemed critical information, embraced as fodder of the skeptical. Yes a statistically infinitesimal fraction of a percentage of the millions of doses delivered has caused problems for a few people. Troubling, but not unexpected. Unfortunately the news fuels skepticism out of step with the very real, and again growing threat.

The virus is not going away, and to survive in the ways we prefer we must do what humans always have done to survive- adapt to the reality we find ourselves in. **And be smart.**

The virus that has not yet revealed all it is capable of, and has nothing better to do than exploit our biology for its own personal truth. Adaptation means survival, and the virus agrees.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY CANNABIZ: Mega Grow Approval Faces Lawsuit

Citizens for a Sustainable Humboldt (CSH), the Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC) and Mary Gaterud filed suit April 8th, to challenge Humboldt County's March 9th Board of Supervisors' 3-2 vote to approve the 8.5 acre cannabis project at Rolling Meadow Ranch in McCann, North East of Garberville California. Supervisors approved the project despite potential violations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State Planning, Zoning Law, and other laws. The plaintiffs are represented by Jason Holder of the Holder Law Group based in Oakland and David Nims of Janssen and Malloy LLP, located in Eureka.

The press release from plaintiffs expressed that the Board's decision for Rolling Meadow Ranch "has been a great disappointment to us, the neighbors in McCann, local Fire Districts, and many others in the community..." In five years of cannabis compliance, this is the first litigation challenging Humboldt County's permitting process..."

The Board's approval of the Rolling Meadow Ranch raises concerns detailed in the press release and include:

- impacts to wildlife, rare prairie ecosystems, and wetlands, requiring an EIR
- access roads which they say do not meet the mandatory requirements for fire, emergency access and traffic safety
- wells used may impact groundwater resources and hydrologically connected surface water features
- procedural CEQA Violations

The plaintiffs are challenging the overall adequacy of the County's analysis for the project. They explain,

[After] much consideration of this outsized Project's ramifications for the environment and our community,[the plaintiffs] seek to compel preparation of an EIR [Environmental Impact Report] that will fully analyze and disclose the Project's impacts..

Andrew Machata's Rolling Meadow Ranch is located on over 7,100 acres in rural McCann on the main stem of the Eel River, and he plans to have 5.73 acres of year-around, mostly mixed light greenhouse cannabis cultivation.

The project is 8.5 acres total and features sixteen new facilities with a "nexus to cannabis" as the Planning Department calls it, which translates to greenhouses, nurseries, indoor cultivation and processing sites. The plans indicate grading several acres, disturbing a half an acre of wetlands, and removing 23 trees. There are over twenty species that will be impacted according to the lawsuit filed, some protected species of concern are the spotted owl, the yellow legged frog and the golden eagle, Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon and more.

A letter from California Department of Fish Wildlife (CDFW) explained,

"Cumulative impacts could also occur to rare vegetation types known as Sensitive Natural Communities... to grassland... including California brome... Oatgrass ... Camas wet meadow... California oatgrass grassland... California goldfields... and other[s]."

Ecosystems have long been impacted by extractive industries and inadequate mitigations proposed by corporations and the governments that serve them.

The Rolling Meadow Project Humboldt County Planner Megan Ryan said, there were, "unavoidable but mitigatable impacts." Mitigation efforts were proposed to replace habitat, trees and wetlands at a rate of 3-1.

The mega grow is estimated to consume 4.5 million gallons of water annually, sourced from both 320,000 gallons of hard rain catchment tanks, in addition to three wells. Uncertainty around whether the wells are hydrologically connected to the Eel River and neighboring parcels is one aspect of the suit.

Cannabiz Continued on page 15

Watching My Friend Pretend Her Heart Isn't Breaking

On Earth, just a teaspoon of neutron star would weigh six billion tons. Six billion tons equals the collective weight of every animal on earth. Including the insects. Times three. Six billion tons sounds impossible until I consider how it is to swallow grief— just a teaspoon and one might as well have consumed a neutron star. How dense it is, how it carries inside it the memory of collapse. How difficult it is to move then. How impossible to believe that anything could lift that weight. There are many reasons to treat each other with great tenderness. One is the sheer miracle that we are here together on a planet surrounded by dying stars. One is that we cannot see what anyone else has swallowed.

~ Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

WILL THERE BE A GREEN NEW DEAL?

As the Biden administration and Congress continue to outline their vision for a large infrastructure package, lawmakers are throwing their own priorities into the mix.

Sen. **Bernie Sanders** and Rep. **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** introduced the **Green New Deal for Public Housing Act** in April. The bill would invest \$172 billion over a decade in building electrification, energy efficiency and water retrofits for public housing in an effort to zero out carbon in those buildings.

Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez say the bill would cut carbon emissions by 5.6 million metric tons per year — the equivalent of taking 1.2 million passenger vehicles off the road (200 million such vehicles are now registered in the U.S.). It would also reduce energy and water costs for the 2 million Americans who live in public housing. Employment spurred by the bill would also create 240,000 union jobs per year, the two legislators claim, aligning with the Biden administration's job-creation agenda.

"With America facing an affordable housing crisis and the perils of climate change, we must invest in our housing infrastructure now. We also must be honest about the scale of the problem," said Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who in 2019 introduced the Green New Deal resolution alongside Senator **Ed Markey**.

The new bill goes above and beyond the \$40 billion investment that President Joe Biden hopes to direct toward updating public housing via the recently unveiled American Jobs Plan, the administration's infrastructure proposal.

There are around 1 million U.S. households currently residing in public housing units, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez say the legislation will target the "government neglect, racial injustice and chronic disrepair" that haunts such units.

Low-income families spend a disproportionate amount of their income on utility bills: an average of 8.6 percent of total income compared to 3 percent for non-low-income households, More than 760,000 households have also faced utility disconnection during the coronavirus pandemic.

- canarymedia.com

OIL SPILL MYSTERY

In February a massive oil spill off the coast of Israel was discovered and is being called the worst ecological disasters in the Mediterranean country's history.

The last "worst oil spill disaster in Israeli history" occurred in April 2018 when Millions of liters of crude oil gushed out of a breached pipeline.

The latest spill was discovered when patches of tar began washing up on more than 100 miles of Israel's coastline. More than 1,000 tons of tar are estimated to have washed onto Israel's Mediterranean coastline have been scraped off and collected along the country's shores since cleanup efforts began. Beaches were shut down, and the sale of fish and other seafood from the area was prohibited. Adding further economic insecurity to already beleaguered communities.

The source is thought to be an oil spill produced during a storm on February 11th from a ship some 30 miles off the coast. Satellite imagery and wave patterns are being used to

trace the ship responsible. Now Nearly two months have passed and the tar continues to impact the southern coast of Lebanon, adding an environmental crisis to the country's recent hardships. With each day bringing a fresh wave of tar to beaches and endangering wildlife, volunteers have taken on the grueling task of cleaning up, as state help is absent. While initially confined to the south, mostly around Tyre, the toxic material is being carried further down the coast as the situation goes on unchecked by the government, with tar now being reported on beaches as far north as Batroun and Tripoli.

Investigations have determined the ship responsible may have been smuggling oil from Iran to Syria, although Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel has claimed that the oil spill was an intentional attack by Iran. Defense officials have largely remained silent about the charge by Gamliel, a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party.