

# HUMBOLDT OUT OF EMERALD COUNTY

## Remember the “US Out of Humboldt County” bumper sticker? How about “Humboldt Out of Emerald County”

instead? What else, when you have a Supervisor who forgot to defend her constituents when the state's big eyes started ogling the possibilities of cooking our Golden Goose for fun and profit! Or who vapidly defends the policy of a sheriff who brags about bringing in the troops to a community once pounded by the feds with CAMP in the eighties and then in 1990 was actually invaded by Greensweep, led by none other than Dick Cheney!

What else, when you have a visiting Commissioner of the Water Board, Cervantes, saying frankly on KMUD news that everywhere in the state people are growing marijuana for money, but here in SoHum is the only place where there is a culture of marijuana - **That the state wants to extirpate.** You know, wipe out. Bring to heel. Crush. The way it crushed the idea that marijuana is a medicine. What else, when you have a sheriff who sets his sights at nothing less than the obliteration of all unpermitted grows and in order to do things he can get away with, bringing in military hardware. When the black holes start lining up like this, it's time for some serious self-defense.

These blackhawk helicopters are right out of a third world occupation. Somalia, Sudan, Southern Humboldt. Low altitude buzzing and circling choppers will not stop. This is state of the art militarism that has its own requirements. Like a swat team, the military must show overwhelming force. That's what military violence is all about. General (Sherriff) Honsal wants us to believe he is in control of the National Guard. They won't be armed, he says, unless they are on a warranted search. Of course, in Trinity County, members of the National Guard walk around with gun “at the ready.” He is brave to take the credit (and the votes) but this is a state-level campaign, directed by Governor Noisome for the benefit of California State Coffers. When queried, the Sheriff's Department tells people that it's not their jurisdiction. Sometimes the double-talk shades into lies.

The Mateel Meeting sponsored by the venerable CLMP provided eloquent testimony from SoHummers about the pot invasions of the past. Jared, Betty, and other longtimers, along with fresh faces like Diane who turn out to be children of longtimers, painted a picture of a community under siege. All said the same - we've been there and we're not going back! No one mentioned that it might be lawsuit time though one speaker after another testified to the lawlessness of the Blackhawk copters, as Doug's reading of the original court order from the bad old CAMP days showed. Though expired, every sheriff **before the current occupant** has followed the court's rules keeping copters above 500 feet and only over open fields. The new Commander-in-Chief has no intention of changing the way these copter hotshots were buzzing about. Oh, yes, he'd talk to “(his) people.” But, geez, Cal-Fire, the people who are the part time overseers of the deforestation of Northcoast California, has these big black copters. Beneath the double-talk was relentless support for the militarization of the air space above our communities.

Militarization is the final Intimidation. Bringing in the copters is the admission of failure. Abatement hadn't destroyed the black market where the price per pound is rising. This strategy of using (unconstitutional) abatements to drive out every grower except the rich ones has failed. Before he became a self-appointed Generalissimo, the sheriff estimated that in a year's time his forces couldn't take down more than 5% of the total growers. Now he ambitiously wants everybody that's unpermitted. Oh sure, medical marijuana still has some vague standing. Honsal however promises nothing about anything. Probably. Maybe. Hypocrisy and double talk. At one point, Honsal even defended property destruction. Slashing greenhouse covers is merely for ventilation. Poisonous effluvia might overcome his people. Honsal has to be replaced and his marching orders shredded. When the rules of the game keep changing, maybe the game is rigged and needs changing.

**It was a sad panel.** Law enforcement and Code Enforcement sat joined at the hip. The marching orders from these two flak catchers were what you might expect: Just Obey! Forget rationality. Make a planning employee your best friend! Like the fox told the chicken. These Code cops are on their way again with a new crime like the old crime - homesteading. When abatements and red tags are used to attack a culture, the line between criminal and civil disappears. Ford has to go.

**Estelle is digging in.** She hopes to win another term even though her actions, and more, her inactions, have betrayed the people right down to those on the very road

she lives on. She is a perfect Quisling (the Norwegian of that name made himself infamous by fronting for German occupiers in WWII, just the way Capt. Boycott and Thomas Crapper gained immortality). An office for her in downtown Redway! The county suddenly feels the need to be represented in our community with a sham HQ .

**Estelle is wrong as usual** - when she's not outright lying - telling us that having a local planning department office is new and innovative. Actually there was an office for the building inspector in the early seventies. I remember that friendly helpful guy. You had a problem, he helped you work it out. The county took him out and replaced him with a scorched earth policy of repelling the hippy invaders. The office sat empty right next to the one Estelle never showed up at. It's a phony showplace to fake a concern that neither the county or the “panelists” possess. A Palace of PR. But it's a great spot for a table and picket. And it's a great moment to begin the Campaign to Replace Estelle. For that purpose, **come to the meeting Sunday, August 25 at 2 PM at the Senior Center in Redway.**

This office does give us a target in Redway to call for the firing or resignation of John Ford, the Commissioner of Planning. With Ford, it is hard to separate the double-talk and misdirections from plain old confusion. Ford is the jaws with which the supervisors have bit off more than they can chew. The meeting only added to the confusion. Like Honsal, much of his time was spent punching the **Tough Shit Cards** of the line of fucked-over people. The Grand Prize - an appointment with him personally - is laughably inadequate for the hundreds of people not in line that day with problems as absurd and malicious as those being continuously created by his bureaucracy of undertrained, overworked pencil pushers.

Planning Department? Watching John Ford interacting with the sheriff it is clear that Code Enforcement is law enforcement. Two kinds of cops. The old one-two punch. Lawyers, guns and money - all on the County's side. Just like the old days which aren't that old. Remember the furor over armed Code Enforcers that ironically helped sweep Estelle out of her job as Developer-in-Chief into the Supervisor Chair. God help us, Rodoni might have put up a better fight against what Gov. Noisome and the state-level greedheads are up to, not just stand by with his thumb up his ass.

As Scott, Doug, Jared and others reiterated - we deserve something better than a military solution. Lawsuits and injunctions? **Absolutely necessary** as the next few weeks will prove. Stop the copters. Drones would be cheaper, quieter and piss people off enough to fuel a Recall of Honsal and the Firing of Ford. It will take a movement for this to happen. First we must establish a campaign to Replace Estelle, beginning immediately. We have a good candidate in Nathan Wise but then there is the problem of Fortuna “progressives” - they are clueless about SoHum culture. After all, they won't be seeing noisy, intrusive black helicopters anytime soon, as was pointed out by Jared. It will be important to strip Estelle of any counter-cultural credentials, an important part of her con to gain Fortuna support. Whoever wins, it can't be her.

**The abatements must stop.** Totally. We need to shift the ground from a prejudiced HumBayBeltWay culture to a locally-grounded, fire dept. level, volunteer culture to adjudicate who is violating the environment, who needs a permit. It can be made up of local people with good reputations and a concern for their neighbors. Every hill and road knows who the egregious growers are. The county does too but unfortunately, as one speaker showed, these are likely to be first on the list for permits.

It is not solely **confused and malicious** county planning staff that needs reigning in. Aside from copters, there was a consensus at the meeting that Fish and Wildlife is off the rails. After years of watching greed overcome the environment in logging, ranching and fishing, they are finally permitted, so to speak, to actually go after somebody. It has apparently gone to their heads. A locally led permitting process, established with the authority and cooperation of the Supervisors led by brand new Progressives in place of Fennell and Bohn, will give counter-balancing authority to us. Not to the County and State.

As our local self-defense movement grows, then we can **take more seriously the fantasy** of a real local government. “Emerald County” would stretch from Redcrest to the Mendo border, from Alderpoint to Whitethorn. Creating a new county that serves our rural way of life and the environment is doable. Humboldt Out of Emerald County!

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## LATIN AMERICA'S UNPOPULAR PRESIDENTS

**Argentina:** In the midst of one of the worst economic and social crises in the country, Mauricio Macri's popularity has been worsening. In a survey conducted by the consultant Raúl Aragón & Asociados, 70.1% of Argentines disapprove of Macri's management. Population dissatisfaction is concentrated in corruption, unemployment levels, inflation, and economic recession.

**Guatemala:** President Jimmy Morales, according to a survey conducted in April by the newspaper Prensa Libre and Guatevisión, 81% of Guatemalans disapprove of Morales' management. Among the main reasons are the “evaluation of their work, the credibility of their statements and the fulfillment of their campaign promises,” according to Prensa Libre.

**Honduras:** According to the firm CID Gallup and the newspaper La Prensa, held in May 2019, the Honduran president, Juan Orlando Hernández, has a disapproval rate of 64 %. For those polled by La Prensa, “Hernández develops ‘badly’ or ‘very badly’ his management.” The main concern for Hondurans turns out to be high levels of unemployment, insecurity and the economic situation.

**Brazil:** In the middle of a presidential period characterized by demonstrations, strikes, defeats in Parliament (the sinking of decrees on the bearing and possession of weapons, for example), and controversies on Twitter (in the best Trump-style), the popularity of Bolsonaro has fallen significantly because according to the survey conducted by Ibope, the level of disapproval has risen to 54%.

**Chile:** According to the Criteria Research pollster, for the first time, the popularity of President Sebastián Piñeros rose to 53%. The survey conducted in March 2019 shows that the increase in insecurity, economic perception, and unemployment are some of the main arguments for the unpopularity of the president.

**Colombia:** The Colombian president, Iván Duque, took office on August 1, 2018, after elections marked by the ideological separation following the agreements reached with the FARC, made by the previous government. According to a survey conducted by the Gallup firm in June, Duque has disapproval of 62%. Among the main reasons are corruption and the serious economic situation of the country. In addition to that, in his presidential term, his bills have not been approved since he does not have a majority in Congress, which makes 71% of respondents believe that the situation in the country is getting worse.

**Panama:** Although on July 1 Juan Carlos Varela ended his term as president of Panama, the surveys, and specifically that conducted by the Mexican consultancy Consulta Mitofsky, reveal that until April 2019, Varela had a 78% disapproval rate. According to the French media L'obs, among the main reasons for their disapproval are “the decline in economic activity, the increase in the living costs, corruption scandals and the crisis in the health and justice sectors.”

**Uruguay:** Although Tabaré Vázquez was considered in 2018 as the president who had the most approval, with 76% according to Ipsos, today the reality is different. According to Canal 4, the approval rate is 28%. This figure is consistent with that made by the Mexican consultancy Mitofsky. Vázquez has a disapproval level of 72%.

**Ecuador:** Lenin Moreno began his presidential term with an approval rating of 65% and after two years of being in charge of the country had dropped to 27%, people perceive that the Ecuadorian Moreno has little results in his management, especially on economic changes and the fight against corruption.

**Costa Rica:** After a year in power, Carlos Alvarado has not been able to raise his popularity levels. According to the Center for Research and Political Studies of the University of Costa Rica (CIEP), Costa Ricans have two negative opinions for each positive one. Its main concerns are unemployment, the cost of living and the economic situation. Its disapproval rate is 76%.

**Venezuela:** According to Mexican consultant Mitofsky, Nicolás Maduro is the most disapproved president in all of Latin America, with 85%. The great social and economic crisis; the sanctions imposed by important governments; political instability added to the great Venezuelan exodus, are just some problems that the Maduro administration has to control.

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