

Public Comment #27



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Outdoor Marijuana Grows - Agenda Item #27 May 5th Meeting @1:00 p.m.

1 message

Joe Rodgers <joerodgers05@gmail.com>

Sun, May 3, 2020 at 4:38 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us, bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us, lori.parlin@edcgov.us

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Please give final approval to this very urgent amendment. We need to assist the Sheriff and the District Attorney, along with County Code Enforcement staff to do their jobs in ridding this County of the scourge of illegal marijuana grows.

Effective enforcement needs to begin immediately in order to avoid another grow season like last year, with the deadly consequences that can bring. Zoning laws exist to provide reliable expectations by those who purchase property as to how they may use their own property and how others around them may use their property. Amend this zoning ordinance to protect us and our property values!

Thank you for making your meetings more accessible for those of us who don't live near Placerville.

Joe Rodgers



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Agenda Item #27 - May 5, 2020: Medicinal Marijuana Cultivation

1 message

District4Voters Alliance <district4voters@gmail.com>

Sun, May 3, 2020 at 3:09 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Cc: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, BOS Four <bosfour@edcgov.us>, bosfive@edcgov.us, Lori Parlin <lori.parlin@edcgov.us>

May 3, 2020

To: Members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors**Re: Comments on Agenda Item #27 (#20-0565) - May 5, 2020**

Below are the comments we submitted for your April 21st "First Reading" consideration of amendments to the County zoning ordinance to address problems stemming from excessive outdoor grows of "medicinal" marijuana. We supported your approval of those amendments at that time and continue to do so. However, we wanted to update our views in light of the discussions that occurred on April 21st.

1). We re-iterate that discussions around this issue occurring during the next year should include as "stakeholders" the residents of El Dorado County, who must endure the side effects of these grows. We urge that when discussion meetings occur, the public be provided notice and an opportunity to comment remotely -- whether "social distancing" restraints remain in effect or not. Through your technological advancements, you have enabled participation by those of us who cannot make it to meetings held in Placerville during the work week.

2). We also urge these discussions include as one of the options the proposal (indoor grows only) advanced by Supervisor Veerkamp in his "second motion" (seconded by Supervisor Frentzen). Had that been fully presented as an option for April 21st, our group would have expressed our support for that alternative. However, we strongly support the proposal before you on "Second Reading" for urgent adoption.

District 4 Voters Alliance

April 19, 2020

To: Members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Re: Comments on Agenda Item No. 25 (#20-0565) - April 21, 2020**Our Position on the Proposed Amendments**

We are the District 4 Voters Alliance, an ad hoc group of voters residing primarily in Supervisorial District No. 4. We follow matters of interest to members of our group. Our members are concerned by the ever-growing impacts of illegal marijuana cultivation in El Dorado County and particularly in rural neighborhoods where many of our members live. As noted in your staff's PowerPoint presentation on this item in regards to "medicinal use" growing:

Currently, El Dorado County allows for more sq. ft. outdoors than any other County. . The proposed rule changes would still put El Dorado County on the more lenient side only 13 counties allowing six plants outdoors and eight allowing more -- a large majority allow only indoor growing.

We believe the current lax rules have a deleterious effect on the citizenry of El Dorado County, especially in the more rural areas where many unlicensed/non-permitted Marijuana grows have occurred in the past. These effects are the result of carelessness and greed on the part of outlaw growers who can make large sums of money by operating outside the law. We need only to reflect back a few months to the tragic death of Deputy Brian Ishmael to be convinced of how tragic these effects can become.

As stated in the staff's presentation there is an urgent need for the proposed amendments to avoid further adverse impacts during the forthcoming growing season. We urge you to take prompt action to APPROVE the staff's recommendations that were developed in conjunction with the County's law enforcement agencies. If we don't back our law enforcement, we will be overrun by illegal grows, criminal activity and environmental damage.

Our Reasons

El Dorado County has become one of the most "grower friendly" counties, which has attracted increasing criminal activity. In order to protect citizens, more effective enforcement is required. As noted in the staff presentation, current rules make it difficult and cumbersome for law enforcement to determine which grows are illegal so that enforcement can move forward. That has to change! The status quo is untenable!

We believe the staff's articulation of the "Benefits of Proposed Amendments" is on point when it states, in part:

- Provides clarity to the public and enforcement officials as to what is legal.
- Allows enforcement officials to easily determined whether a personal cultivation grow is compliant with the County ordinance without the need to investigate or verify whether a particular grow is for legitimate medical use.

- Provides clear guidelines for the public, which allows for expedited enforcement before plants reach maturity.
- Provides an avenue to more effectively and safely combat the black market, which is necessary for the success of a legal market.

Providing clear guidelines for the public is essential. Particularly in rural areas in the county, the public can help be the "eyes and ears" for law enforcement. We need to know when we see or hear about a grow whether it is a legal or illegal grow. If the latter, we can inform appropriate law enforcement so that they may investigate and shut down illegal grows--promptly! Once the growing season progresses to maturity, that's when the outlaws get most greedy and the danger level rises exponentially (as in the case that resulted in the death of Deputy Brian Ishmael). We should not have to live in fear in our homes and neighborhoods!!

In that regard, as the staff discusses, the proposed amendments will streamline the code enforcement process by reducing the number of steps and thus the time it takes to eradicate illegal grows through abatement. Moreover, abatement would now specifically encompass "remediation . . . to bring a property back into pre-cultivation conditions, such as illegal grading and damage to water supply." The environmental degradation wreaked upon our beautiful county by the carelessness and greed of outlaw growers is an outrage! Citizens in this county cannot undertake a simple building project without being subject to numerous requirements to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Yet outlaw growers ignore those entirely and simply do what is most convenient, expeditious and cheap in order to attain their ultimate goal of higher profits on the black market. Our creeks and streams should not be subjected to such atrocities!

Thank you for consideration of our views and thank you for doing your job during this COVID-19 crisis and allowing public participation from remote locations, which facilitates greater public input. In this regard, we note that the unanimous Planning Commission motion recommending that you adopt these needed amendments included a tag-along proposal that you "bring back" this matter for review after one year of operation. While that might be a salutary policy for all ordinances, we do take exception to the terminology referencing "involve County stakeholders" during that review. We believe that all residents in the county are the ultimate stakeholders in this matter. Instead of the usual meetings during workdays -- that can only be attended in person by a few special interests -- meetings conducted like yours today allow for participation by a much broader sector of the public.

District 4 Voters Alliance



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Medicinal Marijuana Amendments--Agenda Item #27 on May 5, 2020

1 message

OldCowHand <abarcattleco@gmail.com>

Sat, May 2, 2020 at 7:42 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Cc: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us, lori.parlin@edcgov.us

May 2, 2020

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Subject: Medicinal Marijuana Ordinance Amendments--Item #27 on Your Agenda for May 5, 2020

Dear Supervisors:

I am a long-time resident of El Dorado County. I have run cattle in the County for decades, in numerous locations. Years ago, we had few problems, other than natural predators. Even rustlers were very rare. However, in the past few years that has changed. We now have to contend with problem humans.

We encounter illicit marijuana grows in our rural areas where we pasture our cattle. The growers include local land-owners as well as outsiders; and all are quite belligerent if you come near their grow sites. It has gotten so bad that I am concerned for my personal safety whenever I go to tend my herd in certain areas where I run cattle. Of course, when questioned, they will always claim that they are growing "legal" marijuana and some even claim that it is "medicinal marijuana." Last year, some started claiming they were growing "legal hemp."

These illegal growers show no respect for others' property or for the environment. It is time for El Dorado County to put an end to the illegal black market in marijuana. I have reviewed the staff's presentation and the video of your April 21st meeting and the discussion. I urge you to move forward to finalize the approval of the proposed amendments so that County staff, the Sheriff and District Attorney can do their jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my views; and to be able follow this discussion remotely.

Sincerely,

Dean Accornero
Abar Cattle Co.
Shingle Springs



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

4/21 Agenda Item #25 - Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance

1 message

Dennis Jones <Denztoi@comcast.net>
Reply-To: Denztoi@comcast.net
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Sat, May 2, 2020 at 4:57 PM

County Supervisors,

Please do not pass the proposed ordinance limiting all cannabis cultivation in El Dorado county to six plants per parcel. This amount is inadequate to meet many medical cannabis patients' needs.

While Prop. 64, passed by the voters of California in 2016, required counties to allow six-plant gardens for recreational use, it clearly stated that its intent was not to interfere with patients' rights under Prop. 215, which voters passed in 1996. Under that law, courts have ruled that patients can grow any amount reasonable to their medical needs. Additionally, under Prop. 64, legitimate caregivers may provide for up to five (5) qualified medical patients and be exempt from the requirement of state commercial cannabis licensing.

Requiring registration of cannabis gardens is unnecessary and problematic. Marijuana is still a Schedule I drug federally and patients will be incriminating themselves by registering their gardens, in clear violation of our 5th amendment rights.

Taking away the current ordinance will encourage guerrilla grows in the El Dorado National forest that will cause environmental damage, and public safety concerns.

To move on this ordinance without the opportunity to make public comment in person will severely hamper citizen involvement. Many citizens of El Dorado county don't have reliable internet or phone access.

Please do not pass this ordinance, or at least table this discussion until after the COVID crisis, allowing a full hearing and involvement for all El Dorado County citizens.

Dennis Jones
Denztoi@comcast.net
2871 Shady Ln
Pollock Pines, California 95726



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

4/21 Agenda Item #25 - Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance

1 message

Teriann MacInnes <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sat, May 2, 2020 at 5:01 PM

Reply-To: teri.bargy@gmail.comTo: edc.cob@edcgov.us

County Supervisors,

Please do not pass the proposed ordinance limiting all cannabis cultivation in El Dorado county to six plants per parcel. This amount is inadequate to meet many medical cannabis patients' needs.

While Prop. 64, passed by the voters of California in 2016, required counties to allow six-plant gardens for recreational use, it clearly stated that its intent was not to interfere with patients' rights under Prop. 215, which voters passed in 1996. Under that law, courts have ruled that patients can grow any amount reasonable to their medical needs. Additionally, under Prop. 64, legitimate caregivers may provide for up to five (5) qualified medical patients and be exempt from the requirement of state commercial cannabis licensing.

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Teriann MacInnes

teri.bargy@gmail.com

2871 Shady Lane

Pollock Pines, California 95726



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

4/21 Agenda Item #25 - Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance

1 message

Paula Jones <Paula01@comcast.net>
Reply-To: Paula01@comcast.net
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Sat, May 2, 2020 at 4:53 PM

County Supervisors,

Please do not pass the proposed ordinance limiting all cannabis cultivation in El Dorado county to six plants per parcel. This amount is inadequate to meet many medical cannabis patients' needs.

While Prop. 64, passed by the voters of California in 2016, required counties to allow six-plant gardens for recreational use, it clearly stated that its intent was not to interfere with patients' rights under Prop. 215, which voters passed in 1996. Under that law, courts have ruled that patients can grow any amount reasonable to their medical needs. Additionally, under Prop. 64, legitimate caregivers may provide for up to five (5) qualified medical patients and be exempt from the requirement of state commercial cannabis licensing.

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Paula Jones
Paula01@comcast.net
2871 Shady Lane
Pollock Pines , California 95726



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance Agenda Item #27

1 message

Sara Faye <persephoneromurta@gmail.com>
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 3:51 PM

County Supervisors,

The proposed ordinance limiting the cultivation of cannabis in Eldorado County should not be passed. Not only is it unfair to medical patients to limit access to their medications but you are also pushing them to buy from an overpriced medical or recreational store they may not be able to afford. Most patients grow enough to last the year and the people most affected by this are patients growing on a budget. Some can only afford to put a bit of finances monthly for upkeep. So what happens when someone is poor and legally cannot grow what they need or afford the fines to grow the amount needed to last the year? What about when they are not able to afford going to a medical or recreational shop? Does that not put money into the hands of the big illegal grows that bring crime to this beautiful county? They are the ones you are after correct? What are the elders on social security or fixed incomes supposed to do to get their medications? Why limit access to their medicines? It is my belief there is a way to review this ordinance so you are actually able to catch the criminals instead of hindering our poor elders just trying to stay healthy and happy.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Sara Stewart
persephoneromurta@gmail.com