

L. Tannenbaum

#31

Re BoS meeting 10/22 - Agenda Item 24-1732

Good afternoon Supervisors,

My name is Lee Tannenbaum, and I serve as the President of the EDC Growers Alliance.

Once again, we are here discussing cannabis, and frankly, it's the same conversation we've had before. Today, we have two appellants bringing up issues that have already been heard, addressed, and overturned by this Board. What is most concerning is that these appellants are not neighbors nor in close proximity to the applicant site. They are presenting claims without any supporting evidence. One appellant has recycled a package previously used to deny an appeal (Harde cultivation), and the other has misquoted ordinances, as highlighted in staff's report today. In short, there is no evidence—just baseless claims from residents opposing cannabis.

What's becoming evident is that there's a small but vocal group with an anti-cannabis sentiment. While they are entitled to their opinions, more than 60% of EDC voters supported legal cannabis cultivation, and your Board has a duty to uphold their will. This should not be swayed by the personal opinions of a vocal minority or your own biases.

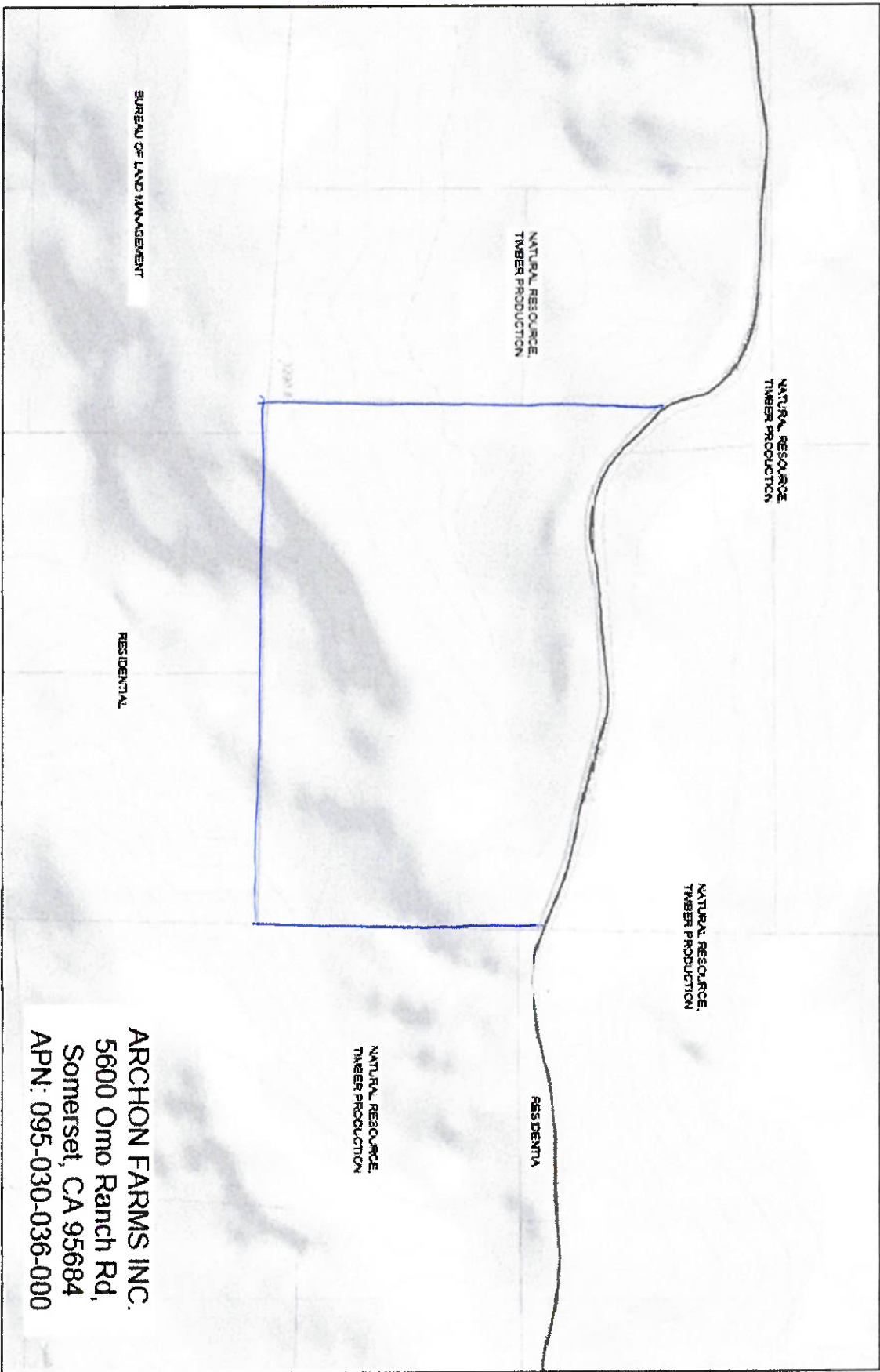
Cannabis has been deemed an agricultural crop by this county and the state (with the exception of right to farm), and the ordinance treats it as such through the CCUP process. Restricting water usage for cannabis farmers creates a dangerous precedent for all agriculture in our region. Imagine if this were a grape, apple, or cattle farm—would we be having this discussion? The bias against cannabis is clear. This is not about water use but about personal objections to cannabis itself.

Issuing a CCUP requires compliance with a variety of criteria. Objective criteria—such as setbacks and zoning—are met according to staff and the ordinance. Subjective criteria, such as public health and safety, have also been fulfilled, as confirmed by EDSO and other agencies.

For any decision the Board makes to hold up under scrutiny, it must be supported by substantial evidence. The appellants have offered none. There's no measurable, scientific data—just hearsay.

I urge you to support the will of the voters in this county. Deny both appeals, and allow this small business and farmer to move forward with their project.

S. Taylor #31



November 7, 2021

Adjacent Property Use Map - 5600 Omo Ranch Rd

Search Results: Parcels
Override 1
County Outline

Highway Labels Major Roads
Highways Major Roads
Minor Roads

Cities
 Parcels

Source: Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, Thematic, Intermap, Inc., Swisstopo, IGN, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, Esri, Source: Esri



0 250 500 750 1,000 Feet

I fully support the appellants, Judy Husak and Leslie Shoenfeld, who expressed several of my same concerns surrounding this cannabis project, specifically:

- Increased crime and safety
- Disruption of community character
- Nuisance issues
- Potential decrease in property values
- Lack in trust of regulations
- Moral objections

Of even greater concern, the appellants have jointly spent \$900 for a hearing, plus they also went through the trouble of collecting 291 signatures from their community. Mr. McCarty appears to have a problem with the legitimacy of those signatures. Relying on hearsay, he offers no proof that any of his neighbors actually approve of this project. Furthermore, it appears the decision has already been made by staff with a recommendation for the BOS to deny their appeals.

If you paid attention to my Open Forum remarks today, and read the public comments, then you would gain a clearer perspective for the McCarty's moral turpitude and lack of character. It is significant that **Mr. McCarty and Mr. Tannenbaum** have unethically engaged in serial meetings to influence **Kris Payne and Planning Commissioner Andy Nevis** which the Brown Act strictly prohibits. During the September 12th hearing, I also stated that Mr. Nevis had a moral and ethical duty to recuse himself from the McCarty hearing due to his employment with the State Water Resources Control Board, but he refused to do so.

It cannot be overlooked when Dan Harkin refused to accept Brooke Laine's award for his service that **Chairman Nevis and Supervisor Laine** both tried desperately to **censor** Mr. Harkin's remarks. Mr. McCarty clearly has his own issues with censorship, double standards, transparency, and accountability.

Collectively, all these individuals have demonstrated lack of character and abused the public trust. More importantly, the public is entitled to transparency regarding the game of musical chairs being played by the Planning Commission. It begs the question: ***just who exactly is pulling their strings?***

Lastly, I was shocked by the number of cannabis permits that have already been approved or are in process. You betcha I would object to the negative impacts of a cannabis farm in my own neighborhood, and I most certainly would object to having the caliber of neighbors such as the McCarty's have proven themselves to be.

In closing, the BOS needs to examine Mr. McCarty's moral turpitude and motives, then weigh them against the valid concerns of the appellants and the negative impacts it will have on their community and the entire county. Please do what is right for El Dorado County, honor the appellants, and deny this Cannabis Use Permit.