



County of El Dorado Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Regarding hemp issue

Jennifer Bloxsom <bloxsom5@gmail.com>


Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 1:32 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us, BOS Four <bosfour@edcgov.us>, Bloxsom Jennifer <bloxsom5@gmail.com>

Hello,

Please submit my letter into public file for the meeting on 12/7/21 regarding hemp.

Thank you
Jennifer Bloxsom

 **HEMP 21 1516 .pdf**
65K

12/1/2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in reference to the upcoming agenda item regarding hemp in El Dorado County. I have followed this issue from the beginning when we learned a cannabis grow would be put on the property directly next to ours (2019). We have voiced our concerns and requests countless times to no avail. I also participated on the adhoc committee and provided firsthand knowledge of our experience with having a neighboring grow next door.

We experienced the pungent smell of marijuana, strangers trespassing on our property, workers camping on our fence-line with no restrooms, workers guarding the perimeter of grow, generators running all day, random bags of chemicals being put into water tanks, no setbacks and black plastic weed blocker cloth blowing onto our property. (The previous grower helped us pick up several large leaf sized bags but we are still finding pieces over 200 feet away. This is a danger to livestock, and we have had to pull long pieces from the cow's mouth).

Recently I viewed a meeting presented by CEDAC and they proposed a pilot program that didn't address any of these issues. They also used the language of an "ag set back". From my conversations with the El Dorado County Ag Department, I was told there is zero set back guidelines and "growing hemp is the same as growing corn". I feel that it is deceiving to the public to present hemp the way it is being presented. Hemp is the same exact plant as marijuana. The difference is the amount of THC. It is impossible to tell the two plants apart without testing and the funds for adequate testing are not being provided by growers and will be a financial burden to the community. We have guidelines in place for marijuana, buildings, roads etc. I believe hemp should have some type of guidelines as well.

With all of the complaints/issues that were received from our community members, I am really concerned why CEDAC and the Ag Commission advisory wouldn't want to also address the dangers of these types of grows (presented by the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office) and try to create guidelines to avoid further issues. El Dorado County essentially had a "pilot program" and it failed because of the lack of guidelines and people abusing the program to grow illegally. Further, with the El Dorado County Ag Department along with other County personnel recommending a complete ban on Hemp, I believe we should be listening to the experts regarding this matter.

El Dorado County should be safe place to live and our community members deserve to be safe.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bloxsom