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BOS File 18-0210 February 13th meeting Agenda Item 21

1 message

El Dorado Growers Alliance <eldoradogrowersalliance@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 12, 2018 at 11:04 AM

To: The BOSFIVE <bosfive@edcgov.us>, bosfour@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, The BOSTHREE <bosthree@edcgov.us>, Bosone@edcgov.us, edc.cob@edcgov.us

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Dear Supervisors:

Are the staff reports for BOS agenda items publicly available? Does the Sheriff's Dept. have policies in place that limit the County's liability from misapplying these federal funds to projects that are prohibited under the Rohrabacher-Blumenauer budget amendment? Rohrabacher-Blumenauer is the current law of the land and a grant contract executed when Rohrabacher-Blumenauer is in place would be governed by Rohrabacher-Blumenauer during the implementation of the grant.

The Alliance and the County have a mutual interest in reducing organized crime run grows in the County. However, if Sheriff's Department enforcement projects target cannabis cultivation that has a nexus to Medical Collective law or would-be participants in a County permitting program to provide medicine to dispensaries then those projects would likely violate the provisions of Rohrabacher-Blumenauer.

Perhaps the Sheriff's Department should wait until the collective law expires in January 2019 or until the county adopts a permitting program (which makes a clearer demarcation between legal small family farms and so-called Gangster grows) before they apply for and execute this type of Federal Grant.

I met with Sheriff D'Agostini last week. We had a frank and productive discussion. I am hopeful that over time he will see the reality that cannabis agriculture is a substantial net benefit to the County economically (economic activity, jobs and taxes), socially (the demographics of County will become younger) and politically (public opinion increasingly supports commercial cannabis). There are legitimate externalities with many legal activities such as wine consumption and production. Communities should work to reduce those externalities through thoughtful public policy. Not accounting for the comparative lethality of substances is not helpful to the community.

We appreciate the work the County is doing through its Ad Hoc Committee. We will bring forward to the Committee a 100 permit cultivation pilot program. We are certain this program and the discussion surrounding it will create a community healing between law enforcement and the legal cannabis economy. We will propose new County FTE in Community Development and the Agriculture Commission from cannabis permitting. In lieu of this federal grant the \$56k for ESO could be generated by fees that allow ESO to assist permitting staff. The Federal grant contract limits use of the funds for legal cannabis permitting activity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Rod Miller
Legislative Director

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