

J. Hussack BUS 1/30/2024

#22

← Petition Opposing Commercial Marijuana Farm on Perry Creek R...

Petition Opposing Commercial Cannabis Cultivation License on Perry Creek Road and Surrounding Areas

To the El Dorado Planning and Building Department and El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

We, the undersigned residents of Somerset and Surrounding Areas, are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed commercial cannabis cultivation licenses in the Somerset community. We believe these developments present significant threats to the safety, character, and well-being of our community and urge you to deny the permit applications.

Concerns regarding social impact:

- **Public Park and School Bus Stops:** We are deeply concerned that at least one of the proposed cannabis cultivation farms is near a public park. Children and adults use the park's playground, disc golf course, horse arena, and athletic facilities daily. School bus stops, where children the ages of Kindergarten through high school wait for their bus throughout the school year, are near some of the proposed cannabis farms.
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- **Increased crime and safety risks:** We are deeply concerned that the presence of a large-scale cannabis farm will attract unauthorized visitors, leading to increased theft, trespass, and potential drug trafficking activity. This poses a direct threat to the peaceful and secure environment we have enjoyed in Somerset and the surrounding areas.
- **Disruption of community character:** Our community values its tranquility, strong family values, and traditional way of life. We fear that these developments will alter this character, drawing unwanted attention and potentially attracting individuals outside our close-knit community.
- **Nuisance issues:** The farms' operations could result in a variety of nuisances, including noise from processing equipment, light pollution that disrupts the night sky, unpleasant odors, and increased traffic flow on our rural roads. These factors would significantly impact the quality of life for residents.

Concerns regarding economic impact:

- **Potential decrease in property values:** We are concerned that the presence of commercial cannabis cultivation farms could have a negative impact on property values in our community. This would be detrimental to residents, especially those invested in agriculture or tourism.
- **Excessive water usage:** Our region faces water scarcity challenges. The farms'

high water demand could deplete vital resources, affecting both our community's access and the natural environment.

- **Unfair competition for resources:** We believe the farms could unfairly compete for limited resources, such as skilled labor or infrastructure, that are currently essential for existing businesses and residents.

Concerns regarding environmental impact:

- **Pesticide and herbicide use:** The potential use of pesticides and herbicides on the farms pose a significant risk to our local ecosystem, potentially harming wildlife and contaminating water sources.

- **Light pollution:** Excessive artificial lighting at the farms would disrupt nocturnal animals and impact the night sky, a cherished aspect of our rural environment.

- **Waste disposal concerns:** We are concerned about the proper disposal of waste generated by the farms, including plant trimmings and chemical containers. Improper disposal could lead to environmental contamination and health risks.

Additional concerns:

- **Lack of trust in regulations:** We have concerns about the effectiveness of regulations governing cannabis farms. We fear inadequate enforcement or loopholes could lead to negative consequences for our community.

- **Moral objections:** Many residents hold personal or religious objections to cannabis use, regardless of its legal status. We believe they have the right to live in a community that aligns with their values.

Therefore, we implore you to consider the concerns outlined above and deny the permit application for the proposed commercial cannabis farms. We believe these developments are incompatible with the values and needs of our community and pose a significant threat to our way of life. We urge you to prioritize the safety, character, and well-being of Somerset and surrounding areas and reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

The undersigned residents of Somerset and Surrounding Areas

[Signatures and contact information]

Notice: There are 12 approved (not just 2). Harde's project is "Processing".

	PROJECT_NUMBER	PROJECT_NAME	SITE_APN	SITE_ADDR	STATUS
1	CCUP-A23-0001	Green Gables Growers, Latrobe School District Appeal	087021057	6914 SOUTH SHINGLE RD	APPROVED
2	CCUP19-0001	Foothill Health and Wellness Cannabis Retail Storefront	109420018	3830 DIVIDEND DR UNIT	APPROVED
3	CCUP19-0002	Pure Life Commercial Cannabis Retail Storefront	054391018	535 PLEASANT VALLEY RD 1	APPROVED
4	CCUP19-0003	Kana Commercial Cannabis Retail Storefront	109040071	4020 DUROCK RD	APPROVED
5	CCUP19-0004	3830 DIVIDEND DR _ Distribution	109420018	3830 DIVIDEND DR UNIT	APPROVED
6	CCUP19-0005	3031 ALHAMBRA DR Commercial Cannabis Retail Storefront	083420002	3031 ALHAMBRA DR	APPROVED
7	CCUP19-0006	All Natural Inc.	090440023	4151 SOUTH SHINGLE RD	APPROVED
8	CCUP19-0008	2140 US HIGHWAY 50 retail/ delivery	033050023	2140 US HWY 50	APPROVED
9	CCUP20-0001	Cybele Holdings Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	046071011	3029 FRESHWATER LN	APPROVED
10	CCUP20-0005	Arabian Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	041910008	5445 HAWKEYE RD	APPROVED
11	CCUP21-0001	EMBARC Commercial Cannabis Retail Storefront and Delivery	034571005	3008 US HWY 50	APPROVED
12	CCUP21-0005	Norcanna Commercial Cannabis Distribution and Delivery	117071007	5070 ROBERT J MATHEWS PKY	APPROVED
13	CCUP20-0004	Green Gables Growers Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	087021057	6914 SOUTH SHINGLE RD	DENIED
14	CCUP20-0002	Green Valley Farm Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	104520008		ON HOLD
15	CCUP19-0007	3901 PARK DR BLDG A Retail/ Delivery	121170009	3901 PARK DR A	PROCESSING
16	CCUP20-0003	Kilzer/Somerset Ridge Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	041900003	5840 STEPHANIE CT	PROCESSING
17	CCUP21-0002	Harde Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	083032071	6540 PERRY CREEK RD	PROCESSING
18	CCUP21-0004	Single Source Solutions Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	046710017	4941 D AGOSTINI DR	PROCESSING
19	CCUP21-0006	Gomez/Wilkerson Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	046460031	1820 COUNTRY LN	PROCESSING
20	CCUP21-0007	Rosewood Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	095130051	3331 ROSEWOOD LN	PROCESSING
21	CCUP21-0008	Archon Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	095030036		PROCESSING
22	CCUP22-0001	BH&2K Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	094090010	8260 FAIRPLAY RD	PROCESSING
23	CCUP22-0002	Hidden Ranch Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	046061037	2145 HIDDEN RANCH RD	PROCESSING
24	CCUP22-0003	Landrace Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	088021043	5700 HACKOMILLER RD	PROCESSING
25	CCUP-A23-0002	Sun Ridge Meadows Green Gables Appeal	087021057	6914 SOUTH SHINGLE RD	SUBMITTED
26	CCUP21-0003	Ladybug Row Commercial Cannabis Cultivation	061780011	2130 BOTTLE HILL RD	WITHDRAWN

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

I appreciate the opportunity to address you today regarding the critical decisions surrounding cannabis regulation. It is paramount to recognize the resounding voice of your constituents, with 65% expressing their support for the legalization of cannabis. Their collective will should serve as the guiding force in your considerations.

Let's delve into the pivotal role of the Planning Commission. The Commission, backed by a majority vote, put forth additional changes to the cannabis ordinance. Stakeholders, presenting compelling arguments during the Commission hearing, led to the proposal of modifications that were not only logical but also received consensus through a democratic process. Unfortunately, staff's decision not to present these proposals to you amounts to a disregard for the collaborative decision-making process and an overstep of their responsibilities.

The inconsistency in applying Common Sense CEQA guidelines is disconcerting. Staff claims that proposed changes from the Planning Commission violate these guidelines, citing environmental impacts. However, these changes are grounded in common sense, carrying zero environmental impact. The Planning Commission's recommendations, driven by logic, stand in stark contrast to staff's decisions. It raises questions when staff permits the use of the Common Sense CEQA clause for the new Vegetation Management Ordinance but denies it for cannabis ordinance changes.

Supervisor Turnboo, your insightful words during the board meeting on September 12, 2023, emphasized the potential benefits of cannabis legalization, from eliminating the black market to fostering a green market with lab-tested products and environmentally sound practices. The proposed changes align seamlessly with these objectives, yet staff is inexplicably sidelining them from discussion. This inconsistency contradicts your vision articulated during that crucial meeting.

Quoting County Counsel Billingsley, the Board cannot direct the Planning Commission to include only the items recommended by the Board. This underscores the importance of respecting and trusting the collaborative decisions made by the Planning Commission.

Acknowledging the flaws in the current cannabis ordinance is the first step, but it's essential not to take half measures in addressing them. The positive changes proposed and voted on by the Planning Commission are at your disposal, ready for implementation. Trust in the Planning Commission's expertise and the democratic

process that has led to their recommendations. Let us not falter in your commitment to fulfilling the will of the voters and ensuring a fair and just cannabis regulation.

Lastly, the proposal from the county Tax Collector for a flat gross sales tax for all cannabis operations deserves your attention. I urge you to consider and incorporate this fair and straightforward tax structure for the betterment of our community.

In conclusion, I implore you to trust in the Planning Commission's decisions, prioritize the collective voice of the constituents, and address the inconsistencies in staff decisions. Let us stand firm in our commitment to making the will of the voters a tangible reality.

At the very least, please insure we have a fixed date today for phase 2 of the ordinance revision

Thank you for your attention.