

Public Comment

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File 20-0519 Traffic Impact Mitigation Policy Cannabis Industry

1 message

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To the Board of Supervisors, El Dorado County.

My name is Lee Tannenbaum and I am the first (and only so far) applicant for a cannabis cultivation license in EDC. The process has been challenging to date, but the county in general has been very good to work with.

The DoT on the other hand has been the most challenging to work with. There are no guidelines for the DoT to follow regarding cannabis grow operations and as such they have hired a consultant to offer suggestions. That said, and from what the DoT is recommending to the board, it would seem the consultant has little to no knowledge of grow operations either.

A cannabis grow operation is most like any agricultural operation (corn, soy or any other AG crop) and so should be treated as such. In the suggestions presented to the board, there are two options suggested and neither remotely resembles a cannabis farming operation.

We have presented to the DoT our proposed employee hours, and how they would be non-impacting to the EDC roads according to DoT standards. We have offered to keep track electronically of our comings and goings for our first year to further assist the DoT. These have been rejected and the suggestions presented to be treated as a light industrial operation is not logical or reasonable as this is a farm in every sense of farming.

Most cannabis grow operations have a very minimal staff, who work in the field all day with 1 office person. A typical day during grow season (April – November) would be 8-6 or 7. When I say minimal, we are talking about 3-5 FTE's. A grow operation will not do any manufacturing or processing or warehousing. We will plant the plants, harvest, trim and dry (possibly, as some distributors/manufacturers want green material) and then a distributor will pick up the product to deliver to manufacturers or retail stores. There will be zero foot traffic or visitors.

The reality is, a cannabis grow operation will have no more impact on the roads that a normal family of 5 who gets an occasional delivery from UPS or the USPS. If we were building a home for our family on our property, this discussion would not be occurring.

I respectfully ask that the board treat cannabis grow operations as any agricultural operation that operates in EDC and not assess any special fees for road usage.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

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