



Item 51. File 21-1516 December 7th 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting

El Dorado Growers Alliance <eldoradogrowersalliance@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 1:03 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us, Kim.Dawson@edcgov.us, george.turnboo@edcgov.us, Wendy Thomas <wendy.thomas@edcgov.us>, John Hidaahl <john.hidaahl@edcgov.us>, Lori Parlin <lori.parlin@edcgov.us>, sue.novasel@edcgov.us, Donald Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>, david.livingston@edcgov.us
Cc: Laurel Brent-Bumb <chamber@eldoradocounty.org>, lexi boeger <lexiboeger@gmail.com>, Lee Tannenbaum <lee.tannenbaum@gmail.com>, David Harde <davidharde123@gmail.com>, Farm Trails <grhelm@grhelm.com>, Christa Campbell <rainboworch@gmail.com>, eric@mtdemocrat.com

Supervisors:

Please vote to create a pilot hemp cultivation program.

Hemp may provide new agricultural business opportunities. It is difficult for the agricultural community to earn a living from ag land. Hemp may provide new revenue that enables agricultural businesses to survive instead of subdividing their property and building ranchettes.

The El Dorado County Growers Advocacy Alliance supports hemp cultivation in El Dorado County as long as there are controls placed upon the growing of male plants.

The risks associated with hemp growing have been overblown by the Sheriff's Dept. This county has jewelry stores and gun shops. The number one items valued by criminals are guns. We don't see the Sheriff's Dept. trying to limit gun sales. We welcome greater law enforcement focus on illegal Oregon cultivation. It is easy to get a legal cannabis cultivation license in Oregon.

Making Hemp illegal does not help our community. Unnecessary illegality erodes citizen freedom.

One of the basic benefits of having legal cannabis is to have access to law enforcement and to have cooperative relationships with law enforcement.

The Sheriff's antipathy for cannabis is convenient for him. The excessive focus on cannabis is a distraction from policing tactics, community policing, policing costs, and asset forfeiture incentives that require community discussion and cooperation.

The number one opponent of hemp growing, Jennifer Bloxsom had a hemp cultivation operation next to her property. She clearly thinks that a neighboring hemp cultivation operation affects the value of her property. Jennifer's husband, Jason Bloxsom is an El Dorado Sheriff's Deputy and hence a public official. The Bloxsoms have a conflict of interest in advocating for a permanent hemp cultivation ban. Having the Sheriff advocate on the Deputy's behalf does not protect him or the Sheriff from their responsibility under state law to not participate in governmental decision-making involving hemp cultivation.

The recent activity of the District Attorney interviewing the Agricultural Commissioner while she is preparing a recommendation for the Board is troubling. Did the DA intimidate and harass the

Agricultural Commissioner into making a recommendation that conflicts with her commission's decision? Who initiated the accusation investigated by the DA?

The situation surrounding how the recommendations were made on this item may require an out-of-county third party to investigate the facts.

Supervisors, as policy-making leaders of our community please help to lower the temperature on hemp and cannabis issues and begin a process of policymaking that fixes the hemp and cannabis issues while satisfying the will of the voters.

Thank you for your leadership.

Rod Miller
Executive Director
El Dorado County Growers Advocacy Alliance
eldoradogrowersalliance.org
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County of El Dorado Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Fwd: Item 51. File 21-1516 December 7th 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Lee Tannenbaum <lee.tannenbaum@gmail.com>
To: County El Dorado Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 2:28 PM

Correcting a misaddressed email.

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse typos

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lee Tannenbaum <lee.tannenbaum@gmail.com>
Date: December 6, 2021 at 3:27:15 PM MST
To: edc.cob@wdcgov.us
Cc: Kim.Dawson@edcgov.us, george.turnboo@edcgov.us, Wendy Thomas <Wendy.thomas@edcgov.us>, John Hidahl <john.hidahl@edcgov.us>, Lori Parlin <lori.parlin@edcgov.us>, sue.novasel@edcgov.us, Donald Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>, david.livingston@edcgov.us, Laurel Brent-Bumb <chamber@eldoradocounty.org>, lexi boeger <lexiboeger@gmail.com>, David Harde <davidharde123@gmail.com>, Farm Trails <grhelm@grhelm.com>, Christa Campbell <rainboworch@gmail.com>, eric@mtdemocrat.com, eldoradogrowersalliance@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Item 51. File 21-1516 December 7th 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting

In case the pdf doesn't come through.

EDC BOS letter for 12/7 meeting Supervisors:

I am Lee Tannenbaum, CEO of Cybele Holdings. I am here to discuss how the wool is being pulled over your, and the county's eyes by EDSO.

In the Hemp package for this hearing, you have two documents from EDSO, one is a PowerPoint and the other is a recommendation. I would like to start with the PowerPoint as it seems to be the same or very similar document to what we all discussed at the AdHoc committee meeting.

EDSO has presented 101 pages of 'hemp' crimes committed. Of those 101 pages, there are 3 related to crimes committed in 2021 in all of the US, all others are dated 2019 and before. In 2021, there were 21,500 licensed hemp farms in the US. So, while the EDSO would have you believe Hemp is a crime producing crop, there were less than .01 percent crimes committed at licensed Hemp farms in the US. Compare this to robberies of other businesses, 64,000 in CA alone. Add to this, the crime rate around drugs in CA has gone down in the last 10 years, not up (State Attorney General Report).

I would also like to draw your attention to one of the other busts from the PowerPoint that occurred in Kern County. In 2019, the local Sheriff made a bust of a \$1B farm that had hemp. The one thing not mentioned is this same farm was a government licensed research facility, so there are significant lawsuits suing the Sheriff for falsely shutting down this operation.

There is not a crime problem or a potential for one, with Hemp. It is part of the EDSO FUD (fear, uncertainty and doubt) propaganda they spread and honestly, a very outdated point of view. Hemp crimes are close to non-existent and when compared to other crimes committed, there are none. It is an agricultural crop that has similar values to corn and grapes.

The below are statements from the EDSO and AG Department.

Hemp and Cannabis are the same - They are not. They may look similar, or smell similar to the untrained eyes and nose, but they are different strains and have different growing profiles. And are grown differently.

Testing for both. Hemp growers do not want hot hemp. Testing is a part of any ag crop, so why should hemp be treated differently?

EDSO so nicely offered to test hemp. How sweet of them. Not their purview. Pursuant to this, EDSO historically has the reputation for being jackboots coming in, raiding, destroying, etc. Why would anyone want EDSO anywhere near their business knowing how the EDSO feels about hemp/cannabis of any kind. The EDSO needs to focus on their job and let the AG department do theirs. Testing is a random thing to be completed by the AG department, not the EDSO Narcotics division.

EDSO talks about the bad actors, yet they do not mention the illegal raids of hemp farms that occurred in EDC, and how the county is being or has been sued because of this. Further to this, there will always be bad actors, and easy enough to find them, but this occurs everywhere and in every business.

Using Oregon as a baseline is accurate for what occurred years ago. They have tightened regulations and crime is subsiding. If the EDSO is going to quote statistics, they cannot be subjective in what is shared.

EDSO mention cartels are going to steal hemp, that they cause 'slave' labor, and that Hemp is used as a cutting agent for cannabis. Cartels are not going to steal Hemp, it has very little value and is too hard to transport. It could take days to weeks to 'steal' a large hemp farm. And even if they did, the net from this crime would be in the small thousands of dollars. So totally not worth their time. The 'slave' labor part is actually funny. There is very little money to be made with Hemp, so why would a farmer/cartel hold people hostage? The cost of feeding and housing them, plus the pay needed to pay their 'captors' would eliminate all profit and more than likely cause a loss. And the last part, cutting/diluting Cannabis with Hemp to increase profits. Clearly EDSO does not understand how people purchase and use Cannabis. I can explain it, but there is not enough time in my 3 minutes. Suffice it to say, a %50 cut is absolutely ludicrous. A 2% cut would be noticed and cause issues.

Keeping a program for EDC Hemp has approximate costs of \$13K annually. How much do we spend on grapes, apples, etc? Or other AG products. Where do these get funding from?

Initial AG Staff support - What suddenly changed to have our AG commissioner change her mind on the program? She has been in favor of the program until just recently. Could it be that maybe she was hauled before the DA and questioned? Or could it be the closed door job reviews that have occurred recently? Or maybe it was the recent meeting she had with the CAO, County Counsel and the Sheriff. This reeks of collusion.

EDSO Deputy Jason Bloxsom and his wife Jennifer Bloxsom live next to one of the hemp farms. Ms Bloxsom has been adamant during the Hemp Ad Hoc Committee process that the hemp farm affects their property. Hence, Deputy Bloxsom having his boss Sheriff D'Agostini (as public officials) advocating on policy that directly affects the Bloxsom's property value is a conflict of interest for the Bloxsoms and Sheriff D'Agostini. And isn't it the job of EDSO to catch bad guys and protect law abiding citizens? Not to influence or participate in making law

In the EDSO closing statement, EDSO stated "suggested by many that the "legalization" of cannabis would hinder or halt the black-market economy of the marijuana industry...it has not." Why not? Because in the 3 years since voters voted to legalize in EDC, the EDSO has been blocking every legal application in some form or another. To date there have been ZERO licenses issued in our county. But we're not talking cannabis today, we're talking hemp, a federally legal agricultural crop. This closing statement is so far off topic, and it is untrue.

But let's be super clear here, Hemp does not cause crime. Prohibition does. And if we do not learn from the past, then we are doomed to repeat it. EDSO and their closed mindedness around Hemp and Cannabis is causing crime, not reducing it. History has proven this, so let's learn. We merely need to look at prohibition with alcohol to see what illegal behavior it breeds. EDSO is breeding illicit activities. Yes, they are causing crime.

Instead of a permanent ban, please keep it under the moratorium and come up with a program that works and costs the county nothing to maintain.

You currently have CEDAC, AG board, EDC Chamber of Commerce support, as well as Public Support. So, the Agricultural community, the Business community and the general population all support this. Please do not continue to let the will of one close-minded bully ruin potential agricultural growth for our county.

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse typos

On Dec 6, 2021, at 3:20 PM, Lee Tannenbaum <lee.tannenbaum@gmail.com> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse typos

Supervisors:

Please vote to create a pilot hemp cultivation program.

 **EDC BOS letter for 12_7 meeting.pdf**
60K

David Harde
Heart Hemp
Somerset Gourmet Farm
6540 Perry Creek Road
Somerset, California 95684
December 6, 2021

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Agenda Item # 21-1516
Industrial Hemp Urgency Ordinance Extension
Regular Meeting Date: December 7, 2021

Supervisors:

The El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office have each submitted their staff reports and recommendations in regard to the Hemp Urgency Ordinance to Extend a Temporary Moratorium on the Cultivation of Hemp for all purposes through 12/6/2022.

I wish to submit my observations and comments to The Board for equal consideration as follows:

1. Your consideration and decision on this agenda item is NOT a decision in support of or a decision against The Sheriff of El Dorado County. It is a vote to support the positive decisions you have made this year. In addition, AB 1147, the California Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2006, the Federal Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, and the adoption and implementation of the California Industrial Hemp Law and Regulations in 2018 have formed the legal foundation for the Cultivation of Industrial Hemp in California. Since 2018, Industrial Hemp is classified as an Essential Farm Commodity in the United States. Your decision to extend a temporary moratorium will affirm 15 years of State and Federal Hemp Regulations by additionally allowing the development of El Dorado County Industrial Hemp Regulations.
2. On December 7, 1933, some 88 years ago, alcohol prohibition ended as the 21st. Amendment of The Constitution of The United States was ratified. The county staff reports submitted advance the same arguments and negative reasoning as those advanced during those years of alcohol prohibition. Increased crime and criminal activity, activities by illegal crime organizations, high costs of government regulations and the lack of science based research studies confirming the medicinal value of Cannabis(Industrial Hemp), all mirror those alcohol prohibition arguments advanced decades ago. Clearly, the policy statements of the Sheriff's Office reflect the same reasons alcohol prohibition was not sustainable. In El Dorado County today, wineries flourish, providing the County with employment opportunities and tax revenues, without negative societal costs, increased crime and a threat to the safety and well-being of our citizens.
3. The significance of Industrial Hemp Crime in El Dorado County and the United States, 2019

through 2021, as reported by the EDC Sheriff's Office is exaggerated given the number of Hemp Licenses issued and associated acreages during those years:

United States Industrial Hemp Cultivation Statistics

	2019	2020	2021
PERMITS/ LICENSES	17,000	20,000	9,111
ACRES CULTIVATED	511,442	465,787	284,793

Given the statistics above, the incidents reported regarding National Hemp Crimes, reflect their limited significance, rather than the perceived or communicated values as reported by submitting authorities.

4. Heart Hemp, our USDA Certified Organic, CBD Health and Beauty Products have been developed utilizing the Industrial Hemp cultivated on our Somerset Farm in 2019 and 2020. We will launch our new product line in January 2022. The value and benefit of CBD is widely recognized today. These beneficial health products form the basis of present and future economic development of Industrial Hemp. We are dedicated to these goals and require your continued support for the development of the Industrial Hemp Industry in El Dorado County.

CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY

Both the Agricultural Commissioner and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office agree Hemp has the potential to be a viable economic commodity and that it may bring some revenue to the County. It is premature to permanently ban the cultivation of Industrial Hemp in El Dorado County. The citizens of El Dorado County have overwhelmingly affirmed their support for Industrial Hemp Cultivation. The Agricultural Commission, the Farm Bureau, The Chamber of Commerce, CEDAC, and the 2018 El Dorado County Cannabis Referendum and the current popular support to resolve issues through public review and recommendations, are all positive reasons for you to vote in support of extending the Hemp Cultivation Moratorium for one year while allowing an appointed working group to review, develop and recommend a complete County Industrial Hemp Cultivation policy, for your later review and approval.

Thank you for your positive considerations.

David Harde