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Public Comment #32



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1 message

El Dorado Growers Alliance <eldoradogrowersalliance@gmail.com>
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 1:31 PM

Supervisors:

A federal appropriation limitation prevents the use of federal Dept. of Justice funds to disrupt legal cannabis cultivation. We believe that the funding and its contract before you in File 20-0993 lack adequate controls to prevent the illegal use of the federal funds for raids on legal personal medical cultivation in EDC pursuant to ordinances 5067 and 5122.

We have heard numerous first-hand reports where the Cannabis Task Force has raided a property and seeing plants on a neighboring property jumped the fence and stole the legally grown personal medical garden. In at least one case they have raided a site with no plants. The cost of these illegal raids should not be charged to the DEA grant or there will be a risk that program auditors will request reimbursement of funds by the County.

The voters of the county voted for a carrot and stick program for cannabis. The county could be receiving state grant "equity" funds because of the effects of the historic "war on drug" in EDC. <https://business.ca.gov/cannabis-equity-grants-program-for-local-jurisdictions/> The bias against cannabis activities is hurting the effectiveness of the voter-approved public policy. The Sheriff's Dept. has plenty of time to apply for grants but for some reason the Planning Dept. does not. AB 1793 (2018) identified ~1000 EDC cannabis convictions that state law requires to be expunged. Hence, the basis of an equity grant request. The first grant request can support the development of subsequent grant requests.

The DA's office had until July 1, 2020 to comply with Section 11361.9 Health and Safety Code and complete the AB 1793 process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Rod Miller
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