

Public Comment #26
BOS Rcvd 5-14-2021

EL DORADO COUNTY USDA INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATION PROGRAM, 2019-2021

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT- NEW CROP, NEW LEARNING CURVE, THE STAFF WERE TRAINED BY THE CDFA, ALL WERE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WELL TRAINED. IF A QUESTION OR ISSUE EXISTED, THE COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATED WITH STATE CDFA, AND QUICKLY RESOLVED OR ANSWERED TO INSTRUCT OR GUIDE THE GROWER. FIELD INSPECTIONS WERE EFFICIENTLY PROFESSIONALLY AND IMPARTIALLY CONDUCTED. THE INTERFACING WITH THE REQUIRED OFFICIAL THIRD PARTY CALIFORNIA STATE LICENSED LABORATORY AND THE GROWER WAS COMPLETED THOROUGHLY, PROFESSIONALLY AND IMPARTIALLY. ALL USDA/CDFA REQUIRED REPORTS WERE SIMPLE, EASILY UNDERSTOOD AND QUICKLY COMPLETED BY THE GROWER. AS 2019 WAS THE YEAR OF GROWER QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS, THE 2020 GROWING SEASON WAS EASIER WITH THE EXPERIENCES OF 2019.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT- ALL USDA/CDFA LICENSED INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATORS ARE REQUIRED TO OFFICIALLY IDENTIFY AND REGISTER THE GPS LOCATION OF THEIR CULTIVATION FIELD SITE. THE EDC/CDFA STAFF WALKS AND VERIFIES THIS FIELD SITE AND MEASURES TO CONFIRM THE AREA STATED BY THE GROWER. THE SHERIFF'S ARIEAL OVERFLIGHTS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS OBSERVES AND CONFIRMS THIS GPS FIELD SITE IDENTITY AND LOCATION. THE TESTING AND SAMPLING FOR THE LABORATORY ANALYSIS PROTOCOL IS DEVELOPED AND DEFINED BY THE USDA AND INFIELD IMPLEMENTED BY THE EDC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THE EDC SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, A COMPETENT, PROFESSIONAL AND WELL TRAINED STAFF NEEDS TO INTERFACE WITH THE EDC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WITH INCREASED COOPERATION AND TRUST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE USDA INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM.

EI DORADO COUNTY AD HOC HEMP COMMITTEE- THE COMMITTEE ASSIGNED BY BOS TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND FUTURE POLICY WAS TASKED WITH FIVE OBJECTIVES, THE FIRST OF WHICH WAS DISCUSSED EXCESSIVELY AND REDUNDANTLY, ALLOWING LITTLE TIME TO ACCOMPLISH TASKS TWO THROUGH FIVE. ONLY ONE COUNTY HEMP GROWER LOCATED IN DISTRICT FOUR EXPERIENCED IMPACTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND THEIR PROCESSING(DRYING AND PACKAGING) OF THE HARVEST IMPACTED A LOCALITY IN DISTRICT THREE. FEW IF ANY IMPACTS WERE EXPERIENCED IN OTHER DISTRICTS.

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EL DORADO COUNTY INDUSTRIAL HEMP GROWERS- THE EXPERIENCES OF THE GROWERS WAS OPTIMISTIC WITH THE PROMISE OF AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE, PREVIOUSLY ILLEGAL AND PROHIBITED AGRICULTURAL CROP. TWO YEARS OF GROWING EXPERIENCES INDICATED TO ALL THE OPPOSITE OF ASSUMPTIONS. THERE EXISTED LITTLE OR NO SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND FIELD EXPERIENCE TO GUIDE AND TRAIN THE GROWER FROM GERMINATION, FIELD PLANTING, PRE-FLOWERING , LABORATORY SAMPLING AND TESTING, HARVESTING, DRYING, POST-HARVEST STORAGE AND PROCESSING. MOST GROWERS EXPERIENCED FAILURE AND/OR DISAPPOINTMENT AFTER THEIR INITIAL EXPERIENCE. MARKETING AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT IS UNDEVELOPED IN CALIFORNIA. THE 2 YEAR AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM HAS NO MARKETING SUPPORT WITHIN THE STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE GROWER TO MARKET THIS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT HAS FEW ALTERNATIVES.

CALIFORNIA ECONOMIC FORECAST FOR CBD, HEMP DERIVED, HEALTH AND BEAUTY RETAIL PRODUCTS: PROJECTED TO GROW FROM \$16 BILLION DOLLARS YEARLY TO \$25 BILLION DOLLARS YEARLY, IN FIVE YEARS, VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS MARKETED AND THE FORMATION OF COOPERATIVE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN EL DORADO COUNTY WILL BE THE FUTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NECESSARY TO REALIZE THE BENEFITS OF HEMP CULTIVATION IN THE COUNTY. AS TIMBER AND PEAR PRODUCTION WERE PROMINENT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN THE PAST, APPLES, WINE GRAPES AND VINEYARDS IN THE PRESENT, INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATION WILL PROVIDE VALUABLE TAX REVENUES, EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EL DORADO COUNTY IN THE FUTURE.

WRITTEN AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, MAY 14, 2021, BY:

DAVID HARDE, INDUSTRIAL HEMP
REGISTRATION NUMBER
#: 09-200008G
6/19/2020 TO 6/18/2021