



MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2023

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM: GRETCHEN MCLAUGHLIN, CODE ENFORCEMENT MANAGER

SUBJECT: REPORT OF FINDINGS – ROCK TREE VALLEY DIRECTED ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

Background

During the September 26th, 2023, Board of Supervisors (“Board”) meeting, the Rock Tree Valley Cannabis Prohibition District was considered. Although the Board denied establishment of the Prohibition District (“CP district”), unanimous direction was provided to the Mendocino County Code Enforcement Division (“Division”) to assign all of its available resources to address possible illegal cannabis cultivation within the proposed CP district area, as shown in a map provided during the public hearing for the CP district. The purpose of this direction was to address potential cannabis-related nuisances in the area.

Objectives

1. Identify all potential illegal cannabis cultivation sites and related infrastructure.
2. Seek voluntary abatement of confirmed illegal cannabis cultivation.
3. Seek compliance for all non-permitted cannabis infrastructure through applicable building permit requirements.
4. Obtain necessary inspection warrants; issue notices and administrative citations if voluntary compliance cannot be achieved.

Strategy and Implementation

The Division coordinated with Planning and Building Services (“PBS”) staff to obtain GIS data for all marked parcels within the proposed CP district – a total of 24 parcels in all. The Division utilized the most recent satellite imagery available to identify sites where the possibility of cannabis cultivation might exist. The focus of the Division was to investigate these sites for illegal cannabis cultivation and related non-permitted cannabis infrastructure only. Of the 24 parcels in total, the Division identified four (4) sites where the potential for illegal cannabis and/or infrastructure might exist.

Officers contacted residents and/or property owners to request permission to inspect the properties to confirm whether cannabis related violations existed. Permission to conduct a site inspection was granted by all residents and/or property owners.

Field Inspections began on October 10th, 2023, and continued through October 31st, 2023, to address all 4 sites. No secondary sites were identified during field inspections.

Conclusion

In a total of 4 sites investigated, zero sites were determined to have violations of illegal cannabis cultivation and/or related non-permitted cannabis infrastructure. No other violations of the Mendocino County Code were investigated or pursued during this effort.

A total of eight (8) staff hours were expended on the Directed Enforcement project, for a total staff cost of \$679.36.