

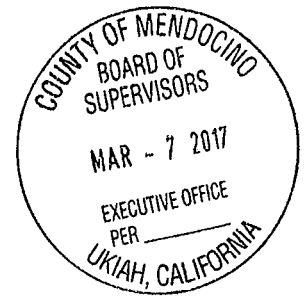


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4Y)



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
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March 7, 2017

RE: Agenda Item 4Y, Specific Focus for Approval of DEA Grant to MCSO □

Honorable Board Members:

I noticed that your Agenda Item 4Y regarding the approval of the revenue agreement number 2017-28 with the U.S. Department of Justice DEA in the amount of \$70,000 was referenced in the Agenda as being for the "Eradication and Suppression of Illicit Cannabis on Federal Lands..."

However, the agreement itself does not limit the funds or the use of federal personnel or equipment in that manner.

I know that in the past, our Sheriff's Department has done an excellent job at obtaining grant funding and conducting eradication and cleanup efforts on federal and public lands. I have no doubt that would funds obtained from any source be utilized for those purposes, it would be well used.

Unfortunately, with the delay in the passage of the new cannabis permit program, the inability of Urgency Ordinance participants to renew their permits, and the concern some have over the current federal Attorney General's view regarding cannabis, people are quite concerned that they could get either targeted or otherwise caught-up in enforcement efforts despite their best efforts to be in compliance if eradication and enforcement efforts supported by the federal funds and personnel are not specifically focused on federal lands as the Agenda Item states.

Obviously, the Board has no authority to limit the actions of federal agents. However, if the Board would direct that such funds are accepted under the explicit request that the actions do indeed focus on federal lands, I believe that those who have been hoping to be permitted soon, or that have been permitted and who are now not able to renew their permits, would feel some level of ease and it would provide them with a clear indication that it is not the Board's intent to focus eradication and enforcement efforts on them.

I also realize that the Sheriff's Department may conduct their efforts regardless of the Board's request (if given) that the efforts be limited to federal and other public lands. However, I believe that any Board request regarding this matter would still send an important message.

Thank you for your consideration.

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