



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

February 23, 2020

Agenda Item 4r: Approval of Retroactive Revenue Agreement No. 2020-25 with the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DOJ DEA) in the Amount of \$183,000 for the Eradication and Suppression of Illicit Cannabis on Federal Lands for the Term of October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.[Consent calendar item]

Recommended Action: Approve retroactive Agreement No. 2020-25 with the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DOJ DEA) in the Amount of \$183,000 for the Eradication and Suppression of Illicit Cannabis on Federal Lands for the Term of October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020; and authorize Sheriff to sign any future amendments that do not affect the annual maximum Agreement total; and authorize Chair to sign same.

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

MCA continues to advocate that enforcement actions, when necessary to address environmental crimes and illegal use of public lands, be conducted in a manner that does not perpetuate the militarization of cannabis enforcement. The impact of militarized eradication techniques has been well documented and is now re-referenced in the Cannabis Equity Assessment just produced on behalf of Mendocino County.<sup>1</sup>

MCA asks the Board to request that the Sheriff, and all County personnel assisting in DEA eradication and suppression activities pursuant to this funding, take active steps to coordinate with the Mendocino County Cannabis Program to prevent applicants and permit holders in the Cannabis Program from becoming “collateral damage” during those eradication and suppression efforts. As indicated in the recently published Cannabis Equity Assessment (Exhibit A to Agenda item 5f):

“The damage done by the drug war to Mendocino communities included the proliferation of violence to the environment done by industrial-scale “green rush” activity that was incompatible with the environmental and community values embedded in Mendocino’s multi-generational, smallholder cannabis market culture. **While many applauded public efforts to distinguish between communitarian cannabis stakeholders and “green rush” profiteers, the former kept getting caught up and in the crossfire.**” Cannabis Equity Assessment, Section 2, Page 5, emphasis added.

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<sup>1</sup> See Agenda Item 5f for the 02/25/20 BoS meeting and Exhibit A, Section 2.

We also ask that the Board request that the Sheriff set up a direct communication hotline whereby citizens may report low-flying helicopters, environmental damage, and other alleged violations which might occur during all operations conducted regarding cannabis eradication and suppression.

MCA recommends that any future amendments to this grant not be signed without a review by the Board of Supervisors. We are particularly concerned that any citizen complaints citing civil rights and environmental violations by law enforcement during eradication missions be reviewed by the BOS before any modification of the grant is authorized.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment on these important issues.

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance