



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 4, 2017

To: The Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From: Trent Taylor, Interim Code Enforcement Manager,
Planning and Building Services**

**Subject: Update on Cannabis Code Enforcement for August 8, 2017 Code
Enforcement Update to the Board of Supervisors**

The Code Enforcement Division is now fully staffed, with the Coast position filled on July 31, 2017. The Division now has 5 Code Enforcement Officers, 1 Code Enforcement Supervisor, 1 Interim Division Manager and 1 full-time attorney from the County Counsel Office. Each Officer is assigned a caseload for Cannabis and General code enforcement.

Cannabis Complaints continue to come in at an average rate of 14 per week since the permitting program began and the Cannabis Hotline was set up. Code Enforcement continues to case manage all complaints coming in by assignment for investigation and by coordinated referrals to other regulatory agencies as necessary.

Facts related to Cannabis Enforcement as of 8/1/17:

- The Code Enforcement Division has received 165 complaints related to Cannabis since we began fielding complaints on May 4, 2017. The majority of the complaints came in to the Cannabis Hotline.
- 36% of the total number of Cannabis complaints received are related to 35 site locations that are in the County Medical Cannabis Permit Process. This continues to trend at approximately 5% of the total cannabis permit applications the County has received to date. The complaints related to permit applicants are forwarded to the Agriculture Department for inspection and remediation as part of the application process.
- The primary complaints about both applicant sites and non-applicant sites are visibility from public or private roads, unpermitted structures and development, tree removal and grading, other environmental concerns such as water sourcing, erosion and environmental contamination, unpermitted cultivation generally, cultivation sizes larger than possibly permissible (scale up) and cultivation in new locations previously not under cultivation.

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- Since early June Code Enforcement has obtained voluntary compliance by self-abatement of 403 Cannabis plants from 11 locations that were clearly not eligible for an exemption or permitting for outdoor cultivation for any reason; medical or adult use. These were primarily within residential locations that were impacting community quality of life for the surrounding residents. Voluntary removal was achieved after the violator was advised that they could face enforcement action by way of Administrative Citation and Administrative Abatement or both.
- The Code Enforcement Division will continue with our regulatory approach to Cannabis Enforcement and we anticipate issuing notices of violations, administrative citations and abatement orders as necessary. During our response and investigation of Cannabis complaints we have been providing application packages to those that we determine may be eligible for a permit. 1 potentially eligible complaint location has applied to the program as a result of Code Enforcement issuing a Notice of Violation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trent Taylor
Interim Manager
Code Enforcement Division
Planning and Building Services