

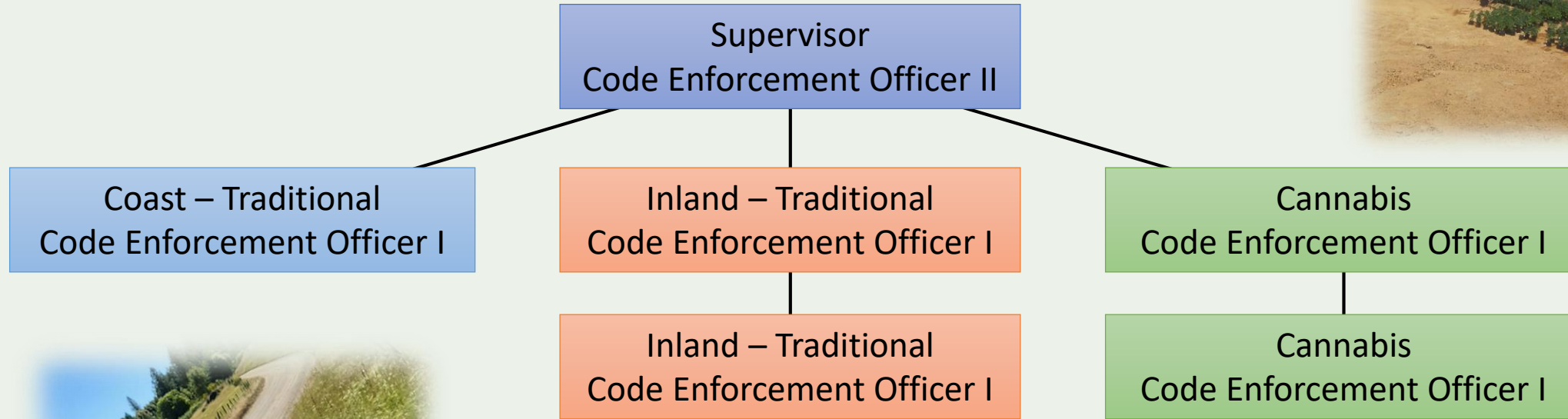


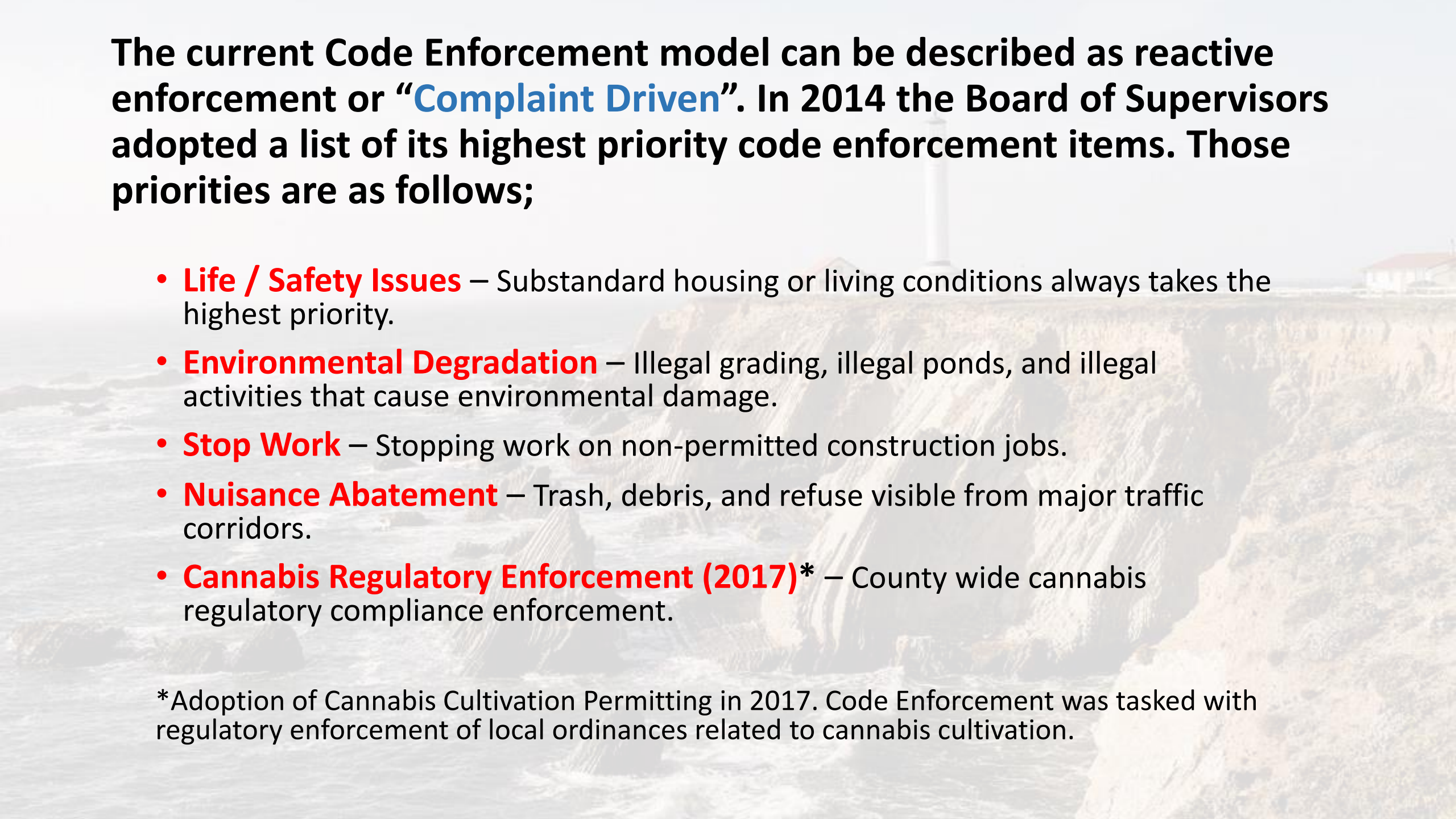
Planning and Building Services

Current Status of Code Enforcement Presentation

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors have requested a presentation on the current status of Code Enforcement and the department's current approach to enforcement.

Code Enforcement Organization





The current Code Enforcement model can be described as reactive enforcement or “**Complaint Driven**”. In 2014 the Board of Supervisors adopted a list of its highest priority code enforcement items. Those priorities are as follows;

- **Life / Safety Issues** – Substandard housing or living conditions always takes the highest priority.
- **Environmental Degradation** – Illegal grading, illegal ponds, and illegal activities that cause environmental damage.
- **Stop Work** – Stopping work on non-permitted construction jobs.
- **Nuisance Abatement** – Trash, debris, and refuse visible from major traffic corridors.
- **Cannabis Regulatory Enforcement (2017)*** – County wide cannabis regulatory compliance enforcement.

*Adoption of Cannabis Cultivation Permitting in 2017. Code Enforcement was tasked with regulatory enforcement of local ordinances related to cannabis cultivation.

Important Code Enforcement Developments

2017

- Mendocino County Code Chapter 1.08 “Administrative Citations and Penalties” Established and 16.30 “Stormwater Runoff Pollution Prevention Procedure” amended.
- Cannabis and Complaint Hotline established and still used today
- Online Cannabis and Complaint forms established and still used today
- Two (2) Code Enforcement Officer I positions added and dedicated to addressing cannabis cultivation specifically for a total of five (5) Code Enforcement Officer I positions.
- Complaint records system created

2020

- Mendocino County Code Chapter 1.08 and 16.30 Amended. BOS increase the penalties so that now they are a much more realistic deterrent.

Current Overall Cannabis Enforcement Roles by Department

Code Enforcement

Complaint Driven Regulatory Enforcement for violations of Mendocino County Codes.

Educates, provides opportunities to comply, utilizes Notices, Citations, Liens, and other Administrative Enforcement actions to achieve site compliance. Including non-permitted cannabis infrastructure.

Sheriff's Office

Criminal Enforcement for violations of the California Penal Code.

Identify illegal cultivation sites and perform criminal abatements of cannabis. Especially sites associated with egregious criminal activity requiring armed Peace Officers to safely address.

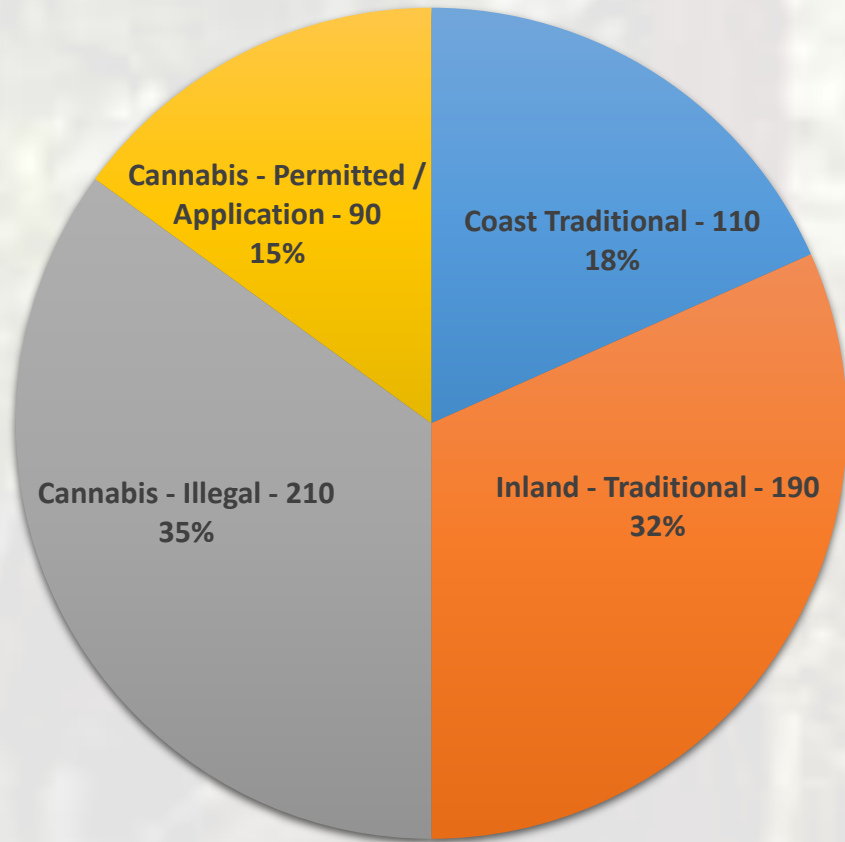
Cannabis Program

Cannabis Cultivation Permit Processing and on-site monitoring.

Works with applicants to satisfy requirements of the cultivation ordinance, obtain complete applications, process permits, and monitor site compliance using the permit as leverage.

Code Enforcement Average Yearly Complaints

This chart provides a summary and breakdown of the types of complaints Code Enforcement responds to:



Additional Cases

- **112** Health Order Enforcement complaints investigated in 2020 coordinated through public health.

A yearly average of

- **130** Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Cases on Public right of ways*
- **105** Building Violation Cases
- **10** Zoning Violation Cases
- **8** Stormwater / Illicit Discharge Cases
- **6** Mendocino Historical Review Board Cases

*It should be noted that staff has determined that there are approximately 1,000 abandoned Vehicles on private property.

■ Coast Traditional - 110

■ Inland - Traditional - 190

■ Cannabis - Illegal - 210

■ Cannabis - Permitted / Application - 90

The yearly breakdown of **illegal cannabis plants** voluntarily removed by the responsible party after Code Enforcement contact or administrative enforcement action is as follows;

- 2018 – **15,425** plants abated upon warning of enforcement action
- 2019 – **16,707** plants abated upon warning of enforcement action
- 2020 – **15,193** plants abated upon warning of enforcement action
- 2021 – YTD **6,078** plants abated upon warning of enforcement action (note this is very early in the season)

Current Code Enforcement Objectives

- Prioritize complaints based on directed **Board of Supervisors Priorities**.
- Solve **Community Quality of Life Issues** as described in complaints.
- Provide relief for complainants impacted by the effects of **Illegal Cannabis Cultivation** and infrastructure – odor, lights, illegal structures, too close to the neighbors, locations on parcels in more rural residential areas where it is apparent that backyard growing for commercial purposes is occurring. Generally, these grows are 100 plants or less, but clearly exceed the personal exemption limits.
- **Law Enforcement Referrals** of situations that appear to involve criminal activity that our unarmed, non-peace officer, code enforcement officers cannot address safely.
- Refer investigations and associated documentation related to in-program sites to the **Cannabis Permitting Program** as potentially actionable, by way of the site permit or application as the program works through the permitting process while taking enforcement action for zoning or building violations on those sites as well as outright violations of our County Cultivation Ordinance.

Direction from the Board of Supervisors

Based on today's discussion, Planning and Building services can formulate a strategy and give an assessment of the needed resources to achieve the new objective(s).

