

County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Rd.
Ukiah, CA 95482
BOS@mendocinocounty.org

May 10, 2021

RE: BOS Agenda 5/11/21 Item 5C Cannabis Enforcement Expansion

Dear Chair Gjerde and Supervisors:

Thank you very much for moving toward a proactive cannabis enforcement program! While aerial surveillance is an essential tool for locating egregious operations from the air, it is useless in detecting operations within existing structures. For example, a permitted greenhouse converted to a Methamphetamine lab, or multiple levels built within one greenhouse to double or triple the number of plants, illegal grading, illegal water diversion, etc, etc.

A robust enforcement program must include annual site visits to visually inspect all aspects of the operation, much as the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) requires the Planning Department to conduct annual site visits of mining operations and submit the inspection reports to the State.

Inspection costs should be paid by the operator. Ideally the inspection reports should be placed on the website of the department conducting the investigation. These postings should be done in real-time and identify the inspector, date, agency(s) and findings. Special coding could be used to not directly identify the owner or address, if privacy is an issue. The public must be able to observe that inspections are actually taking place unlike what happened in Phase 1.

Thank you all for your hard work on this issue.

Sincerely,
Dennis Slota

CC: PBS, Code Enforcement