



Rec for 2/3/21
Myrna Tow <myrna.tow@edcgov.us>

Re: HEMP AD HOC PUBLIC MEETING

El Dorado Growers Alliance <eldoradogrowersalliance@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 11:11 AM

To: Myrna Tow <myrna.tow@edcgov.us>, Charlene Carveth <charlene.carveth@edcgov.us>

Myrna:

I have attached our comments on the meeting agenda. Thank you and Charlene for all of the work that you have done on this issue.

Rod Miller
Executive Director
El Dorado County Growers Alliance
eldoradogrowersalliance.org
530-503-9078 Office
530-748-9822 cell

On Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 12:48 PM Myrna Tow <myrna.tow@edcgov.us> wrote:

I have added the Agenda and the Other County information worksheet, Thank you!

HEMP AD HOC PUBLIC MEETING

When Wed Jan 13, 2021 3pm – 4:30pm Pacific Time - Los Angeles

Where <https://zoom.us/j/92404503269?pwd=RnRLdGtYUkovWWNOcTA0akg3QnY2dz09> (map)

Who (Guest list has been hidden at organizer's request)

Myrna Tow is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92404503269?pwd=RnRLdGtYUkovWWNOcTA0akg3QnY2dz09>

Meeting ID: 924 0450 3269

Passcode: 635850

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,92404503269#,,,,*635850# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,92404503269#,,,,*635850# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 924 0450 3269

Passcode: 635850

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/a9D3KvB8S>

WARNING: This email and any attachments may contain private, confidential, and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any unauthorized review, copying, or distribution of this email (or any attachments) by other than the intended recipient is strictly

HEMP AD HOC PUBLIC MEETING

AGENDA

January 13, 2021

3:00 – 4:30 pm

1) Review and Discussion of Industrial Hemp Zoning in other Counties

A large number of zones and districts allow growing crops. Hemp growing is Ag activity. We recommend allowing hemp in RL, AG, PA, and LA zones.

2) Review and Discussion of Parcel Size Restrictions in other Counties

If you follow the recommended zoning above then there is no need for minimum parcel sizes. Many RL zoned properties were zoned Ag pre-2015 rezone.

3) Review and Discussion of Setbacks in other Counties including Onsite

Setbacks, Buffers to Offsite Sensitive Receptors and Buffers to Offsite Residential Uses.

Setbacks do not give protection to off-site impacts. They are arbitrary restrictions on activity. Ag zoned parcels have 200' setbacks on neighbor's property. Permits should require BMPs if neighbors show measureable impacts on their property.

4) Review and Discussion of Crop Size Limits

75% of a parcel's acreage should be allowed to be hemp cultivation. It is possible that the value of hemp will increase. Hemp is currently not that valuable hence the risk of theft is low. Charlene gave an example of Hemp growers giving would-be thieves free hemp to reduce interest in hemp. Hemp is not psychoactive.

Setbacks to schools and churches are counter productive. Cannabis policy has been influenced by bias, prejudice, and ignorance. Having hemp or cannabis near schools or churches provides an opportunity for adults to talk to children (or amongst themselves) about a) hemp is not psychoactive and b) whether it is alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, meth, shopping or gambling these substances and behaviors are not what make people happy. Having positive relationships with friends and families and having meaningful purposes in life that are important to people are the causes of happiness. The temporary high of substances just cause people to hide from making their lives better in a more lasting and important way.

It is ok for permittees to allow law enforcement and DA to access properties if LE and DA agree to stop taking people's children away from them and ransacking people's property due to cannabis. LE and DA could help non-compliant people be compliant by advocating for making licensing easier rather than blocking all licencing. We call this community policing.

Please ban the growing of male hemp plants except for indoor breeding projects.



Rec for 2/3 Mtg

Myrna Tow <myrna.tow@edcgov.us>

Re: Hemp Ad Hoc

Myrna Tow <myrna.tow@edcgov.us>
To: Claudia & Bill Draper <cbdrapers@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 8:51 AM

This is great, thank you!

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 8:44 AM Claudia & Bill Draper <cbdrapers@gmail.com> wrote:

Sorry for coming in late to the meeting. My thoughts on the 4 issues that were discussed.

1. Zoning should be ag or forest (not TPZ). Nothing allowed in rural or residential zoning.
2. Parcel size should be large enough to totally contain the farm and processing. This needs to allow for odor drift. Topography could play into this as well as vegetative screening or man made screening. Setbacks of 200' should be a consideration if any farm is adjacent to a residential parcel. Hemp is a new ag crop and existing adjacent parcels have not been afforded the warning about potential ag operations adjacent to the residential property. There can be spray drift, light pollution and noise factors. The new farm needs to absorb this setback. The setback for smell is totally a separate issue.
3. Setbacks could be handled on a case by case basis but without some guidelines this does not seem very workable both for the applicant and the ag department to determine the correct criteria. I do not believe neighbor agreement is viable since properties are sold and buyer beware as an acceptable provision for making new buyers aware of the adjacent type of farm. Smell is very real and varies with the season, time of day and weather. Since this is a new crop with different issues we cannot use conventional reasoning for standard farming to determine what are BMP's to follow. The industry proponents want everyone to believe growing hemp is like growing grapes. Hemp is different.
4. I have no issue on crop size as long as the farm stays within the parameters set up at the start or can meet new conditions if they want to expand.

Bill

--

Myrna Tow
El Dorado County Department of Agriculture,
Weights and Measures
530-621-6647 Fax (530) 626-4756
myrna.tow@edcgov.us

1/22/2021

Edcgov.us Mail - Fwd: Hemp As A Sustainable Material | CBD Hemp Experts

Rec for 2/3 Mfg



Myrna Tow <myrna.tow@edcgov.us>

Fwd: Hemp As A Sustainable Material | CBD Hemp Experts

Charlene Carveth <charlene.carveth@edcgov.us>
To: Myrna Tow <myrna.tow@edcgov.us>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:40 PM

Please see the request below.

Charlene Carveth
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures
El Dorado County Dept. of Agriculture/Weights & Measures
311 Fair Ln.
Placerville, CA 95667
(530)621-5520

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s), except as otherwise permitted. Unauthorized interception, review, use, or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, or authorized to receive for the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication. Thank you for your consideration.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Harde <davidharde123@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 18, 2021 at 9:16 AM
Subject: Hemp As A Sustainable Material | CBD Hemp Experts
To: Charlene Carveth <charlene.carveth@edcgov.us>

Hi Charlene,

Please forward this article to the EDC Hemp Advisory Committee, the full Board Of Supervisors and the Sheriff for information and consideration. Only factual, scientific and positive educational courses can best reestablish the value and validity of hemp production as agricultural crop in El Dorado County, California and the United States. Thank you.

Best,

David Harde

https://cbd hempexperts.com/pennsylvania-k-12-students-will-learn-about-hemp-as-a-sustainable-material-state-announces/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=pennsylvania-k-12-students-will-learn-about-hemp-as-a-sustainable-material-state-announces



CBD NEWS

Pennsylvania K-12 Students Will Learn About Hemp As A Sustainable Material, State Announces

POSTED ON DECEMBER 29, 2020 BY CBD HEMP EXPERTS



In another sign of the normalization of hemp, K-12 students in Pennsylvania will have the opportunity to learn about how to make sustainable plastic using the crop, the state Privacy - Terms

https://cbd hemp experts.com/pennsylvania-k-12-students-will-learn-about-hemp-as-a-sustainable-material-state-announces/?utm_source=rss&utm_m... 1/6

Departments of Agriculture and Education jointly announced on Thursday.

During the state's annual Farm Show, which will take place virtually in January, students can participate in a variety of programs—learning about everything from organic farming techniques to how to raise livestock. But hemp will serve as the basis of a lesson on sustainability.

“Lessons include how to make butter, plant-based plastics made from hemp and other sustainable materials, and more,” according to a teacher’s toolkit.

Details about what the hemp lesson will entail are not available, but it is the case that the plant’s cellulose represents a more biodegradable and non-toxic alternative to the petroleum-based plastics that are a major source of environmental pollution worldwide.

“There are a wide range of career options in STEM fields across Pennsylvania, and agriculture offers an avenue to many of those opportunities,” Acting Education Secretary Noe Ortega said in a press release. “The virtual panels and interactive sessions will provide a variety of educational experiences for learners of all ages—and will also serve as an opportunity to gain a new or restored appreciation for the many ways our agricultural industry benefits the commonwealth.”

The crop is now legal both in Pennsylvania and federally under the 2018 Farm Act, and there’s rapidly growing interest in utilizing the many functions of hemp.

This Farm Show hemp lesson comes as the states continues to pursue broader cannabis reform—though those efforts are targeted at adults rather than elementary and high school students.

Since adopting a pro-legalization position last year, Gov. Tom Wolf (D) has repeatedly called on the legislature to enact the policy change. He’s stressed that stressed that marijuana reform could generate tax revenue to support the state’s economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and that ending criminalization is necessary for social justice.

In September, he took a dig at the Republican-controlled legislature for failing to act on reform in the previous session. And in August, he suggested that the state itself could potentially control marijuana sales rather than just license private retailers as other legalized jurisdictions have done.

Lt. Gov. John Fetterman (D), a longstanding legalization advocate, has been similarly vocal about his position. In speeches and on social media, the official has expressed frustration that Pennsylvania has yet to legalize cannabis.

He's said that farmers in his state can grow better marijuana than people in New Jersey—and that's one reason why Pennsylvania should expeditiously reform its cannabis laws.

Fetterman also recently hosted a virtual forum where he got advice on how to effectively implement a cannabis system from the lieutenant governors of Illinois and Michigan, which have enacted legalization.

The lieutenant governor has attracted controversy from some House Republicans for flying a marijuana flag over his office balcony, which he says he will continue to do until the state legalizes cannabis. The lawmakers added a provision to a temporary budget that bans flying anything other than the American flag, state flag or flag honoring missing in action military members.

Shortly after the governor announced that he was embracing the policy change, a lawmaker filed a bill to legalize marijuana through a state-run model.

A majority of Senate Democrats sent Wolf a letter in July arguing that legislators should pursue the policy change in order to generate revenue to make up for losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Original article by Marijuana Moment

Leave a Reply

[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

Please enter an answer in digits:

fifteen - 5 =

POST COMMENT

CATEGORIES

Articles

CBD News

Press Releases

LATEST NEWS

2021: The year of positive CBD policy changes January 18, 2021

California bill to legalize hemp extracts in food, drinks, includes ban on smokable flower January 11, 2021

[Privacy - Terms](#)

The Benefits of Massage Oil with CBD January 5, 2021

https://cbd hemp experts.com/pennsylvania-k-12-students-will-learn-about-hemp-as-a-sustainable-material-state-announces/?utm_source=rss&utm_m... 4/6

The Benefits of Massage Oil With CBD January 9, 2021

Proposal in USA would lift THC barrier for hemp to full 1.0% January 4, 2021

Pennsylvania K-12 Students Will Learn About Hemp As A Sustainable Material, State Announces December 29, 2020

WHY CBD HEMP EXPERTS

CBD Hemp Experts is one of the largest wholesale providers of premium Hemp derived CBD products that are uniquely formulated for Health & Wellness, Beauty & Personal Care and Pet Care. We specialize in offering these products via white label, private label and customization for a multitude of consumer products via different applications.

CONTACT DETAILS

Address: 841 Prudential Drive, Suite 1200, Jacksonville, FL 32207 USA

Open hours: Mon - Fri: 9AM - 6PM

Phone: 904-900-4747

POPULAR LINKS

[About Us](#)

[Products](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[NAYSA Resource Center](#)

[CBDHE Sales Support](#)

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

Send address

Your email address

SIGN UP

Copyright © CBD Hemp Experts • Disclaimer • THC Disclaimer • Privacy Policy • Terms & Conditions • Shipping Policy •
Return/Refund Policy • Terms of Use

The statements made regarding these products have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. The efficacy of these products has not been confirmed by FDA-approved research. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. All information presented here is not meant as a substitute for or alternative to information from health care practitioners. Please consult your health care professional about potential interactions or other possible complications before using any product. The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requires this notice. Not intended for use by anyone under the age of 18 without adult supervision.

Rec for 2/3 Mtg

January 25, 2021

To: Supervisors John Hidahl and Lori Parlin

From: Reuben Carver, 5160 Firehouse Rd, Lotus CA

Subject: HEMP Ad-Hoc input / offered solutions to agenda items in meeting January 13, 2021

John and Lori,

Thank you both again very much for your efforts and patience in trying to get reasonable regulations established for industrial hemp farmers in our county.

Per your request I have put together some of my thoughts / recommendations for each of the agenda items in our last online meeting.

Item 1: Industrial Hemp Zoning in other counties

- I believe that we already have the zoning setup correctly to accommodate this. I think what makes the most sense is to allow the parcels zoned Agricultural such as Limited Agricultural (LA) be allowed. I guess there may be instances where other parcels that are zoned differently could apply for an exemption if it made sense.

Item 2: Parcel Size Restrictions

- This seems to be subjective but honestly, I think anything smaller than 3 acres would be hard pressed to grow this crop.

Item 3: Setbacks / Buffers

- This is the \$64 thousand-dollar question (yes I am dating myself). I don't know if setbacks or buffers are necessary to be an absolute value because there will be so many variables like is the parcel surrounded by other AG zoned land, does it have adjacent residential zone parcels, etc., but I understand that some level of setback / buffer may be necessary.
- So having said that what if we went with something similar to Butte County. Butte provides a 300' buffer from an "offsite sensitive receptor or residential zoned land". It also provides for a 100' buffer from "offsite residential uses". It also covers a bond to cover 100% of abatement costs as well as a county license. This would be a good compromise for both sides without overregulating a federal and state legal crop.
- I guess my only clarification would be are these buffers in Butte's ordinance from the "offsite sensitive receptor or offsite residential use" OR from the actual property line. To me it makes more sense to have the buffers be from the actual sensitive receptor or residential home and NOT from the property line. Why have a buffer or setback from the property line if there is no corresponding potential problem?

Item 4: Crop Size Limits

- This seems to be another subjective subject. It should be relative to the actual parcel size. For example, I have 20 acres of Limited Agricultural (LA) zoned land. I personally would not expect to grow more than 50% of my parcel size.

Thank you very much and please feel free to call or come by anytime.

Reuben Carver
530-919-3431



2/2/2021

Edcgov.us Mail - Re: Comments to the Ad Hoc Hemp Advisory Committee for Its 2/3/21 Meeting



Rec for 2/3/21

Myrna Tow <myrna.tow@edcgov.us>

Re: Comments to the Ad Hoc Hemp Advisory Committee for Its 2/3/21 Meeting

BOS Four <bosfour@edcgov.us>

Sun, Jan 31, 2021 at 1:33 PM

To: Joe Rodgers <joerodgers05@gmail.com>

Cc: The BOSONE <bosone@edcgov.us>

Bcc: eldcag@edcgov.us


Thank you for your comments, Joe. I will forward them to the appropriate staff for sharing with the ad hoc committee.

Lori Parlin

El Dorado County District IV Supervisor

Phone: (530) 621-6513

 [Sign Up for District IV Email Updates](#)

 [Follow Us on Facebook](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s), except as otherwise permitted. Unauthorized interception, review, use, or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, or authorized to receive for the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication. Thank you for your consideration.

On Fri, Jan 29, 2021 at 3:14 PM Joe Rodgers <joerodgers05@gmail.com> wrote:

Please see my attached comments.

Thank you for your efforts and interest!

Joe Rodgers

Comments to El Dorado County Ad Hoc Hemp Advisory Committee for Meeting, Wednesday, February 3, 2021

At the last meeting of the Hemp Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, it was requested that those wishing to provide input to the Committee for its next meeting could submit comments in advance of that meeting. This is such a comment. Given that "industrial hemp" is distinguishable from "marijuana" (both being a variety of cannabis) only in terms of its level of THC (hallucinogen), the issues of odor that accompany growing "marijuana" are also important considerations with respect to growing "industrial hemp." A simple search of on-line sources demonstrates why this is important, as we can learn from the experiences of other locales. Mitigating the adverse effects of odors on neighbors will be critical to maintaining the character of our neighborhoods.

Zoning laws were developed for two fundamental purposes: (1) To provide a level of "certainty" to land owners regarding the uses to which they may put their property; and (2) to provide assurances to neighboring land owners regarding what they may expect to have occur around them. It has been stated by *Property Metrics*:

To accomplish this compatibility of uses, zoning gives the community a road map and a set of rules for driving. It considers how the [jurisdiction] would like to grow. It then divides the [jurisdiction] into different districts, limiting the uses allowed in each. It then creates laws regulating:

- How each district can be used (e.g., commercial, residential, agricultural),
- What types of buildings and other structures can be constructed within each district (e.g., size, number of stories, configuration)
- Where those structures can be located (e.g., setbacks, green space), and
- What measures the landowner must take to further compatibility with neighboring uses (e.g., buffers, flood control).

Like other jurisdictions, El Dorado County has a comprehensive matrix of zoning laws to serve these two purposes. More particularly, the El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance provides:

Sec. 130.10.010 - Title.

This Title shall be known, and cited, and referred to as, the El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance or "Ordinance." The Zoning Ordinance constitutes a portion of the County Code of Ordinances.

Enactment of Zoning Ordinance

This Zoning Ordinance is enacted to implement the El Dorado County General Plan by classifying and regulating the uses of land and structures within unincorporated El Dorado County and is adopted to **protect and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the County.** (Emphasis added.)

With these factors in mind, it is important to consider the adverse effects from offensive odors on neighboring properties.

Odor Issues in Other Locales:

Other States and Tribes

Oregon:

An example of the odor issues is this excerpt from an article from the fall of 2018 that appeared in the *Medford Mail Tribune* newspaper regarding the obnoxious odor coming from neighboring hemp farms:

“School sours on scent of hemp

by Kaylee Tornay of the *Mail Tribune*
Tuesday, November 27th 2018

For several weeks, a neighbor’s skunky smell filled the air, and students at Oak Grove Elementary complained that their heads hurt and they felt nauseated.

Staff, too, were not pleased. They said the odor followed them to their vehicles and homes.

From September through October, people at Oak Grove said, they were constantly aware that their neighbors were hemp farms ready for harvest.

“Many staff, students and families have significant concerns about noxious odor during the harvest season and its impact on the health of the students and the staff,” said Michelle Cummings, Medford School District chief academic officer.

Hemp plants, cousins to marijuana, often release strong smells as their flavor-producing terpenes reach maturity. The scent of even a few rows of plants can travel far, and Oak Grove is within a quarter-mile of at least two industrial hemp grows.”

Maryland:

Another newspaper had a similar report, this one in the *Baltimore Sun*, which included the following report:

“Odor of industrial hemp farm has Baltimore County residents fuming

By CODY BOTELER *BALTIMORE SUN* MEDIA | FEB 17, 2020 | 5:00 AM

Some Baltimore County residents have complained for months of an overpowering stench coming from an industrial hemp farm. They said the odor would cling to their clothes, cause headaches and drift through open windows.

The farm, tucked off Broadway Road between Greenspring Avenue and Falls Road, reeked from late July or early August and until early November, when the plant was harvested, and now nearby residents say they're worried about the next growing season.

The neighbors, who asked to remain anonymous, said they were not opposed to industrial hemp. Rather, the group wants the county or the state to impose restrictions that would prohibit industrial hemp farming within 2 miles of a residential area. The Broadway farm is surrounded by suburban homes, just north of Stevenson, between Lutherville-Timonium and Owings Mills."

Shortly thereafter, the following news story appeared on a local Maryland TV station *WJZ*.

'Stink like dead skunks'| Odor from hemp farm dividing Maryland neighbors

Maryland legislators are considering banning hemp farms within two miles of residences, but agriculture supporters cry foul.



FEATURED BY
AUTHOR: SCOTT BROOM
PUBLISHED: 9:54 PM EST FEBRUARY 26, 2020
UPDATED: 9:54 PM EST FEBRUARY 26, 2020

ANNAPOLIS, MD. — A SURPRISING SIDE EFFECT OF THE CBD OIL CRAZE HAS LEFT FARMERS WHO GROW THE OIL-PRODUCING PLANT IN BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD FEUDING WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS. **"HEMP FIELDS STINK LIKE DEAD SKUNKS!"** CLAIMED ONE NEIGHBOR OF A FARM THAT GREW HEMP OUTSIDE BALTIMORE DURING THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 2019.

"MANY OF MY NEIGHBORS COMPLAINED OF ALLERGIC REACTIONS, EYE IRRITATION, HEADACHES AND NAUSEA," THE WOMAN SAID TO **WJZ** IN BALTIMORE. "WE NEED TO CHANGE MARYLAND LAW TO STOP THIS NIGHTMARE."

As a result, Maryland's legislature is now debating a proposed ban on growing industrial hemp -- used in the production of CBD oil -- within two miles of homes.

RELATED: ['CBD has the potential to harm you' FDA warns in new report](#)

Hemp is a cousin to marijuana, but the plant does not contain enough of the psychoactive substance THC to make a person intoxicated. However, hemp does have a strong odor similar to marijuana. State Senator Shelly Hettleman (D- Baltimore County) proposed the two-mile ban.

"If we go down the road of legalizing marijuana, which also gives off a powerful smell when grown, then it's really important for policymakers to take into effect these policies on residents," Hettleman told **WJZ**.

Colorado:

Even in Colorado, with its long-standing cannabis-friendly rules, hemp odor has been a problem, as noted in this article from *Hemp Industry Daily*:

Odor complaints sparking talk of new ordinances in Colorado

Published July 10, 2020

Colorado officials who have long since settled how to zone marijuana cultivation to address odor complaints are starting to turn their sights to the hemp industry.

Local authorities in Boulder voted this week to limit hemp businesses to three within a 500-foot radius, an attempt to address smell complaints related to the college town's five dozen or so hemp businesses, The (Boulder) Daily Camera [reported](#).

The change would bring hemp businesses in line with the town's existing limits on marijuana businesses.

"With respect to odor, we want to encourage these types of businesses, whether they're hemp or marijuana, to be concentrated and closer together because the more they're spread out

around town, the more residents and other businesses they're going to impact," Mayor Pro Tem Bob Yates said.

And in the Colorado mountain county of Pitkin, which does not allow commercial marijuana cultivation, some residents are pushing for limits on hemp production, The Aspen Times [reported](#).

The county commission discussed hemp smell concerns in May but declined to take action, citing right-to-farm laws in place. The officials decided to monitor complaints through the 2020 growing season and revisit the topic.

Navajo Nation:

Hemp smell has been a problem for neighbors even in Navajo Country, as discussed in this July 2, 2020, article in the *Navajo Times*:

Hemp farm neighbors complain of smell, lights, use of water

BY [ARLYSSA BECENTI](#) | JUL 2, 2020 | [NEWS](#) |

SHIPROCK

It's not easy being Dineh Benally's neighbor.

Loretta Bennett and Marietta Lister live down a narrow road in Shiprock and for years it's been a safe and peaceful place to grow their children and grandchildren. It's been a good area to raise horses, and grow alfalfa, fruits and vegetables.

But this picturesque surrounding changed drastically once Benally took it upon himself to bring in outside workers in order to develop a hemp farm without consulting his neighbors. "We have a lot of greenhouses ... It gives a bad skunk odor," said Bennett. "They never approached me ... All of a sudden I saw all these greenhouses go up."

It was only supposed to be a pilot project, or at least that's what Bennett understood, but the next thing she knew huge greenhouses were being constructed a few feet from her home.

"I didn't know what was going on," said Bennett. "Last year, they had what he called a pilot project where he planted stuff out there with weeds combined; it was messy."

This year, he decided to grow greenhouses and it stinks.” The stench of hemp is described to be just as potent as that of marijuana. When driving on the narrow dirt road past Benally’s home, fields of green plants can be seen on one side of the road.

On the other side rows of greenhouses are being constructed in what might as well be the Bennett’s and Lister’s back yard. Bennett is tired of the smell, and she also doesn’t like the bright glow lights that shine through her windows at night.

Bennett grows alfalfa and Lister grows produce, but the water from their irrigation line has been dismal. They blame the wells Benally drills in order to claim the water for his hemp. “They are still getting water from our irrigation,” said Lister. “(I’m) trying to get my alfalfa field cut here and I didn’t give it much water. It didn’t grow much. If he has that kind of money, why can’t he do something about the irrigation?”

Pennsylvania:

Elsewhere, in Pennsylvania, *Lancaster Farming* reported on another odor conflict there from hemp operations.

Hemp Processor to Pay \$29K After Smell Complaint

By Philip Gruber

Jan 3, 2020 Updated Jan 3, 2020

A hemp business will pay \$29,000 and face tightened regulation after smell complaints about its western Pennsylvania plant.

Jeannette-based Patriot Shield Pennsylvania entered a consent agreement with the state Department of Environmental Protection on Dec. 24 and will be allowed to resume processing and storing hemp.

The agency halted Patriot Shield’s operations in November after investigating complaints of bad smells coming from the plant, and has since met with the operator, verified compliance and inspected the site.

Virginia:

Virginia is another state where there have been hemp-odor problems as discussed in this article in the *Progress-Index* (Petersburg, Va.).

Residents not high on hemp-farm odor

By Logan Barry

Posted Nov 26, 2019 at 1:48 PM Updated Nov 26, 2019 at 1:49 PM

Neighborhood complains to supervisors about smell; supervisors note learning process with the first harvest

DINWIDDIE — Residents living in the Lake Jordan neighborhood are outraged over the odor produced by hemp plants growing on a farm near the subdivision, and they are letting the county Board of Supervisors know about it.

At the board meeting last week, Jarrod Reisweber, a director of the Lake Jordan Homeowners' Association, delivered a petition to the board on behalf of the neighborhood's residents. The petition is asking that supervisors disallow hemp harvesting near the neighborhood.

The smell is so bad," Reisweber said.

He was accompanied at the meeting by a group of other residents from the neighborhood and he explained they've obtained nearly 100 endorsements in their first round of gathering signatures.

"A large contingency of our homeowners are veterans; these are people who've worked to serve this country and they come back and buy their dream house, and they're telling me that they have to move," he said.

Reisweber explained that the smell is beginning to get into folks' clothing.

"One mom who came to one of our meetings said 'I'm scared because I have an African American son who smells like weed,'" he said.

The odor has even permeated air-conditioning units of the residences in the neighborhood, Reisweber said. He claimed that respiratory issues come with inhaling the odor, but that claim has not been substantiated.

"We're worried that they're going to continue planting around, which would basically mean [that] people will have to leave or just tolerate unbelievable skunk-like odors," Reisweber said.

In addition to the smell, he added some of the criminal activity that has occurred in relation to hemp being grown locally, and cited multiple arrests which were made in regards to thieves attempting to steal the plants.

"They've also been pulling water from our lake at an unbelievable rate, which has caused severe damages [to the ecosystem], and we're asking that those damages be righted," Reisweber said.

John Nuby, who lives in Lake Jordan, also spoke during citizens' comments and pointed out that even though hemp does not contain any THC, which is the active ingredient in the plant's illegal counterpart, it looks and smells the same.

Turner Farms is growing the hemp near Lake Jordan.

District 2 Supervisor Mark Moore, who represents Lake Jordan, responded to the concerns, but he also noted it is now legal for this plant to be grown in the commonwealth.

"None of us knew what this crop was going to do or the effects that it might have, but guess what? We have a growing season now and we know what can occur. Now, the farmer does have a right to grow the crop because the state of Virginia says they can, But you as citizens, we all have a right to live safely," Moore explained.

Moore said he has asked the county administrator to speak with state officials in Richmond to learn more about this crop, now that the first harvest of it is in.

"I hear you loud and clear [and] I am trying to do what I can to find out from a state on a legal crop, [which] could be furthered as we go along to see what our options are as a county," Moore said. He also encouraged citizens to contact their General Assembly representatives about the issue.

Rhode Island:

The hemp-odor problem has also come up in Rhode Island, as discussed in this article from the *ProvidenceJournal*, on October 6,2019.

State's first hemp crop in at least a half century is causing a stink in North Kingstown.

By [Tom Mooney](#)
Journal Staff Writer

[Mooneyproj](#)

The state's first and largest hemp crop in at least a half century is causing a stink in North Kingstown.

Neighbors around Dawson Hodgson's 65 acres of hemp off Exeter Road are expected to appeal to the Town Council Monday night to do something about the pungent skunk-like odor which they say has permeated their houses, cars and clothes since August.

"It smells," says David DellaSelva, who lives in the Slocum Woods neighborhood a quarter-mile south of Hodgson's 70,000 hemp bushes, now being cut and dried for market. "I'm asthmatic and it's made it worse. My wife says it's all over her body when she goes to work."

DellaSelva says "I have no beef with someone wanting to make a buck, but you really shouldn't be doing anything that affects the neighbors."

Hodgson, president of the 500-acre turf farm, Sodco, became [the state's first large-scale hemp grower](#) in decades after the federal government last year removed the cannabis plant from a list of controlled substances.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES

Camarillo/Ventura County:

Closer to home, here in California, where "industrial hemp" cultivation has only become legal in the last 2 years, the City of Camarillo had to implore the Board of Supervisors of Ventura County to reign in cultivation of "industrial hemp" that was polluting the City and its residents with noxious odors. The letter from the City to the County is set forth below.



City of Camarillo

601 Carmen Drive • P.O. Box 248 • Camarillo, CA 93011-0248

Office of the Mayor (805) 388-5307

FAX (805) 388-5318

October 30, 2019

Supervisor Kelly Long
County of Ventura Board of Supervisors, Third District 1203 Flynn Road, Suite 220
Camarillo, CA 93012

RE: Industrial Hemp Cultivation in Ventura County

Dear Supervisor Long:

Via E-Mail: kelly.long@ventura.org

As you are aware, we have a serious odor nuisance issue in Camarillo. Industrial hemp cultivation has slowly surrounded our City and has created an issue of significant community concern. Approximately eighteen acres of cultivation has been permitted by the Agricultural Commissioner within our city limits, and several hundred acres of industrial hemp is being cultivated in various locations surrounding our City: on the Oxnard plain, immediately east of

Leisure Village; north of Mission Oaks in Somis; west of Spanish Hills in Saticoy; and west of the Camarillo Airport. It became clear to our City Council during a lively discussion at our public meetings on October 9 and October 23, 2019, that this is not an issue we can handle alone; rather, this is an issue that requires coordination and collaboration with the Board of Supervisors to protect the public health and welfare of our community.

We have received a considerable amount of comments from our community, on all sides of this issue: from the farming community who urge Camarillo to continue to be at the forefront of the agricultural industry; to the entrepreneurs and general farming advocates who desire protection and preservation of agricultural independence; to the residents of our community with severe allergies and, in some cases, life-threatening reactions to the pollen associated with the cultivation of hemp who have threatened to move if the cultivation persists; to the business owners who despise the smell of "cannabis" permeating their commercial establishments; and to all those in our City who are concerned that this City literally stinks like a skunk, day in and day out.

The purpose of this letter is to raise awareness about the odor that has permeated our community from the industrial hemp fields that surround Camarillo, and to shed light on the concerns we have received from our community. We understand that an item will be brought before your Board on November 5, 2019, regarding the potential regulation of commercial medical cannabis activities and businesses in unincorporated Ventura County. We understand that the Board of Supervisors will provide direction to staff, regarding the regulation of commercial medical cannabis activities and businesses in unincorporated Ventura County. Although this item will be specifically about medical cannabis activities and businesses, we feel compelled to express to you the problems we are experiencing with hemp cultivation, the odor of which is the same as that produced by cannabis.

We will be attending the November 5th meeting on cannabis and asking the Board of Supervisors to take action on protecting the City of Camarillo from the nuisance of both cannabis and hemp odors, which are causing illness in some individuals, business interruption, and threats of residents and businesses leaving the City.

We appreciate the opportunity to engage you and your fellow Supervisors in a meaningful conversation pertaining to the cultivation of industrial hemp in the unincorporated areas of Ventura County, and respectfully request that you consider the public welfare of the Camarillo community in your discussion about how to regulate the growing of cannabis and hemp in Ventura County.

Thank you for considering the City's position on this important matter. Sincerely,

Kevin Kildee Mayor

Attachments: Comments from Camarillo community

c: Camarillo City Council
Clerk of the Board, County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

Ed Williams, Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner
Andy Calderwood, Ventura County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Dave Norman, City
Manager
Tully Clifford, Assistant City Manager
Joe Vacca, Community Development Director

Carpenteria/Ventura County:

A few months later, some of the complaining residents of neighboring Carpinteria (Santa Barbara County) were compelled to file a lawsuit over the offensive odors from nearby (but across the county line in Ventura County) cannabis grows, as discussed in this *Associated Press* article that appeared on February 28, 2020 in the *VC Star*:

Pot odors spark lawsuit against Carpinteria cultivators

The Associated Press

The odor of marijuana has driven some residents of Carpinteria — just outside Ventura County — to sue local growers.

The lawsuit filed Thursday contends the growers should seal their greenhouses and use "carbon-based filtration methods," *KEYT-TV* reported.

It's an issue that many Ventura County residents may be able to relate to. Cultivation of industrial hemp — the same plant as marijuana but with far less of the chemical THC that produces a "high" — has raised complaints from neighbors due to the strong skunk-like odor.

The lawsuit from residents of Carpinteria, in far south Santa Barbara County, claims that so-called vapor-phase systems currently in use to mitigate odors can actually cause eye irritation and worsen allergies and asthma.

"We've been breathing this brew of chemicals for the last 2½ years," said plaintiff Greg Gandrud.

Carpinteria was at one time known as a major center of the fresh-cut flower industry. But facing fierce competition from imported Latin American flowers, many of the greenhouses that once produced that crop turned to marijuana after California legalized recreational cannabis.

Some of those greenhouses are less than 100 feet from the windows and backyards of some of the plaintiffs.

Gandrud said the marijuana odor scares away prospective buyers for his house, which has been on the market over the past two years.

The lawsuit states that the residents would likely dismiss or settle the action if the greenhouses change filtration systems and the odor improves.

KEYT reported that a representative of the growers said they had not been served with the lawsuit as of Thursday night and did not have a response.

In Ventura County, complaints about hemp odors have led to restrictions on the crop, including a ban on growing it on unincorporated land within a half mile of schools and homes. Ojai officials permanently prohibited cultivation of hemp within the city in late August. Moorpark, Fillmore, Camarillo and Thousand Oaks instituted either temporary or permanent bans.

The Star staff contributed to this report

Sutter County:

Even closer to home is this recent **CBS13** (Sacramento) piece on hemp-odor issues in nearby Sutter County.

Sutter County Neighbors Complain About Smell Coming From Industrial Hemp Farm

By [Laura Haefeli](#) October 29, 2020 at 5:55 am

Filed Under: [Sutter County News](#)

SUTTER COUNTY (CBS13) – One company in Sutter County is causing quite the stink. Neighbors have had enough of the hemp growing business they say can be smelled from miles away.

“During the summer it’s nice and cool and everyone likes to open the windows. Well you know we open the windows here and you get the smell all over the place,” Paul Wheeler said.

Wheeler lives on the same rural road as the 1975 Group, an industrial hemp growing company with acres of hemp.

“They’re out until 1 o’clock in the morning and they’re out there planting by hand and then you hear the horn honk and it’s like, are you kidding me?” Wheeler said.

The 1975 Group LLC moved into Sutter County just a few months ago. It is permitted by the U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture to cultivate hemp between April 2020 and April 2021.

“Every grow is registered with our agricultural commissioner’s office. There’s testing standards and if the THC is over a certain limit it will be destroyed,” Sutter County Administrative Officer Steven Smith said.

Priscilla Agoncillo is the president of the Cannabinoid Industry Association. She says that in the U.S., anything below .03% THC is considered hemp. The crops are not psychoactive and have more than 500 uses.

"The difference between hemp and cannabis or marijuana is really the designation of allowable THC percentage," Agoncillo said. "You can use hemp for fiber rope clothing. You can use it for food protein. In reality, is it's a very positive crop to have growing."

But neighbors still are not impressed.

"The smell is the worst thing," Wheeler said.

Sutter County is considering an ordinance that would set up distance buffers between hemp grows and more populated areas, but until then the county's hands are tied.

"They're permitted and in Sutter County hemp is treated like any other agricultural product," Smith said.

The 1975 Group was not available for comment but they're not alone. There are several companies in Sutter County growing industrial hemp.

As many of the foregoing news items note, jurisdictions that did not "get out in front" to deal with the hemp-odor issue were forced to address it "after-the-fact" because of complaints from neighbors who were adversely affected. You are wise to have adopted a moratorium while you work to address these issues in advance.

Those who wish to make money growing hemp have posited that there is some method utilizing mist sprays to eliminate the adverse impacts of hemp's odors. They claim it is like some misters utilized by restaurants -- whatever that means. I have searched on-line to try to learn what that may refer to. What I found is a couple references to ways to mitigate cannabis (marijuana or hemp) odors emitting from **GREENHOUSES!** In these instances, there are specific "exhaust" portals where air/odors may escape into the surrounding community. As reference in one of the articles (above) involving Ventura County cannabis grows, there may be sophisticated "scrubbers" that would either "treat" or "scrub" offensive odors that otherwise would be released into the air.

The only reference that I could locate regarding "misters" that might accomplish such a "scrubbing" or other "neutralization" of hemp odors also was used in the context of **GREENHOUSE** grows -- not open-air field grows, like those recently in use in El Dorado County.

JAMES DUNN

NORTH BAY BUSINESS JOURNAL TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

May 29, 2017

Cannabis stinks, its opponents claim, comparing the scent of buds at harvest to skunks.

But beyond its fragrant nose, cannabis enterprise carries an aroma welcome even to many who shun pot: the smell of money.

Cash gushes from the emerging industry. It's expected to soar to billions of dollars a year in California, with Santa Rosa's CannaCom Valley at the heart of North Bay cannabis commerce. But cannabis operators must reckon with the reek, which makes some neighbors smoking mad.

At public hearings on cannabis policy held by Sonoma County's board of supervisors, residents who live near cultivation complained to the board about its pungent smell - especially at harvest. Supervisors responded by banning cultivation in rural-residential zones.

In public comments to Santa Rosa officials about proposed cannabis cultivation sites, neighbors objected to the odor.

SMELL TRAVELS 1,500 YARDS

"I object to the proposed commercial growth of marijuana adjacent to my home," said Richard Cooper, an attorney who lives near proposed Giffen Avenue cannabis-cultivation sites, all indoors, the largest in Santa Rosa. "My primary objection is against the odor-smell that the plants create. The smell is skunk-like or sewer-like," Cooper said in his March 17 letter, noting that "the offensive smell travels long distances - 1,500 yards or more. I don't want to have this smell Do city officials realize the loss of value my property suffers because of this odor?"

Santa Rosa's planning staff sums up how cannabis cultivators at 2835 Duke Court will need to mitigate odor:

"Air within the facility will be ventilated through high-efficiency particulate arrestance filters," the report said. "Cannabis cultivation and processing rooms include several layers of carbon filtration and fan systems, including scrubbers."

Duke Court Capital Partners, headed by Steve Monahan of San Rafael, submitted descriptions of carbon-based can filters "designed for the control of VOCs, odors and other gaseous contaminants."

VOCs are volatile organic compounds such as paint fumes, hydrocarbons.

* * *

SCIENCE BEHIND THE SKUNK ODOR

Some cannabis critics describe its smell as skunky during flowering. The odoriferous secretion of skunks is primarily volatile thiols: ϵ -2-butene-1 thiol (about 40 percent) and 3-methyl-1-butanethiol (about 22 percent). Cannabis

contains alpha-linolenic acid, which may break down under the ultraviolet rays of sunlight into methyl and butyl thiols, according to one scientist's theory.

Whether it's skunky or not, the smell of cannabis becomes a business challenge for which local engineers sniff out solutions.

Extraction involves isolating and concentrating substances in cannabis that have medicinal or psychoactive effects.

Extraction facilities use ethanol and carbon dioxide in processing, which must be managed in ventilation systems. Butane, more volatile, is not allowed in Santa Rosa's CannaCom Valley.

The engineering company also works with cannabis distribution centers.

"Plant matter is broken down," said Matthew Torre, a mechanical engineer at 15000 Inc. "It is taken out of large bins and repackaged, sent out to dispensaries."

In addition to this type of aroma-cleansing apparatus there is a water-mister approach described in this advertising pitch.

Eliminate Cannabis Odors with MicroCool Fog

High-pressure fog systems disperse an odor-neutralizing product that traps airborne odors and biodegrades unpleasant smells.

The pervasive, heavy scent of the cannabis plant during the flowering stage is a concern for every cannabis grower. Municipalities are beginning to pass regulations around noisome odors that can invade a community's quality of life. This is especially true in cities or counties which have enacted special zones for marijuana grow facilities. Failure to provide an adequate odor control system can generate complaints and potentially escalate into costly environmental fines and penalties.

What are the benefits of using high pressure fog to eliminate odors?

MicroCool's high pressure fog systems are uniquely suited to provide many benefits for cannabis growers. In addition to providing safe, eco-friendly odor elimination, fog provides the perfect combination of humidity and cooling that optimizes plant growth.

Airborne odors are trapped almost instantly

The atomized water droplets flash evaporate and release the odor-neutralizing product into the air eliminating lingering odors.

2

Odors are eliminated (not masked)

Many available odor neutralizers can be distributed via high-pressure fog, are non-toxic, and provide a safe solution.

3

Costly environmental fines are avoided

Failure to provide an adequate odor control system can generate complaints and potentially escalate into costly environmental fines and penalties.

Solution

Greenhouse exhaust fans are fitted with a ring of MicroCool nozzles that atomize liquids under high-pressure into billions of micro-fine water droplets (or fog). The MicroCool system injects a highly concentrated (1:1000) mixture of odor-neutralizer into the water fog before dispersing into the air. The droplets' small size (1/10th the diameter of a human hair) creates more surface area which speeds evaporation, instantly releasing the odor-neutralizing product that traps airborne odors and biodegrades the unpleasant smell.

The complete system includes high-pressure pumps, distribution lines, fog rings and injector(s). One pump unit can accommodate multiple exhaust points and support separate zones as required.

A variety of odor neutralizers are on the market for you to choose from. Contact MicroCool for suggestions. (Highlighting added.)

NOTE:

They're not talking about acres of outdoor grows here. These mitigation methods are designed for enclosed grows with limited exhaust portals that can be surrounded by "a ring of MicroCool nozzles . . . that inject[.] a highly concentrated (1:1000) mixture of odor-neutralizer into the water [.] before dispersion into the air." They are definitely not talking about multi-acre outdoor grows. With expansive outdoor grow sites and prevailing breezes, these systems are not going to control and eradicate offensive odors before they reach neighboring properties. You will need to create appropriate set-backs (well more than 100 feet) from neighbors in order to sufficiently reduce the adverse impacts from the "skunk smell" of outdoor hemp cultivation.

The hemp growers' lobbyist argues that there may be site-specific mitigating factors that could reduce the need for substantial set-backs in certain (likely rare) instances. That is the function of Special Use Permits or Conditional Use Permits. Those have an attendant procedure to examine any special circumstances that could allow for reduced setbacks. That procedure also affords potentially affected neighbors notice and an opportunity to be heard about something that may have a substantial impact on their use and enjoyment of their property, in addition to their health and safety.

Thank you for considering my views! The Zoom interface does not work well for me, so -- although I may be able to watch your meetings on-line -- I will not be able to comment during your meeting. Therefore, I appreciate your time and attention to reviewing my views on this important topic.

Joe Rodgers