



**TRINITY COUNTY**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
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**Kim Hunter, Director**

**MEMORANDUM #2**

DATE: October 6, 2020  
TO: Planning Commissioners and members of the public  
FROM: Kim Hunter, Director of Planning *KH*  
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 2 – Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-28)

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Please see the attached comments received from Alicia Muhr Wellock on 10/6/20.

## Kim Hunter

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**From:** Alicia Muhr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 8:23 AM  
**To:** Kim Hunter; James Underwood; Mary B. Brinkley  
**Subject:** Appeal P-20-28 which is a new CCL (#691) located on APN 025-180-37.  
**Attachments:** 10-25-18 Staff Report.pdf; Cannabis Cultivation Licensing.pdf

Hi Kim,

Does this work?

Hi,

My parents, live at the end of Wellock Road. My dad was born and grew up there so he's been living there, off and on, for almost 77 years. Our family moved there in 1976 after my grandpa died so we could take care of and be near our grandma. I lived there from age 13 until 20 and I absolutely loved it! We had animals that we raised for 4-H and we had the freedom to swim in the creek and river, ride our horses all over, without any worries of harm befalling us. Even though I moved away after college, I still consider it home. My family and I go home as often as we can. Our children are now 24 and 21 and they have been going up there since they were born. That was our vacation destination for many, many years. They have many fond memories of playing in the creek, swimming in the pond, running through the fields, all without a care in the world. They still love going up there now, despite the lack of cell phone service at my parents' home. It is our plan to, most likely, retire up there some day.

My fear now is that the tranquility, the beauty, and the carefree atmosphere that we once enjoyed is being defiled by the pot growing "businesses" and all the vexation, nuisances, and danger that accompany such a "business." When I was visiting my parents recently at the end of June, we had to avoid showering for a day or two due to our two huge water holding tanks being low. This should not be happening! My parents rely on their well to provide water to drink, shower, wash dishes and clothes, water animals, etc. Where is all the ground water going? It is well known that pot is a water-hungry crop. Did you know it requires close to 22 liters of water per plant per day during the growing season? Irrigation demands for this can exceed the amount of water flowing in the creeks and rivers, leaving little water to sustain aquatic life. Another atrocious aspect of the pot growing "business" is mass quantities of toxic rodenticides/pesticides are used to keep rodents from chewing on irrigation lines and fences, structures. Deer, foxes, coyotes, northern spotted owls and ravens have also been, inadvertently, victims of poisoning due to pot cultivation. The possibility is also there for family pets like dogs, cats, cows, horses to endure the same fatal end if they come in contact with the rodenticide/pesticide or tainted water. Another collateral damage from pot growing is the effect pot cultivation has on the ozone. Pot cultivation emits potent organic compounds that can produce harmful pollutants. High concentrations of volatile organic compounds have been linked to a range of human health issues, from nausea and fatigue to liver damage and cancer! This is absolutely not okay! Would you want your family to be living around this?

Some states have established environmental regulations for pot growers. California is one of those states. The California Water Boards require permitted growers to register water rights and follow strict guidelines that include prohibitions on diverting surface water from April to October and irrigating with stored water during the dry season. Is this being done in this case? Other states, such as Washington State, require growers to submit information about their plans for monitoring and controlling air pollution. Is this being done in this case? If not, perhaps it should be. While I think the decision to defer approval until a site-specific environmental review and determination can be completed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act is a good decision, my question is why wasn't this required before the approval was initially given? I looked through the agendas for about six prior meetings and on almost every agenda there were a couple of individuals wanting to start a pot growing "business." When do you say enough is enough? What has to happen before you will think all this pot growing is a bad idea and is hurting the very county that you live in?

Has the owner of this pot growing "business" been vetted to see if he is even allowed to own this business? Does he have a Seller's permit? Has he been convicted of a felony? Is he even in the country legally? Is he following the Performance Standards for Commercial Cultivation of Cannabis such as not exceeding the noise level standards as set forth in the County General Plan? Doesn't sound like he is since the neighbors are complaining. Is he using water to cultivate the

plants from a permitted well or diversion? My parents' water tanks have been low. It appears someone is using a lot of water. Please investigate his background. The people of Lewiston deserve to know who is living in their backyards.

The right under State law to cultivate cannabis plants does not give them the right to create or maintain a public nuisance. Read the letters/emails that have been sent. It stinks around there! Businesses are losing money because no one wants to smell skunk while they're trying to sip wine or enjoy a concert or wedding. Where prior weddings and birthday parties were once held by the creek, now there is nothing but ugly structures, bright lights, desecrated land, noise, dogs running loose, and stench. The locals now have to worry about increased numbers of cannabis-related incidents such as armed robbery and violence and be on the look out for the unsavory characters working at the "business" who might be roaming in their neighborhoods, loose dogs that might harm their livestock. We don't want any owners to feel like they have to sell and move because they are afraid or can't make a living any longer. It is up to policymakers and planners, like yourself, to enact specific environmental and land-use regulations to control cannabis crop expansion before it's too late. It's up to you to protect the public peace, health, safety and to prevent environmental degradation. We don't want any more damage done to this beautiful place many call home, Lewiston.

Stop the madness!!!!

Thank you for your time,

Alicia Muhr Wellock  
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Poway, CA 92064  
[REDACTED]