

Addressing Illegal Marijuana and Cartel Growing Activity in Shasta County, California

A White Paper Prepared for
Shasta County, California
July 22nd, 2021

Common sense suggestions from S.C.C.A.M.- Shasta County Citizens
Against Marijuana- providing education and support to our youth and
community and as a voice to victims of marijuana crime

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With comments included from members of the
Shasta County Sheriff's Department, Shasta County staff,
Board of Supervisors,
and the community



For Johnny

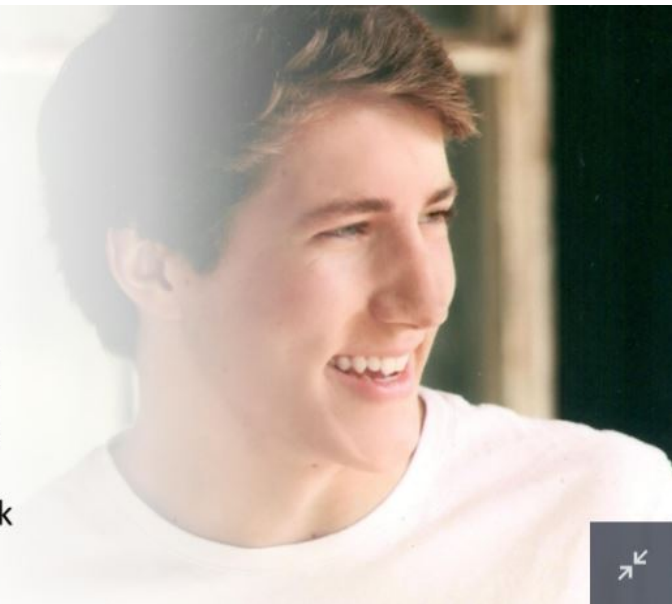


Three Days Before Johnny's Death

Nov. 17, 2019

"I just want you to know that you were right all along. You told me marijuana would hurt my brain. It's ruined my mind and my life, and I'm sorry. I love you."

– Johnny Stack



Johnny's mother, Laura, is now a national educator and spokeswoman educating America about the dangers of high potency marijuana overtaking our youth. Johnny, addicted after using high potency THC and the mental health issues it created, jumped off a building killing himself in the process. We salute her efforts.

Her tears stain the souls of Americas parents.

<https://johnnysambassadors.org/>

Overview

This paper will contain the personal opinions of the author(s), statements by witnesses or law enforcement, and substantiating information from various sources. Whenever possible sources will be cited as evidence of position statements or opinions.

Illegal marijuana growing became a wider issue for Shasta County approximately circa 2012. As Prop 215 and Prop 64 passed illegal marijuana grows became more proliferate. Shasta County citizens demanding action overwhelming, with a 64% majority, passed a no outdoor grow marijuana ordinance in 2014. S.C.C.A.M. personnel worked hard on the ordinance and helped gain the votes necessary to pass it at the request of the Board of Supervisors at the time. We fought over one hundred thousand dollars spent by the marijuana proponents to defeat the ordinance. Initially there was some selective eradication enforcement by the Sheriff but after an unfortunate court case outcome against the county and hesitancy with County Counsel to enforce the ordinance actual eradication faltered to where it is today, nearly zero.

Two subsequent Sheriff administrations have failed to address the problem in any substantial way. Code enforcement, which was tasked to apply the ordinance, quickly became overwhelmed and understaffed, needing law enforcement backing. Growers, emboldened by a zero-enforcement policy, multiplied rapidly, to somewhere in the neighborhood of seven thousand grows.¹ Code enforcement has stated there are somewhere in the range of three thousand five-hundred illegal grows, the last Sheriff, Magrini, stated he thought the number was “about one thousand”. Illegal grows were broken down by us into 0-12 plants, 12-99 plants, over 99 plants. Quick profit and low risk had persons flocking from other states and countries to grow here. Shasta County became an extension of the infamous Emerald Triangle. With near perfect growing conditions, the availability of rural public and private lands, ability to source water supplies, and the lack of enforcement propelled Shasta County to become one of the top two grow counties in California. With the historic tightening of the border the cartels found it more efficient to base themselves directly in the Shasta County area for growing. This brought a large faction of cash rich second-generation Hmong organized gangs, Mexican cartel, Russian mafia, Asian Triad, and local “cowboy” growers, all of whom compete for the marijuana dollar. These criminal organizations buy up lands at above market rate or pay exorbitant prices to lease property to grow marijuana. Most of the illegal marijuana grown in Shasta County is transported out of state where the profit margin is four times higher.²

As county drug educators we should very clearly state that our organization has brought the issue of illegal marijuana growing before the Board of Supervisors for months, well before the water crisis we find ourselves in. The Board has ignored,

¹ An informal review of the Shasta County GIS website averaging the numbers of grows per acre.

² Direct conversation with SINTF agents 2019.

dismissed, or failed to heed evidence-based presentations and even now is not moving to address illegal marijuana growing this season.

Very recently the Board of Supervisors voted to allow illegal marijuana growing in the form of hemp in the county. Hemp is marijuana. There is a marijuana growing ordinance in place. This is just another attempt by illegal marijuana growers to continue with their profits in defiance of the ordinance voted on by the citizens of our county. The growing of hemp cannot be regulated or controlled as stated by then Sheriff Magrini.

Shasta County Stakeholders

Multiple Shasta County departments have some responsibility in failing to holistically address illegal marijuana. These include, but are not limited to, the Office of the Sheriff, The Office of the District Attorney, Shasta County Resource Management-Environmental Health (EHD), Shasta County Resource Management-Code Enforcement, Shasta County Health Department, Office of the C.A.O., Shasta County Office of the County Counsel, and finally, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors.

The reasons for failing to address illegal growing are varied. Budget, personnel issues, lack of public awareness and outcry, legal issues, and lack of will by county officials all play a role. A change in the culture of county government is necessary to deal with the scourge of illegal marijuana in our area. An “all hands-on deck” approach is required now that cartel illegal marijuana has a solid foothold in our communities. It will take a multi-year plan to deal with the issue. The State of California and the Bureau of Cannabis Control will be of little help and is actually in the business of promoting high potency pot. Certain state agencies such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife have had limited success in eradicating criminal grows. Their jurisdiction is generally limited to water courses in Shasta County affected by illegal marijuana.

The Federal government is anemic in its approach to eliminating illegal grows. There have been a number of position statements, (Cole/Sessions), over the years with various administrations which have affected federal attorneys’ mandates to deal with marijuana. This lack of will to prosecute trickles down to no-pros attitudes by local D.A.’s. Our lobbyists in Washington do not see the current administration approving the federal legalization of marijuana this year. Regardless, Shasta County’s more restrictive marijuana ordinance would remain in effect unless it violated federal law. We do not foresee the federal government restricting the right of local jurisdictions to make laws that govern marijuana. *Every outdoor marijuana grow and most indoor marijuana grows are illegal, by default, in Shasta County.*³

We will list proposed suggestions in our solutions-based approach at the end of this white paper.

³ A review of actual legally permitted marijuana growing structures in Shasta County.

Associated issues with illegal marijuana growing

Illegal marijuana has brought a myriad of issues that Shasta County has not effectively addressed. The criminal element attracted to the county to grow has resulted in crimes against persons, such as murder, robbery, domestic violence, child abuse, kidnapping, human trafficking, and crimes against property such as burglary, theft, gross environmental crimes, water/power theft, pollution of the landscape and waterways, depredation of wildlife, removal of native vegetation and landscape, honey oil explosions, and toxic waste.

Our youth have been severely impacted with marijuana being the easiest drug to obtain in Shasta County, more-so than alcohol.⁴ As high as ninety-five percent of adolescent school age children and young adults have been exposed to high potency THC during their school year⁵ and approximately one in seven will become addicted,⁶ meaning using marijuana products daily, or as is the case so often seen multiple times a day. These teens show a seven times higher increase in suicide attempts.⁷ Sources for marijuana are varied but many young people are drawn to being trimmers, getting marijuana from someone who has a medical marijuana card, or just obtaining it on the black market with unscrupulous persons delivering it in Shasta County. Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Craigslist, and Snapchat are all extensively used as a source method to obtain illegal high potency marijuana. Our organization regularly scans social media requesting removal of illegal marijuana or water rights sales, which continue unabated. Even those social media platforms who use some control of illegal marijuana activities occurring on their platforms find themselves in a quandary as users and sellers create special codes to communicate with each other. Parcel rental to marijuana growers is a regular occurrence here with property owners making upwards of forty thousand dollars per season to rent out raw land to growers. This creates an issue for prosecution and code enforcement just trying to figure out who is culpable. There are unscrupulous real estate sales agents who specialize in land sales for illegal cultivation.⁸ There is an entire industry in Shasta County that caters to growers marketing everything from marijuana grow materials to water trucks delivering water, processing equipment, grow lights, Co2 generators, legal aid, the list is endless. The amounts of money involved is so substantial that it can have a corrupting influence upon every aspect of government, especially our politicians.

⁴ In person sampling of Foothill High School students circa 2016.

⁵ In person random sampling as self-reported by West Valley High School Students during the Every 15 Minute program.

⁶ NIDA "The science of drug abuse and addiction", by Dr. Nora Volkow referencing "The Monitor the Future Study"-2010.

⁷ E Slens et al 2014, "Young Adult Sequelae of Adolescent Cannabis Use-An Integrative Analysis" Arendt et al 2006, Kvitland et al 2016, Clark et al 2014.

⁸ Direct conversation with SSINTF sergeant 2021.

A focus on stakeholder issues

The Sheriff

As the chief law enforcement officer of Shasta County, the Sheriff is charged with keeping public order. While a sheriff is technically not required to protect people, it is a general mission of law enforcement and what the public sees as a primary role of effective policing. The last administration flatly refused to deal with marijuana, instructing deputies to tell the public it was a code enforcement issue and that it was not in the Sheriff's purview. This administration went further in its failure to protect the community stating that the best way to deal with illegal marijuana growing was to permit it. This approach has been tried in multiple jurisdictions across the United States and has always been an abject failure. Attempts to permit growers reveals the black market only flourishes. Looking at the big picture of the omnipotent marijuana industry it will be many years before the industry itself puts the illegal growers out of business. One only needs to look at prohibition to see how long it took the country to deal with alcohol legalization.

To address marijuana enforcement, one must look at our Sheriff's department as a whole. The department is under trained and understaffed.⁹ This conclusion is based upon performance-based policing models coupled with community-based policing concepts as well as direct comments from patrol deputies. Most law enforcement departments might proffer they are understaffed. In the case of Shasta County, it is demonstrable in the insufficient time deputies must solve a citizen's problem, conduct follow-up investigations, or conduct aggressive preventative patrol or even deal with "return-to" calls for service. Vacant resident deputy positions go unfilled because they are unpopular to work even with differential pay enhancements. Department morale has been poor because of a failure of leadership and a resulting "Us vs. Them" mentality when dealing with upper administration. There has not been a M.I.T- marijuana investigations team contingent for several years. Law enforcement is the one government agency that most citizens will come into direct contact within their lives and the agency of government that most people base their opinions on as to how well government works for them. The previous Sheriff has stated, according to his opinion, that illegal growing is a misdemeanor crime and therefor does not warrant his effort to deal with it. Actually, this is only partly true with many crimes involving the illegal marijuana trade continuing to be felonies (repeat convicted offender, sales, transportation, etc.). Additionally, while making an arrest may not be the focus during eradication, quality of life issues for the public are. There are sufficient civil remedies in the current marijuana ordinance to address many of the public's concerns. Unused and unenforced by the Sheriff, the failing to enforce the marijuana ordinance results in runaway multi-faceted crimes. The failure of the Sheriff to make initial criminal referrals to the District Attorney has not allowed the marijuana ordinance process to work. The failure of the Sheriff to make civil referrals to the Office of County Counsel, again, does not allow the process of the ordinance to work.

⁹ Direct conversation with the Shasta County Deputy Sheriffs Association representatives.

Past sheriff's state they have a hiring problem with lack of qualified people willing to be peace officers. This is a national issue facing every department. ***Shasta County citizens want solutions and not excuses.***

Another issue expressed by the past administration is the lack of funding for a M.I.T. team. Effective leadership addresses this issue by moving it forward through county review process. We have never heard our Sheriff stand up and ask for more funding to establish a M.I.T. team. In fact, past Sheriffs have rejected and sent back funding for a M.I.T. team.

It takes a minimum of five years to develop a well-rounded, productive, patrol deputy, even longer in slower or more rural jurisdictions.

Shasta County Sheriff has a body of patrol and even a major crimes deputy with minimal street experience, under three years, and another body of deputies with nearly twenty or more years on.¹⁰ There is a lack of experience in the middle range, the seven-to-twelve-year experience deputies, or the body of experience that is desperately needed to train new deputies and not be experiencing potential burnout. This lack of experience and the citizen relationships not being cultivated with the mid-range experience level deputies that affects the department's ability to deal with marijuana. A solid experience base of deputies allows for development of informants about crimes committed in our community and firsthand knowledge of community quality of life issues. Shasta County will face a major loss of experience in the next several years as the twenty-year experience level deputies retire. This drain of experience must be prepared for now.

We would proffer, and deputies routinely confirm, that the department is understaffed at the patrol level. Historically many administrators have used the model of a certain number of officers per thousand citizens, between 1.8 to 2.8, with the mean amount being around 2.6 per 1000 citizens. Lately more progressive departments are using other models that more accurately reflect *how well* a department does at solving crime issues as well as community-oriented policing practices. As an example, Shasta County Sheriff generally fields five deputies and one supervisor for north and south county substations. Currently the resident deputy positions are unfilled, even with incentive pay being offered. The geographical area is huge and results in deputies simply going from call to call and not allowing sufficient time to do actual police work and solve community issues, i.e.- addressing the whereabouts and impacts of illegal marijuana grows. Departments across the U.S. face budgetary constraints of one person radio-cars. In Shasta County a two-man non-training car is a rarity. Two-man radio-cars at peak times for calls for service are demonstrably more effective and safer. Personnel constraints and the additional missions necessary for our department, major crimes, boating safety, mountain rescue and off-road teams, Office of the Coroner, contract city service, collateral missions such as SWAT, school resource deputies, SCINTF, etc. all vie for personnel. We believe one must look at the intersection of these positions

¹⁰ Direct conversations with Shasta County Deputy Sheriffs Association representatives.

in relation to illegal marijuana growing here and how it may negatively impact upon each position as a drain upon department resources.

Illegal marijuana affects Major Crimes increasing their workload for murders, robberies, thefts, and assorted other serious crimes.

Illegal marijuana increases the workload of school resource deputies in that students are under the influence, carrying and possessing illegal marijuana, or are discipline issues within the school structure requiring deputy intervention.

Illegal marijuana increases the workload of boating safety deputies for potential B.U.I.- boating under the influence

Illegal marijuana increases the work of the Swat team in the fact many cartel members or marijuana growers are armed and use counter intervention or counter surveillance techniques that require a higher level trained and equipped deputy to safely defeat and handle.

Illegal marijuana growing burdens our patrol operations with neighbor disputes, child abuse, environmental complaints, and a host of other crimes. Without having a depth of experience and sufficient patrol personnel, marijuana will never be properly addressed. This is because elements of any eradication team will always come from the patrol contingent with personnel cross trained in both operations.

District Attorney

Our district attorney has demonstrated that she is not willing to allocate the resources necessary to deal with illegal marijuana. Shasta County resolves most criminal filings through plea bargain and referral out to assorted diversion programs. This avenue is available for many criminal proceedings that would be associated with illegal marijuana growing. While Shasta County has taken the stance of not assisting the federal government on deportations the reader must realize that one major issue is the cartels operating freely here. While the complaint is made that marijuana growing is a misdemeanor it should not be dismissed as a reason to not deal with growers who refuse to comply with the ordinance. *Shasta County will never get to the level of felony prosecutions if misdemeanor cases are not filed, and guilty plea bargains are sought resulting in a strike against that defendant. Illegal marijuana growers are rarely first-time growers in Shasta County.* There are other associated crimes that do appear with growers, child abuse, felons in possession of firearms, tamper with utilities that are solid felonies that should be prosecuted. A year of successful aggressive prosecutions and plea bargains, designation of illegal alien growers as undesirables, would have an appropriate cooling of the illegal growing issue. In counties where this is tried, the illegal grows have either shut down or been displaced over time. When a major illegal Hmong marijuana player was arrested in Trinity County on federal charges several years ago, he simply moved his operation to Siskiyou County. Siskiyou County has begun an aggressive eradication campaign. Where does the reader think this narco-terrorist will move

next? Our sources revealed many Hmong criminal growers are moving to Shasta County from Siskiyou because of familial ties and to continue their criminal illegal marijuana enterprise here.¹¹

Shasta County Resource Management -Environmental Health

Many illegal marijuana grows are grown on vacant parcels that have no house building permit attached to the parcel. There are historical wells on some parcels that may be permitted and used in violation of Shasta County's Marijuana ordinance (example -Merry Mountain). There are illegal wells on a number of parcels that are unpermitted (example-Seamans Gulch), there are unsealed wells on previously ordered closed wells due to illegal marijuana growing on parcels (again Seaman's Gulch). Ground water sources are routinely dried up (example Big Bend) by illegal marijuana growing operations. There are illegal septic systems or as is often, no septic systems on land parcels being frequented by illegal marijuana growers. ***Since water use under the ordinance must come from a legal source EVERY marijuana outdoor grow in Shasta County is illegal.*** Marijuana growing is a toxic pursuit. The plant is nonnative and an invasive weed. It is water and energy intensive and is genetically modified through the use of hormone and gene-splicing techniques. It is heavily sprayed with herbicides and insecticides.

Of note and not currently tested for in Shasta County is marijuana, which is full of terpenes and 400 or more identified substances. Some of these substances are heavy tars and create air pollution, hence the skunk smell. Shasta County's AQMD PPM monitors are not even set up for this by environmental health and the real effects of these chemicals emitted by the marijuana (and hemp) plant are unknown.

Environmental health is the one agency in Shasta County that has a real opportunity to reduce the illegal grows here. Environmental laws have teeth and are generally accepted by the public.

Another reason given for not addressing the grows by the County is the clean-up costs (if done correctly), toxic waste and marijuana itself are both hazardous material and are very expensive to clean-up. One estimate puts hazmat cleanup at fifty thousand dollars on average per grow.

Shasta County Resource Management- Code Enforcement

Code enforcement has been given an untenable job of dealing with illegal marijuana. The violence and potential violence associated with illegal growing in Shasta County cannot be dealt with by one unarmed civilian code enforcement officer. The associated duties of sending compliance letters out to code enforcement complaint violators is something a code enforcement officer can be highly effective at. Voluntary compliance with the ordinance is many times the preferred method. This would mean hundreds of letters being sent out to property owners of record and we do not see that as realistically occurring currently. The need for more staff to assist the officer in property ownership research and drafting of letters would allow the

¹¹ Direct conversation with Siskiyou County Code Enforcement and Siskiyou County Sheriff.

officer to deal with the most serious violators, provided he or she has appropriate support from the Sheriff. Further, a code enforcement officer should have the ability to self-initiate complaints on a large-scale basis based upon official record searches and initial GIS searches revealing grows that can be easily viewed from the air. Currently with the case backlog we believe this is not occurring. The legal issues of self-initiated marijuana grow complaints by Code Enforcement is something that can be overcome with sound application and understanding of search and seizure law.

We are aware of at least two stories by citizens of Code Enforcement targeting the marijuana complainant. While no citizen is above the law and immune from being compliant, a citizen should never be made to feel like they are being targeted because they complain about an illegal activity. Serve a victim first and then if there is a serious violation, address it after the complaint has been handled. There is so much marijuana works available a code enforcement officer should serve the citizens by addressing the complaint rather than giving citizens a hard time because they complain. We must weigh the big picture at what benefits the county to the greatest extent as a whole.

Shasta County Health Department

The Shasta County Health Department has been missing in action in regard to high potency pot education and messaging in any meaningful manner. We do not see county drug educators in our schools. We do not see P.S.A's showing the dangers and damaging effects of high potency pot in our communities (with the exception of a link on the Health Department's own website). We do not see billboards pushing back on the marijuana industries claims of health benefits of high potency marijuana.

High potency marijuana abuse will lead to higher suicide rates among our youth. It is a greater problem for them than COVID-19. High potency marijuana abuse is absolutely a health crisis in our community. High rates of drug toxicology screen positives for marijuana in our emergency rooms, addiction, psychological issues, withdrawal, cannabinoid hyperemesis, MAS -Marijuana Amotivational Syndrome, fetal distress by maternal intoxication all have serious health implications for our county residents. Marijuana abuse trickles down into the workforce and has implications for negatively impacting upon our social welfare program. We do not see Shasta County Health Department officials providing direction to the Board of Supervisors about all the dangers surrounding high potency marijuana emanating from the illegal grows here.

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

The Chief Administrator Officer for Shasta County can make the greatest impact in addressing illegal marijuana in our community. This position and the direction the office takes with illegal marijuana growing dictates how all department heads will respond. The effort must be substantial and sustained to deal with the cartels and the damage to our county and its citizens.

The Office of County Counsel

Civil remedies for illegal marijuana growing are the purview of this office. This office has been negligent in its duties to protect the citizens of Shasta County. Refusing to use the marijuana ordinance to its fullest extent coupled with County Counsel's fear of civil litigation against the county by criminal illegal pot growers has left the citizenry wondering, who is protecting our rights? A change of culture needs to occur in this office. Shasta County can never protect against all litigation, and we must not be in fear of what criminals may do, we must act within the laws voted for by the citizens and what is legally codified. Without this we have no functioning government but simply a collection of special interests. The opinion and misdirection of this office has negatively affected the stance of many other county agencies in regard to addressing illegal marijuana.

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors

Simply put, the Board lost focus on the marijuana issue early on after the marijuana ordinance passage in 2014. Board members complained that they cannot enforce the law, and this is a true statement. The Board does have the power of the purse and can influence county departments to operate their agencies in manners that meet the needs of the public's requests. We believe that the Board gives too much weight and authority to County staff who, as unelected bureaucrats, exert unprecedented control over the citizens. The Board is respectfully reminded staff works for them. The Board must now face a water crisis with citizens being fined and having reduced water supplies all the while marijuana goes unaddressed. The Board has been made aware on several occasions of the illegal water use and illegal marijuana's permanent damage to our ecosystem. Their response this grow season has been slow to adapt at best and tone deaf at worst. The citizens face a divided Board in the midst of a recall campaign that will hurt our political system for years to come. We will either see a huge change in leadership or we will see business as usual. Neither the Board nor the Recall Shasta proponents have moral superiority over one another. The result-County business grinds to a halt.

Suggestions and Solutions

The Sheriff's Office

- 1) Enhance the department by 10 percent more deputies. Detail those deputies specifically to patrol positions. (Supported by the DSA)
- 2) Purchase homes as county facilities in resident deputy post areas. Offer these homes rent free to deputies with a minimum of a 36-month commitment. (this works for filling positions and is used by other departments and agencies from local to federal). Consider County asset real estate swaps to pay for this. (Supported by the DSA)
- 3) Rebuild a ten-man seasonal M.I.T.-marijuana investigations team. Pay for this using funding sources from all grant sources. Utilize appropriate asset forfeiture. Utilize county funding. (Supported by the DSA)
- 4) Detail four full-time marijuana eradication deputy positions for the next three years, two deputies assigned to criminal and two deputies assigned to civil. All four of the cadre develop intelligence, informants, and operational plans. At the end of three years reassess the need for the positions and adjust as needed. (Supported in concept by the DSA)
- 5) Send select M.I.T.-marijuana investigations team deputies to OSHA certified equipment training to safely operate a skid steer for grow eradication purposes. (Requested by the DSA)
- 6) Allocate a dedicated skid steer for Sheriff's eradication operations. Seek community support for equipment allocation. (Requested by the DSA and bolstered by Fish and Wildlife)
- 7) Set a target goal of 50 eradication operations, year one of the worst identified violators and adjust as needed for years two and three. At year three assess success and failures and adjust up or down from there. (Supported by the DSA)
- 8) Hire experienced lateral peace officers. Officers are leaving large departments in greater numbers because of social discord and lack of support for law enforcement. This is an opportunity to gain highly trained personnel. (Supported in concept by the DSA)
- 9) Build a POST certified outdoor marijuana eradication training class. Currently there are no *outdoor* marijuana operations classes listed by P.O.S.T.-Peace Officers Standards and Training, utilize existing Shasta County Sheriff P.O.S.T. certified training instructor cadre to teach the class. Consider a 16- or 24-hour class that includes actual eradication operation(s) as a part of the final training day. Charge the going rate POST allows. Similar proposals were used in the days of C.A.M.P.- Our county gets the personnel; the other agencies get the training. We develop healthy working relationships with other departments for sustainability towards further operations. (Supported by the DSA)
- 10) Aggressively expand the reserve deputy sheriff program. Engage in active recruitment. Work towards building level one certified reserves. Consider utilizing them to assist Code Enforcement in developing cases and researching complaints. Consider utilization for surveillance operations. Consider utilization for cutting operations. (Supported by the DSA)

- 11) Expand recurrent in-service training to monthly, use of force, legal update, shooting qualification to occur every ninety days. Reduce county liability, increase employee motivation to want to work a M..I.T.-marijuana investigations team as a badge of prestige within the department. (Requested by the DSA)
- 12) Consider the establishment of civilian advisory board (C.A.B.) to the Sheriff. The C.A.B. would report both to the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors/C.A.O. identifying issues of public import and acting as intermediary for public requests to the county. It is apparent that the last two sheriffs' administrations have failed to listen to the community on serious public concerns. This is a problem with Sheriffs who are appointed versus being elected. (No position by the DSA as to the C.A.B.)
- 13) Task the Sheriff to act as the clearinghouse for all information about illegal marijuana growing. Track all complaints in concert with code enforcement, construct and deliver a public bi-annual report to the Board of Supervisors on successes or failures with marijuana eradication.

District Attorney

- 1) Request the District Attorney assign an ADA as a specialist in marijuana crimes including appropriate prosecution and diversion programs.
- 2) Have the District Attorney assist in asset forfeiture and fines as a part of criminal prosecutions.
- 3) Have the District Attorney either train Sheriff's personnel or issue preferred requirements for search warrants to meet her legal standard for prosecutions. Do not state getting search warrants are problematic, fix it.
- 4) Use D.A. investigators to put together R.I.C.O. cases or Drug trafficking organization cases.

Shasta County Department of Resource Management-Environmental Health

- 1) Assist code enforcement with identification of illegal grow issues, documenting the issues, and providing expert testimony on prosecutions.
- 2) Obtain proper PPE, testing devices, and be a clearinghouse for training for county personnel to effectively handle illegal marijuana as hazmat and associated aspects of marijuana growing as a toxic waste producer
- 3) Provide input for County Counsel and the Office of the District Attorney as to the proper method for dealing with illegal marijuana regarding hazmat situations and the labor involved so that juries and judges understand the difficult and dangerous task of eliminating illegal grows.
- 4) Aggressively go after federal monies associated with toxic cleanups in local communities and suggest allocation of these monies to a M.I.T./Hazmat team
- 5) Establish and maintain a database of all eradication operations, confirmed grow complaints, and legacy marijuana growing operations, and tracking of hazmat at these operations.
- 6) Establish mitigation operations for long term cleanup of illegal marijuana sites with a budget assigned for each operation. Recommend clean-up costs to be assigned as civil fines or as a part of plea bargains involving growers referred to the D.A. or County Counsel.

- 7) Act as point of contact for the State of California Water Board, Cal EPA, and EPA.

Shasta County Department of Resource Management-Code Enforcement

- 1) Expand code enforcement to three officers for the next three years. Reassess, as necessary.
- 2) Encourage self-initiation of marijuana complaints without the public required to sign complaints. Many grows in Shasta County are viewable by the naked eye or in other legal forms.
- 3) Consider code enforcement officers, on a volunteer basis, having 830 P.C. training to be armed.

Shasta County Health Department

- 1) Engage in a substantial educational campaign educating the public as to the dangers of high potency pot, including billboards, freeway signs, PSAs developed for media and in school programs.
- 2) Aggressively fund, through the grant process, local nonprofit NGOs in the drug education, addiction, and counseling sectors.
- 3) Establish solid public policy and direction for other county agencies as to dealing with high potency pot. Educate the public as to the immediate health issues using high potency THC and the mental health crisis that occurs.
- 4) Quarterly public appearances at the Board of Supervisors detailing Public Health's actions to reduce high potency pot use in Shasta County.

Shasta County Chief Administrative Officer

- 1) Develop a three-year plan to deal with illegal marijuana in Shasta County, renewable longer term if necessary.
- 2) Allocate a budget to reflect the needs of all agencies to deal with illegal marijuana
- 3) Request from all departments involved identify funding sources within their own budgets and to identify sources outside the county to pay for dealing with illegal marijuana and its deleterious effects upon the citizens.
- 4) Be the driving force for the Board of Supervisors to act on illegal marijuana in Shasta County

Shasta County Office of the County Counsel

- 1) Change the focus of the department from one that refuses to deal with marijuana to one that is the supporting force for all county departments to deal with illegal marijuana as a county priority.
- 2) Aggressively go after fines and other civil remedies, including liens, upon real property for illegal marijuana growers.
- 3) Obtain input from other counties successfully eradicating illegal marijuana. Provide public reports on same.
- 4) Engage the county's carrier in conversations on how to balance liability with the mission at hand, eradicating illegal marijuana grows.

- 5) Stop directing Sheriff staff and Code Enforcement staff to “stand-down” in relation to aggressive illegal marijuana growing enforcement due to fear of lawsuits by offenders.

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors

- 1) Enact an emergency water ordinance immediately. It was voted on for consideration. Bring the plan forward to the public.
- 2) Develop an untied voice to the public on dealing with illegal marijuana eradication.
- 3) Make common sense suggestions to staff and request they be implemented.
- 4) Allocate/approve monies for a three-year initial campaign for any department involved to eradicate and educate about illegal marijuana.
- 5) Suspend the hemp growing permit process. Hemp is marijuana. At this time, Hemp growing cannot be regulated or controlled. Allowing Hemp growing is a “end run” attempt to exploit the current marijuana ordinance.
- 6) Work together. The fracture of the Board has affected its job and the ability to efficiently do the peoples’ business. The Board’s fracture has affected every citizen and has resulted in a lack of respect for differing opinions. Fix it and lead.

Quotes from citizens about illegal marijuana growing in Shasta County

“The CDFW told me we (Shasta County) are one of the worst counties for illegal marijuana grows in northern California”- Mary Rickert-Supervisor, speaking at a Shasta County Board of Supervisors meeting

“Ruben Cruz, County Counsel, is the real reason illegal marijuana has not been addressed in Shasta County”-Assistant District Attorney- name withheld by request

“We held them at gunpoint but two ran off. They grew thousands of pounds of pot on our property and ruined it. We have cleanup costs of thirty thousand dollars. The Sheriff took everything of value but left us the pot and mess to cleanup”
Beth Messick-cartel marijuana crime victim /DUNNMOODY incident

“There are many of us that want to do something about marijuana, but the Sheriff wouldn't let us. We have failed the community. Don't they realize it's not just the pot its all the crime we have to deal with because of it that matters too”- Shasta County Sheriff's Deputy- name withheld by request.

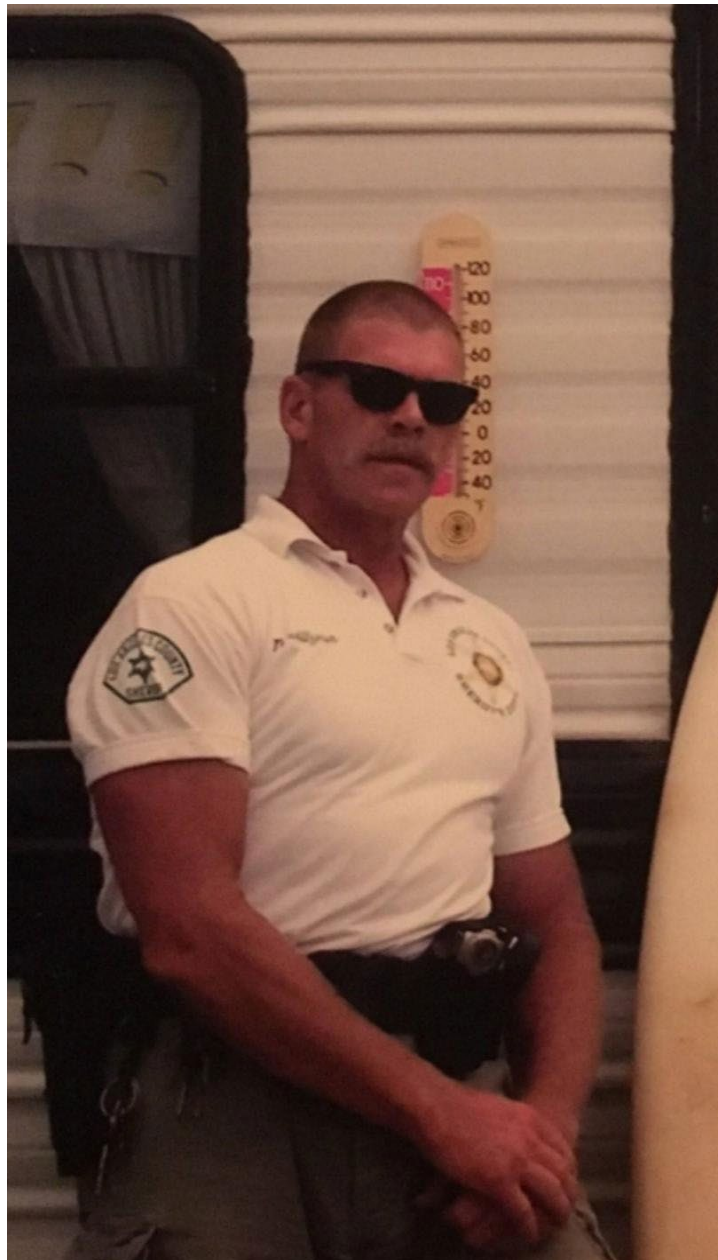
“They (Documented Hmong federal crime syndicate) showed up in three vans and immediately converted the warehouse/shop into a grow room. They shorted out the PGE pole overheating it creating a several acre brush fire and then ran off. It would have been the next Jones fire if not for the efforts of CALFIRE. Now they are back. It's starting all over” Sandy Goze- informant, Hilford Drive incident

“The armed Hmong cartel growers blocked the public road and stopped anyone from traveling down it, telling them not to come back. They have killed all the wildlife. I fought in Vietnam for freedom, and I just want to die here in peace” Charlie Palatino - Fenders Ferry incident

“The Sheriff's Department has been there (to the grow) numerous times without making an arrest. They (the growers) have been excavating for three days moving many yards of dirt, they have diverted the waterway including on the neighbor's property without permission. We are all living on edge”-Linda Tucker-Valhalla Drive marijuana crime victim

“The Sheriff, the Board, the Distinct Attorney, and Code Enforcement have all failed to do their job and I am stuck in the midst of the cartels. How can I raise a healthy 15-year-old with all of this going on? I have complained for years, and I have faced the wrath of the county unfairly”- Kelly Rose-Seamans Gulch marijuana crime victim

Deputy Jeff Trevillyan-30 years-L.A. County Sheriff
My trainee, friend, and brother Deputy Sheriff
You are not forgotten.



After a distinguished career with Los Angeles County Sheriff, Deputy Trevillyan retired with many job-related injuries. As a part of his medical treatment, he was given strong pain medications. Trying to get off them by himself he listened to the “potrepreneurs” and tried honey oil as a pain substitute for prescription narcotics. After a year addicted to honey oil and the psychosis it created, he decided to lie upon his bed and commit suicide by cutting his own throat. He was discovered by fellow deputies the next day after his family became concerned for his welfare. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, an avid skydiver, a talented carpenter, and well-loved in the communities he worked. Young deputies called him “Dad”

If high potency pot can kill him, it can kill anyone.

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