



# NEWS RELEASE

San Bernardino County  
Supervisor Dawn Rowe

**CONTACT:**

Matt Knox  
Chief of Staff  
(909) 387-4855

[Supervisor.Rowe@bos.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Supervisor.Rowe@bos.sbcounty.gov)

September 2, 2020

## Supervisor Rowe Focuses Efforts on Curbing Illegal Cannabis Cultivation



SAN BERNARDINO-After fielding numerous complaints regarding illegal cannabis cultivation in her district, San Bernardino County 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Dawn Rowe convened a community meeting in Lucerne Valley on September 2, 2020 with the assistance of the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association.

Representatives from the California Highway Patrol, San Bernardino County Code Enforcement, and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, including Sheriff John McMahon, were on hand to solicit input from attendees and offer potential solutions.

"We've seen a sharp increase in illegal marijuana grows since California voters passed Proposition 64," said Rowe. "The measure reduced criminal penalties for illegal cultivation to, effectively, a slap on the wrist. The financial incentives for growing cannabis illegally far outweigh any penalties they may face in our criminal justice system."

While several counties in California have legalized cannabis cultivation, San Bernardino County isn't among them. However, due to a change in federal law, hemp may be grown legally but is subject to a registration process and is heavily regulated by county and state officials.

"Some people will tell you that marijuana cultivation is a victimless crime, but they haven't seen what it can do to a community like Lucerne Valley," added Rowe. "The criminal element that is behind these large-scale operations is a major cause for concern. When you hear stories from your constituents where they describe being threatened with guns, you know it's time to act."

To date, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and Code Enforcement have conducted over 140 raids of suspected illegal cannabis grows.

####