



NEWS RELEASE

San Bernardino County
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Supervisor Rowe Votes to Expedite Abatement of Illegal Cannabis Sites

SAN BERNARDINO – Today the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an ordinance allowing Code Enforcement to immediately issue citations related to illegal cannabis grows and make it easier to abate or clean up those sites.

Over the past several months the County has taken an aggressive approach in fighting against illegal cannabis grows with Operation Hammer Strike. Illegal grows negatively impact the wellbeing and safety of area residents and have devastating impacts on the environment. When the sites are abandoned or shut down, they leave behind a blight on the community.

The vote taken by the Board earlier today will do several things to help mitigate the impacts of illegal cannabis sites in unincorporated San Bernardino County. The new ordinance creates streamlined and expedited procedures for abatement and passes the cost of clean-up on to the property owners, not the taxpayers. It will also authorize issuance of immediate administrative citations where there are proven violations related to the illegal cultivation of cannabis. Moreover, it allows for the items used in the cultivation of illegal cannabis to be declared a public nuisance and therefore subject to abatement and discarding. Items include things such as trailers, hoop houses, electrical equipment, fencing, greenhouses, sheds, and irrigation systems.

Supervisor Rowe, who serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors, said, “Today’s vote is a big step forward in our fight against illegal cannabis and the dangers associated with it. While we continue to make significant progress in shutting down these sites, we need to do more to ensure that we clean up the mess that these criminals leave behind. All of our residents deserve to live in a safe and clean environment.”

Sheriff Shannon D. Dicus said, “The abatement ordinance passed today puts much-needed teeth into San Bernardino County’s efforts to eradicate illegal marijuana cultivation. This will go a long way to addressing quality of life concerns caused by Proposition 64 and the reclassifying illegal cultivation of marijuana from a felony to a misdemeanor. I appreciate the Board of Supervisors strong commitment to providing the necessary resources to tackle this monumental criminal, environmental, and blight ridden issue for the residents of our county.”

San Bernardino County Code Enforcement Chief Ignacio Nunez said, “The Code Enforcement team has had great success working with our law enforcement partners eradicating illegal cannabis grows in our desert communities. The action taken by the Board of Supervisors today will lead to greater success by making it easier for us to hold violators accountable and take away their tools.”

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