

Nevada County Supervisors,

July 26, 2021

I would like to support you in agreeing to use drones to see if reported parties to Code Enforcement are illegal Cannabis growers. As you may already know, I am the president of the Golden Oaks Homeowner's Association. We are 120 properties (both Golden Oaks proper and easement properties). All are private roads. Our neighborhood has both illegal cannabis growers as well as 4 grows that are "legal". Even though we are an established residential neighborhood, we were chosen as an area where legal growers could establish their gardens due to our zoning. When these zones were established by the county, I think we can all agree that the possibility of people growing marijuana in here was never on any radar. It is becoming obvious that by allowing growers to use our neighborhood to grow (large amounts of cannabis – most lots are either 10 or 20 acres) the life style that we all enjoy and chose as a main reason to locate here has been compromised. To this end, I ask two things from you:

1. Code enforcement needs to be able to get access to properties that have been identified as possible illegal grows. I believe that the use of drones can help with this. I have been told that as things stand now, code enforcement cannot access a property that has a locked gate. This does not work. Not only will drones help pinpoint the properties, you need to give enforcement abilities to the people who respond to the complaints. As it stands right now, your own people have their hands tied.
2. Please revisit the code for cannabis grows – ideally, do not allow any type of grow (legal or illegal) to exist in developed neighborhoods. Perhaps you can place a temporary stop to licensing legal grows. I think we can agree that not enough support was put in place to deal with the issues that are becoming obvious from these grows.
 - a. Over use of private roads
 - b. Water problems from either stealing, over pumping of wells that are impacting neighbors, and even the constant use of the roads by the water trucks, soil deliveries, gravel deliveries, large amounts of bagged fertilizer. I have witnessed all of this since I live below 2 of the legal grows.

- c. Many unfamiliar vehicles and people coming in to work for the growers.

We do worry about the fire danger and potential illegal activities that people who do not have any attachments to our neighborhood can bring.

By taking a step back, it may give the county a chance to update and make more clear rules and regulations for growing. It is common knowledge now that the vast majority of cannabis grows throughout the county are illegal ones. Until the regulations are updated and given the “teeth” to control the consequences, I ask that you all step back and work to protect the citizens of our county.

I am available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for giving this issue attention.

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