

AGENDA WORKSHEET

Submit completed worksheet to:
Siskiyou County Clerk, 510 N Main St, Yreka, CA

Regular _____ Time Requested: _____ Meeting Date: _____

OR

Consent

Contact Person/Department: Board of Supervisors Phone: 530-842-8084

Address: 510 North Main Street, Yreka CA 96097

Person Appearing/Title: _____

Subject/Summary of Issue:

Review status of local emergency related to proliferation of illegal cannabis cultivation as declared by Resolution 17-117; action to extend or terminate local emergency.

Financial Impact:

NO Describe why no financial impact:

YES Describe impact by indicating amount budgeted and funding source below

Amount: _____

Fund: _____ Description: _____ Org.: _____ Description: _____

Account: _____ Description: _____

Activity Code: _____ Description: _____

Local Preference: YES NO

For Contracts – Explain how vendor was selected:

Additional Information:

Recommended Motion:

Action as the Board of Supervisors deems appropriate.

Reviewed as recommended by policy:
County Counsel _____
Auditor _____
Personnel _____
CAO _____

Special Requests:
Certified Minute Order(s) _____ Quantity: _____
Other: _____

NOTE: For consideration for placement on the agenda, the original agenda worksheet and backup material must be submitted directly to the Board Clerk (after reviewing signatures have been obtained) by 12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the Board Meeting.

**COUNTY OF SISKIYOU
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY:
PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION**

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 589 of the County of Siskiyou empowers the Director of Emergency Services to request that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors proclaim the existence, or threatened existence, of a Local Emergency when said County is affected, or likely to be affected, by the existence of conditions of a disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot or earthquake, or other conditions that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the County; and

WHEREAS, The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) and its partner agencies have experienced the unprecedented proliferation of illicit cannabis cultivation sites throughout the county, both on public and private lands, which, on private property number at least 2,000, overwhelming SCSO and partner agency resources; and

WHEREAS, During 2017 a combined SCSO and Siskiyou County District Attorney team (Siskiyou Interagency Marijuana Investigation Team – SIMIT) has served 61 search warrants on private property illicit marijuana cultivation sites, seizing 13,284 cannabis plants, 1,752 pounds of processed product, 20 firearms, and three (3) THC extraction ("Honey Oil") labs at numerous county locations; and

WHEREAS, During 2016, SIMIT served 113 search warrants, seizing 11,470 cannabis plants (worth \$240.8 million retail), 17,410 pounds of processed marijuana (\$121,870,000 retail value), 9 pounds of concentrated cannabis, confiscated 27 firearms, initiated 24 arrests (78 cases filed) and detected unsafe conditions; and

WHEREAS, Counter-drug operations on private and public property have identified nearly universal non-compliance with the county's ban on outdoor cultivation of cannabis and have uncovered hundreds of pervasive fire hazards, insecticides, pesticides, rodenticides, fertilizers, trash, and unsanitary conditions which severely impact health, safety and quality of life for countless county residents and led to three carbon monoxide deaths; and

WHEREAS, Siskiyou County is already overwhelmed with methamphetamine, heroin, prescription drugs, cocaine, and other illicit drugs, and a rising suicide and drug overdose rate, multiplying the impact the illicit cannabis drug trade exacts against our adults and children and the illegal customers in other states; and

WHEREAS, 2,000+ illicit cannabis cultivation sites in private property areas have established encampments where hundreds of people are living in unpermitted and illegally constructed dwellings without permitted sewage disposal systems or potable water supplies. Additionally, solid waste is not properly removed from the site and is either illegally burned on-site, accumulated on-site causing a vector attraction, buried on-site or left to blow into neighboring properties, all constitute maintenance of a public nuisance in violation of existing codes; and

WHEREAS, During the winter of 2016, there were three tragic carbon monoxide deaths resulting from the operation of improperly vented cooking and/or heating appliances in encampments; and

SISKIYOU COUNTY
RESOLUTION

17-117

WHEREAS, The County Fire Warden has documented multiple fires starts that have been initiated in these encampments and at least two fires that have escaped and threatened life and property; and

WHEREAS, The emergency responders are not able locate 911 callers living in encampments to render emergency services further risking the life and safety of occupants; and

WHEREAS, Public land cannabis grow sites (mostly USFS), operated mostly by drug trafficking organizations in 2016 resulted in the seizure of 101,255 illicit plants, 2,850 pounds of processed product, and sadly led to detection of dangerous conditions and illicit chemicals like "Carbofuran," a severe threat to citizens and the environment; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 3,000,000 gallons of water is being expended daily by illicit cannabis producers, depleting precious groundwater and surface water resources and these losses jeopardize the lawful agricultural, recreational, private and environmental use of water for thousands of residents; and

WHEREAS, Site grading in excess of one acre, illegal timber conversion, illegal water diversions or unauthorized use of surface water without proper permits/authorization is occurring on a significant number of properties. The volume of properties and number of violations exceeds the capacity of local resources to effectively enforce provision to prevent further environmental damage and impacts to watercourses and fish populations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors declares a "Local State of Emergency" due to the catastrophic impact illicit cannabis cultivation sites have had on public health, safety, and quality of life issues in the county. SCSO, local and regional resources have been exhausted and the "State of Emergency" can only be mitigated with additional assistance from federal, state, and/or regional resources due to the organized crime, interstate characteristics, nature, magnitude, and multi-billion dollar funding mechanisms that supports cannabis crime networks in the county.

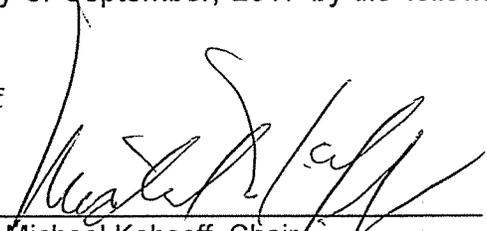
The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Siskiyou, State of California, held on the 5th day of September, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Criss, Haupt, Valenzuela, Nixon and Kobseff

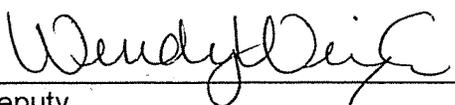
NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE


Michael Kobseff, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: Colleen Setzer, Clerk

By: 
Deputy