

**Sierra County
Board of Supervisors'
Agenda Transmittal &
Record of Proceedings**

MEETING DATE: November 1, 2016	TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Timed <input type="checkbox"/> Consent
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DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors
APPROVING PARTY: Lee Adams, District One
PHONE NUMBER: 289-3506 hangman@sierracounty.ws

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion/action regarding county costs incurred for drug enforcement activities on national forest lands and letter to Regional Forester.

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: Memo Resolution Agreement Other

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Draft letter.

FUNDING SOURCE: GENERAL FUND IMPACT: General Fund Impact OTHER FUND: AMOUNT: \$ One Time Expense	IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, -- -- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	SIGNATURE:  Lee Adams _____ APPROVING PARTY OR AUTHORIZED AGENT
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APPROVED AS TO FORM AND FUNDING SOURCES:

COUNTY COUNSEL

AUDITOR/RISK MANAGER

SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE

BOARD ACTION: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Action Taken	<input type="checkbox"/> Set public hearing For: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direction to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Continued to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Authorization given to: _____	Resolution 2016- _____ Agreement 2016- _____ Ordinance _____ Vote: Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent:
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COMMENTS:

CLERK TO THE BOARD

DATE

SIERRA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, California 95936
Telephone (530) 289-3295
Fax (530) 289-2830



1 November 2016

Randy Moore, Regional Forester
USDA; Forest Service
California Region

Subject: Marijuana cultivation trespass on national forest system lands

Dear Forester Moore,

We are in receipt of a letter from Ranger Quentin Youngblood of October 3 in response to our letter of concern of September 6 with respect to a number of arrests regarding marijuana cultivation on national forest systems lands, yet Sierra County incurred the costs of incarceration and prosecution for events that were clearly on national forest lands and violations of federal law. We remain perplexed why a county of just 3,000 is left to foot the bill for activities that fall within lands belonging to the people of the United States, and supported by a population of 300 million and a national government that has the ability to print currency as needed and carry debt.

With the lack of a federal support for such activities, it makes us wonder why the US government supports a federal law enforcement program within the Forest Service, or why the US government also supports federal prosecutors, prisons, and courts.

Ranger Youngblood's letter of response makes some general comments, yet answers no questions or gives any specifics, and otherwise leaves us with the same frustrations that we had when first seeking answers. Toward that end, we would request you or your regional law enforcement director appear before us so that we can seek answers to the questions we have, determine how we may go about being reimbursed for costs incurred by Sierra County, and prevent future events like this from occurring.

While the Forest Service nationally spends some \$125 million on drug enforcement activities, that it sticks California's second least populated county with these kinds of costs is frustrating indeed. While enforcement of criminal laws can happen any time and any place, we are perplexed why events such as the above have not been previously considered. If the federal government is not prepared to fully undertake its responsibility to fully enforce its laws on federal lands, a reasonable alternative would have been to hold some appropriated funds in reserve for matters such as this within those frontier counties that can least afford the impacts.

While at the same time the federal government forces these costs onto the Sierra County taxpayer, the Forest Service has also systematically reduced payments to the county for cooperative law enforcement patrols, refuse to collect transient occupancy taxes previously collected at federal recreational sites, and it remains to be seen if we will see an any continuation to the federal secure rural schools program.

We have directed county staff to submit an invoice to the Tahoe National Forest for costs incurred on the above described events. If we do not get satisfactory answers to questions regarding this matter, we intend to review all activities between Sierra County and the Forest Service for evaluation and review.

Sincerely,

**SIERRA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

BY:

LEE ADAMS
Chairman

Cc: Eli Ilano, Tahoe NF Supervisor
Capt. Joe Cook, Supervising LEO, Tahoe NF
Tom Tidwell, Chief, US Forest Service
Secretary Vilsack, US Department of Agriculture
Hon. Diane Feinstein, US Senator, California
Hon. Barbara Boxer, US Senator, California
Hon. Doug La Malfa, Representative, 1st District of California
Hon. Brian Dahle, Assemblyman, 1st District
Hon. Ted Gaines, Senator, 1st District
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Rural County Representatives of California

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