



SIERRA CLUB

SANTA LUCIA

Sept. 19, 2016

SLO County Board of Supervisors
1055 Monterey St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re 9/20/16 meeting, Agenda Item # 21: Medical Marijuana Urgency Ordinance

Dear Supervisors,

We join with County Planning, the Sheriff's Department and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in supporting passage of the Medical Marijuana Urgency Ordinance, in view of the impact of unrestricted grows on the Carrizo Plain.

In addition to the issue of limited water availability in the region and the inevitable impact of rampant marijuana cultivation on the low safe yield of the basin, combined with the history of the unauthorized "expanded" use of the California Valley's community well, the investigation by CDFW that determined "marijuana cultivation in the Carrizo Plains is clearly displacing endangered species habitat, killing wildlife, and indirectly degrading the conservation value of mitigation lands conserved by the two solar projects" should be all your Board needs to know to take immediate action. The loss of California Valley Subdivision lands sold at auction and converted to marijuana cultivation, severing wildlife connectivity between mitigation lands and the National Monument -- parcels that could and should have been acquired over the last five years with mitigation funding -- is of particular concern.

There may be no worse place in California, which is to say no place more ecologically sensitive and endangered, in which to engage in this environmentally destructive activity.

Please act to ban marijuana cultivation in the Carrizo Plain.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter,

Andrew Christie
Director, Santa Lucia Chapter