

## **Supervisors vote to ban commercial activity related to recreational pot**

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy, Davis Enterprise

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WOODLAND — Yolo County supervisors voted Tuesday in favor of a ban on all commercial activity related to recreational marijuana with the two supervisors from Davis — Jim Provenza and Don Saylor — taking opposing positions on the interim ordinance.

Provenza joined Supervisors Oscar Villegas of West Sacramento and Duane Chamberlain of the rural 5th District in voting for the ordinance — which affects all unincorporated areas of the county — while Saylor voted against it.

Supervisor Matt Rexroad of Woodland was absent.

The measure prohibits all commercial activities involving non-medical marijuana, including cultivation, production, storage, processing, manufacture, dispensing, delivery, distribution, laboratory testing, labeling, transportation, provision and sale.

The action follows passage of Proposition 64 in November, which allows adults over the age of 21 the right to use recreational marijuana and to cultivate up to six marijuana plants indoors. The proposition also requires the state to create a regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial activities.

“All the commercial aspects of Proposition 64 don’t go into effect until January 2018 when the state will begin issuing licenses allowing operations of those commercial activities,” Assistant County Counsel Carrie Scarlata told supervisors Tuesday. “If a local agency does not have a restriction or prohibition on those commercial activities involving non-medical marijuana, an operator would be eligible to get a license from the state and we wouldn’t be able to control that.”

That control is key, Villegas said.

“I think it makes perfectly good sense ... for Yolo County to sort of inoculate itself from state infection, state policy,” he said. “We have to preserve local control.”

In voting for the measure, Provenza said the intent was “to essentially preserve the status quo” while the county continues to work on a permanent ordinance related to both recreational and medical marijuana commercial activities.

Currently, the county’s interim ordinance bans outdoor commercial cultivation of medical marijuana except by those growers who were grandfathered in before the ordinance took effect last fall.

Provenza noted that without a measure like the one passed Tuesday, the county essentially would be prohibiting medical marijuana activities but not recreational marijuana activities, “which is completely backwards.”

Saylor, however, questioned the need to ban activities that will not be legal in California until the state’s regulatory system goes into effect next year.

“I think that it’s unnecessary for us to have a prohibition at this point,” Saylor said. “The state rules will not come into effect until January 2018 so there’s plenty of time for us to do the deliberative actions that we need to do to have a responsible, sensible approach to this topic.”

Saylor added that in his district — District 2 — 70 percent of voters supported Proposition 64, “so I don’t think the message is that they just want us to ‘Just say No.’ I think there’s got to be a connection between voting yes for adult use and understanding that that would be followed by our local bodies making decisions to allow access to proceed.”

Provenza countered that the language in Proposition 64 was clear that local governments would determine what commercial activities would be allowed in each jurisdiction.

“In voting for Prop. 64, the voters also voted to give their local elected officials decision-making authority,” Provenza said.

He also outlined his own concerns related to marijuana, including the impact on agricultural land, an increase in drug-related emergency room admissions and DUIs — which he said have occurred in places like Colorado following legalization — as well as marketing to children.

“I’m also concerned about the surgeon general’s report about a decline in the IQ of young people who use that drug, particularly over prolonged periods, and how do we prevent that,” Provenza said. “Those are the concerns I would need to see addressed over the next several months.”

The county will continue work on a permanent ordinance related to both medical and recreational marijuana.

In the meantime, UC Davis student Eric Gudz, vice chair of Students for Sensible Drug Policy’s national board of directors, urged supervisors and the public to attend an upcoming meeting on cannabis policy in Davis.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Davis Senior Center, 646 A St.

The meeting, Gudz said, is open to all members of the community and will give everyone a chance to contribute to the local conversation on cannabis policy.