

# **Butte County Department of Development Services**

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## **County Code Enforcement Statistics Show Medical Marijuana Enforcement is Making a Big Impact**

The County's Code Enforcement Division has received 432 complaints about medical marijuana cultivation sites thought to be in violation of the County's cultivation ordinance since January 1, 2016, which is one third the number of complaints received at this time last year. The County began enforcing the provisions upheld by Measure H in July of this year. While enforcement activity under the previous provisions occurred prior to July, most enforcement activities began after the new provisions were effective.

The County's enforcement efforts resulted in 181 of the cases (29%) becoming complaint with the County's cultivation ordinance after some type of enforcement activity. The predominate way residents became compliant with the ordinance was by removing plants growing outside the box (allowable space). County Code Enforcement Officers found 19 (4%) of the complaints to be duplicates of a previously received complaint and 39 (9%) to be unfounded with no violation to the County's cultivation ordinance observed. This means 52% of complaints are not in violation of the County's ordinance, the percentage of complaints in compliance at this time last year was 44%.

The Code Enforcement Division reports 193 complaints, 48% of all complaints, remain open and the majority of complaints (145 cases) are in the preliminary stages of being investigated or an inspection by a Code Enforcement Officer is pending. Other open complaints (20 cases) have been checked out by a Code Enforcement Officer and the property owner has been issued a 72-hour notice to abate the nuisance or citations for violations to the ordinance. In 45 cases, an administrative hearing has been scheduled due to violations to the ordinance. The County has held 35 administrative hearings and been awarded a favorable decision in 32 of those cases including administrative costs and civil penalties. Code Enforcement and the Butte County Sheriff's Office SEU have executed two abatement warrants based on decisions from these administrative hearings and removed 492 plants growing in violation of the County's ordinance. It should be noted criminal arrests were made at both cultivation sites.

Return Jan or Feb with an update of the year in 2016.

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