BUTTE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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Butte County Receives a Petition for a Referendum on the Marijuana Dispensary Ordinance

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 22, 2011 – 3:00 p.m.
Contact: Sang Kim (530) 538-3875

Oroville, CA – Butte County officials announced that they have received a referendum petition to put the recently adopted marijuana dispensary ordinance to the voters of Butte County. The required number of valid signatures for the petition to qualify was 7,605. The County received 12,025.

Due to submission of the referendum petition, the dispensary ordinance will not go into effect on November 26, 2011 as scheduled and will remain suspended pending the following actions:

- Within 30 days from the date of filing the petition (excluding weekends and holidays) the Clerk-Recorder will examine the petition to ascertain if the petition is signed by the requisite number of registered voters.
- If the petition is found to be insufficient, the marijuana dispensary ordinance will go into effect immediately.
- If the petition is found to be sufficient, the Clerk-Recorder will certify the signatures to the Board of Supervisors at its next regular meeting.
- Upon certification of the petition, the Board of Supervisors can either repeal the ordinance or submit the ordinance to the voters either at a special election called for that purpose or the next regularly scheduled County election occurring not less than 88 days after the date of the Board action.

It should be noted that the existing Butte County zoning ordinance does not allow marijuana dispensaries as a permitted use. The marijuana dispensary ordinance simply formalized this prohibition. Even though the marijuana dispensary ordinance is suspended, the County will continue to enforce its zoning ordinance, prohibiting marijuana dispensaries.

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