

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
June 7, 2016

"For all items NOT on the agenda"

(Each Speaker Limited to 3 Minutes)

Voluntary Sign-In Sheet
(Public Appearances – 1:30 pm)

1. ~~Charles L. Ciancio~~
2. JAMES ROBERTS
3. Larry Hayward
4. Oliver Greenspan
- 5.
6. Charles L. Ciancio
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
DRAFT BUDGET F/Y 2016-2017

JUNE 1, 2016

Resource Cards	\$2500.00	30,000 tri-fold compilation of County services distributed to other agencies (English and Spanish versions)
Office Supplies	212.95	Copy paper, name placards, printer ink, etc.
Website	Funded	
Phones	Funded	
Postage	47.00	One roll, first class stamps
Bank Fees	24.00	Annual fee for carrying low balance
Security	140.00	Security for extended meetings (4 X \$35.00)
Tabling Events	200.00	Hall rentals, etc.
Printing	475.00	Brochures, posters, banners
Outreach	900.00	Publication of events, efforts to access community, transportation to other areas of county (Example: 4 Commissioners 4 times a year to Garberville for community forums)
 Grand Total	 \$4498.95	

Food / Clothing / Shelter

Food

Food for People, 307 W 14th, Eureka	445-3166
St. Vincent de Paul, 35 W 3rd, Eureka	445-9588
<i>Breakfast 8am; Lunch 11am-1pm daily</i>	
Betty Chin at DHHS parking lot, 929 Koster St, Eka	496-8520
<i>Breakfast 8am; Dinner at 4pm daily</i>	

Rescue Mission, <i>dinner</i> , 110 2nd, Eureka	445-3787
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Clothing

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store	443-8676
Salvation Army, 2123 Tydd St., Eureka	442-6475

Shelter

Arcata House Partnership, Arcata

Singles Shelter	2:30 daily 633-6236
Family Shelter	822-4528
Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center, Eureka	407-3833
Redwood Community Action Agency, Eureka	
Adult Shelter	269-9590, ext. 0
Family Shelter	269-9590
Youth Shelter	443-8322
Rescue Mission, Eureka	445-3787
Women's & Children's Shelter	443-5016
Serenity Inn, Eureka	442-4815
North Coast Veterans Resource Ctr, Eureka	442-4322
Wish Crisis Shelter, office /message, Garberville	923-4100
Wish Crisis Shelter, 24h automated, Garberville	223-0043

Medical & Health Clinics

Mobile Health Services	443-4666
Planned Parenthood, Eureka	442-5700
Eureka Community Health Center, Eureka	441-1624
Humboldt Open Door, Arcata	826-8610
Humboldt County Care Line	1-800-698-0843
Velva Angell Health Clinic	269-7500
Open Door Mobile Clinic	443-4666

Health Clinics

United Indian Health Services, Arcata	825-5000
North Country Clinic, Arcata	822-2481
McKinleyville Community Health Center	839-0368
Ferndale Community Health Center	786-4028
Fortuna Community Health Center	725-6101
Willow Creek Health Center	1-530-629-3111
Redwoods Rural Health Center	923-2783

Other

Burre Dental Center, Eureka	442-7078
Public Health, Eureka	1-800-698-0843
North Coast Substance Abuse Council/Crossroads	445-0869
DETOX	445-3869

Public Transit

Humboldt Transit Authority at www.hta.org (county buses),

133 'V' St, Eureka	707-443-0826
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Humboldt County Resources Card

General Info & Agency / Business Referral

2-1-1-Humboldt: available 24/7

Ph: 211 within area code 707 or 707-441-1001

<http://www.theswitchboard.org>

For an Emergency: Dial 9-1-1

Phone numbers below are area code 707 unless noted.

This publication provided by:

The Humboldt County Human Rights Commission

Phone: 268-2548

www.humboldt.gov.org/1308/Human-Right-Commission

Help for Youth

Youth Services Bureau (YSB) (24h)..... 444-CARE (2273)
Raven Project—youth under 21 444-7099
Trevor Youth Suicide 1-866-488-7386
TAY..... 476-4922

24 Hour Crisis Hotlines

California Youth Crisis 1-800-843-5200
Child Welfare Services..... 445-6180
Mental Health Services 268-2900
 Crisis Line..... 445-7715
Domestic Violence 443-6042 or 1-866-668-6543
North Coast Rape Crisis 445-2881
Alcoholics Anonymous 1-844-442-0711
Narcotics Anonymous 444-8645
GLBTQ National Help Center 1-888-843-4564
Veterans Crisis Line / Suicide Prevention 1-800-273-8255

Other

Patient Rights Advocacy, Humboldt Cty Mental Health 268-2995

Legal Assistance

Legal Services of Northern California..... 445-0866
ACLU Nor. CA Pro Bono Assistance..... 1-415-621-2488

Family / Community Resource Centers

Arcata	822-4858	Eureka	442-5239
Loleta	733-5239	South Bay	445-5933
Blue Lake	668-4281	Fortuna	725-9082
McKinleyville	840-0905	Fortuna	725-1166
Manila	444-9771	Carlotta	768-3860
Redway	923-1147	Bridgeville	777-1775
Willow Creek	1-530-629-3141	Rio Dell	764-5239

Public Assistance

DHHS/Social Services, 929 Koster Street, Eureka

English and Spanish..... 1-877-410-8809

Online apply/track benefits..... www.c4yourself.com

Veterans Services, Eureka..... 445-7341 or 445-7611

HOW TO CONTACT US

⇒ **Leave a message:**

707-268-2548

⇒ **Mail correspondence:**

Human Rights Commission
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

⇒ **Email:**

HHR@co.humboldt.ca.us

⇒ **Attend a Meeting:**

1st Thurs. of each month
County Courthouse
825 5th Street, Eureka
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Main floor, Room 1A

You may speak on any subject at Commission meetings, though only agenda items may be acted upon. The Chairperson will call for comments at the beginning of the meeting.

The Commission complies with the requirements of the Brown Act.

COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES

Prepare an annual report to Board of Supervisors on the state of human rights in Humboldt County;

Co-sponsor events to gather information and opinions about human rights from the community;

Investigate complaints of human rights violations & recommend possible remedies;

Educate the citizens of Humboldt County about our human rights.

"...The Eyes & Ears of human rights in Humboldt County."

Brochure Approved by the HHRC ...2015

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission



Human Rights
are
Everyone's Rights

ESTABLISHED IN 1965

INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

1. Right to equality
2. Freedom from discrimination
3. The right to life and liberty
4. Freedom from slavery
5. Freedom from torture and degrading treatment
6. Right to recognition as a person before the law
7. Right to equality before the law
8. Right to remedy by competent tribunal
9. Freedom from arbitrary arrest & exile
10. Right to a fair public hearing
11. Right to be considered innocent until proven guilty
12. Freedom from interference w/ privacy, family, home, correspondence
13. Right to free movement in and out of the country
14. Right to asylum in other countries from persecution
15. Right to a nationality and the freedom to change it
16. Right to marriage and family
17. Right to own property
18. Freedom of religion or belief
19. Freedom of opinion and information
20. Right of peaceful assembly & association
21. Right to participate in government and in free elections
22. Right to social security
23. Right to desirable work & to join free trade unions
24. Right to rest and leisure
25. Right to an adequate living standard
26. Right to education
27. Right to participate in the cultural life of the community
28. Right to a social order that articulates this document
29. Community duties essential to free and full development
30. Freedom from state or personal interference in the above rights.

Three volunteer members are appointed from each of the five supervisorial districts. The 15 members serve staggered, 4-year terms.

TO APPLY TO FILL A VACANCY

1. Contact your supervisor, and/or
2. Fill out an application, available from the County Administrative Office at the Courthouse or on the commission website.
3. Complete the application and return it to the County Administrative office for consideration.

WEBSITE—<http://www.humboldt.gov.org/1308/Human-Rights-Commission>;



Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
825 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA 95501

June 2, 2016

Mark Lovelace, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors
County of Humboldt
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Supervisor Lovelace and Members of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors,

At the regular meeting of the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission (HRC) on June 2, 2016, it was agreed that the treasurer should present a proposal to the Board of Supervisors regarding a budget for the HRC.

Actions which led to this decision include the following:

- Numerous discussions and much frustration over the lack of funds for those activities and obligations that are expected of a Human Rights Commission, including a regular meeting time that would not be cancelled because of security issues after 5 pm.
- Grant funding for printing the popular resource cards in English and Spanish, which could be decreased or eliminated at any time.
- Numerous commissioners personally paying for costs incurred during events planned by the Commission.
- Contact with individual supervisors and members of County Counsel staff.
- Meeting with CAO Amy Nilsen, because the goals of the CAO's Office seem to be the best fit for the HRC. We believe this would provide the best umbrella for a line item in the budget for the HRC.

We are now at the point of asking for the following:

- A budget line item in the CAO's budget.
We want to make it very clear that we are NOT asking for staff time or assistance from the CAO's office. We would NOT expect the CAO's office to have to add to current duties because we became a line item in that budget.
- HRC Treasurer would complete all the necessary paperwork for payment of any expenses through that line item.
- Funding of our annual budget of \$4498.95, which is attached to this letter.
A summary of our proposed expenses includes printing of Resource Cards in English and Spanish, cost of materials and event expenses for outreach meetings of the HRC in outlying areas of the county, cost of brochures and other materials used at tabling events throughout the year, and the expense of security when our meetings do not coincide with the Planning Commission meetings in the Courthouse.

Thank you for considering our budget request, as a line item under the CAO's budget.

Sincerely,

Byrd A. Lochtie,
Treasurer
Humboldt County Human Rights Commission

Date: 6/7/16

To: Anyone who cares about real world truths

Subject: Real world Truths

I know wisdom comes with age, and I believe real world truths will eventually hit us all in the face. As a rural, working, family, registered democrat, and an old fart, I can see when apples are compared to apples regarding truths as in Trump's judge deal and what has happened to me, truth will not win every time, but the truth is the truth.

I am going to vote for Trump, because of the following.

1. I have worked for other SOBs who do **not** listen to working people and those experienced in the real world, and I see him no different
2. Like in this politically correct world, I see many things differently than Humboldt County Supervisors and other politicians, but after listening to some truths, maybe things will change.
3. Truths are distorted and unfairly applied by Humboldt County Supervisors, judges, political correct thinking, Hillary, politicians, those with money and power, protectionist, Fourth Branch of Government regulators; because, many do not understand and know real world truths.

Capitulation in some situations is the only logical choice. As I say in my books, rarely, when regulators will not accept the truth, I stood my ground, and I would move up the decision ladder until truth could not be ignored. As a Registered Professional Forester who has been in the trenches, worked closely on the ground with landowners and timber workers, fought with appeals, and worked closely on the ground with landowners and timber workers, I have seen the media, politicians, and others treat timber folks unfairly. I see coal miners, ranchers, and even some farmers getting the shaft.

There are no major dams in Humboldt County, and Ruth Dam has kept Eureka area from needing water.

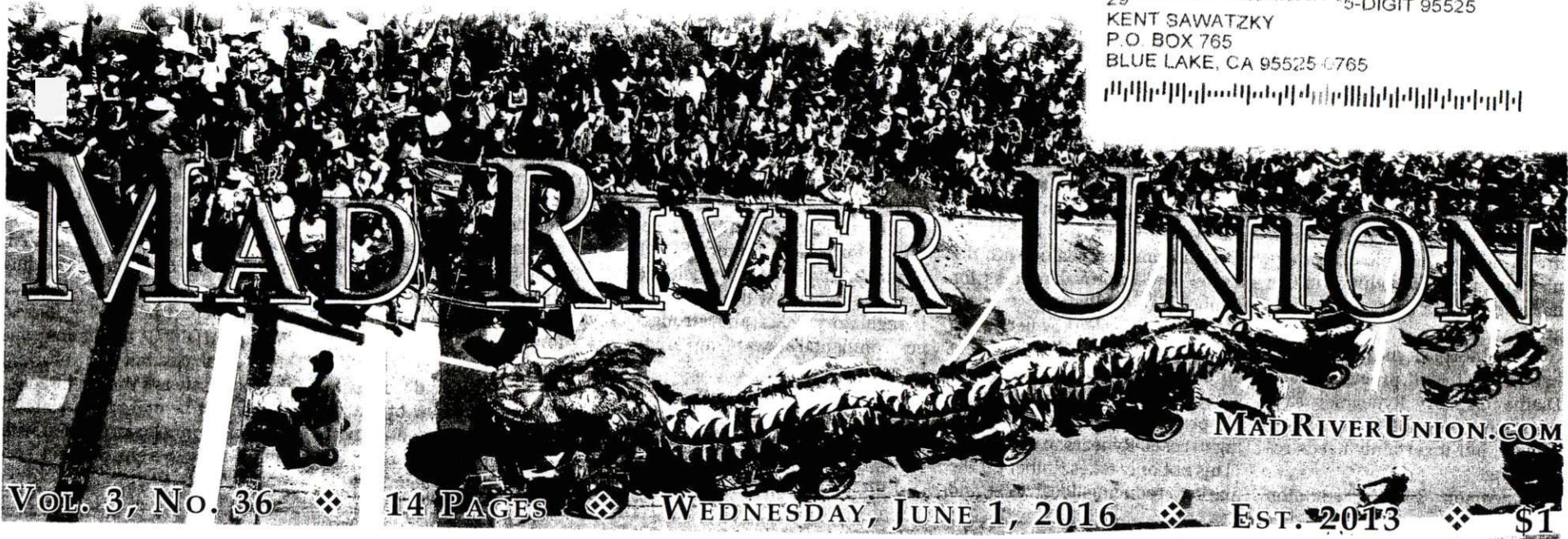
As a kid and later fishing many creeks, doing rearing ponds, rotary fish traps, fish surveys, and many many other fish related things, I take a backseat to no one when it comes to understanding how proper timber harvesting increases fish populations. More fish mean better economy.

Proper timber management can help handle wild fires, and if you think this area is not going to burn, you are dreaming.

Immigration questions left unanswered are: "Is it fair to those already legally here to let others do our work?" "Is it fair to let those with criminal records and criminal intent into this country?" "Is it fair to entice others to come here illegally which are often raped and treated badly?" "Are we helping promote a lot of hurt for people on all sides of the fence?"

My books are coming true. Ignoring me makes Fountainhead and Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand describe what can happen, and rural areas like Humboldt County are doing without Much, Much, Much More.

Charles L. Ciancio
California Registered Professional Forester (RPF) #317
(An old tired field forester who has lived in a working man's world)
P.O. Box 172, Cutten (near Eureka in redwood country), CA 95534
707-445-2179



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KENT SAWATZKY
P.O. BOX 765
BLUE LAKE, CA 95525-0765



MADRIVERUNION.COM

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❖ MCKINLEYVILLE

Hot facility, hash lab proposed

Daniel Mintz
MAD RIVER UNION

MCKINLEYVILLE – A medical marijuana manufacturing facility whose products will include edibles and concentrates is being proposed by a McKinleyville-based construction company and faces a zoning hurdle related to its proximity to the coun-

ty's main airport. A special permit application from the HMCP limited liability corporation, which is owned by the McKinleyville-based Hooven & Company, was submitted on Feb. 26 – the day the county's commercial medical marijuana ordinance went into effect.

The new facility would occupy 800 square feet of the company's 3,000-square-foot building at 3445 Central Ave., between Johnson and Norton roads and about 1,500 feet north of the Airport Road intersection. The application proposes the manufacture of "medical marijuana and medical marijuana-infused product," including

marijuana concentrate. Dave Hooven, the company's vice president in charge of operations, said the project originated with a real estate agent's inquiry about renting space for medical marijuana manufacturing. A consultant was hired but the leasing deal fell through.

LAB ❖ A2

Lab | Facility would process cannabis, sell to wholesale market

❖ FROM A1

“With the times changing as they are, I thought maybe this could be something we could pursue ourselves,” Hooven said.

The county’s recently-implemented commercial medical marijuana ordinance allows multiple categories of production, including manufacturing. Hooven said that specific plans for the facility are being developed by a consultant.

According to the project’s operations manual, the facility may produce water-based marijuana concentrate but the use of solvents – including butane, propane, CO₂, ethanol, isopropanol acetone and/or heptane – is also considered.

A memo to Senior Planner Trevor Estlow from Bob Bronkall, deputy director of the county’s Land Use Division, states that “the quantity of the solvents to be stored onsite or used onsite is not known” and adds, “It is not

known what the risk of explosion is.”

But Hooven said current use of his company’s property includes storage of diesel fuel and the manufacturing facility isn’t a significant change.

“We certainly want to do this the right way,” he continued. “We want to make sure, through using consultants and professionals, that we put together the best and safest operating conditions.”

The manual states that if the flammable solvents are used, a professional specialist will determine a maximum amount that can safely be stored, determine what type of electrical equipment can be used and whether gas monitoring and fire suppression systems should be installed.

Exhaust systems and installation of a “closed loop extraction system” capable of recovering solvents will also be considered and all solvents used for extraction will be “food-grade or at least 99 percent pure,” according to the manual.

The facility will not be open to the public, will typically operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will manufacture products “to be sold to state-licensed facilities on a wholesale basis.”

Products will be lab-tested for pesticides, mold and “other undesirable qualities prior to release for sale to

wholesalers and retailers.”

The project’s siting within the area of the county’s Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan presents a land use issue. Bronkall’s memo describes the proposed manufacturing facility as being incompatible with the plan.

The project area is currently zoned as Industrial Commercial, which allows office and business uses of a moderate scale. A zoning change will be necessary to accommodate manufacturing.

Estlow said that the project’s location within the airport area will also require approval of a variance from the Board of Supervisors acting as the county’s Airport Land Use Commission.

Asked if the proposal is something he would have envisioned his family being involved in prior to recent legal developments, Hooven said, “No – I honestly never would have thought that.”

But the state now views medical marijuana as a commercial and agricultural commodity and marijuana is expected to be generally legalized in the November election.

“It seems kind of odd to be in this spot, but it looks like it’s coming and it’s going to happen and I think you can’t ignore that fact,” said Hooven. “The timber industry is in decline and the county needs new economic opportunities – I think it’s important for local businesses to be involved in this type of operation.”

FURNITURE ON THE **PLAZA**

*At least once a day,
allow yourself the freedom*

Supes rein in PlanCo

Daniel Mintz

MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT – Humboldt County’s Board of Supervisors is taking steps to prevent the Planning Commission from placing items on its agendas that appear to represent board policy actions.

The process by which the commission sets its agenda items was the subject of a long and carefully-worded discussion at the May 24 board meeting.

A primary trigger for the discussion is the commission’s recent consideration of a moratorium or ban on medical marijuana manufacturing facilities.

Supervisor Ryan Sundberg said it led many members of the public to believe that the Board of Supervisors had asked for a recommendation on a marijuana manufacturing ban when it had not.

Other items of concern are the commission’s recent deliberations on a traffic impact fee for the greater Eureka area and formation of an ad hoc committee to analyze planning staff conduct.

Sundberg said that if the commission takes up items that are not within its purview according to government code, public information such as staff reports are lacking and there is a perception of board-directed policymaking.

“I had some people ask me why we were putting a (medical marijuana) manufacturing moratorium on the agenda and I said, ‘We didn’t have anything to do with it’ – so it makes it look like it’s coming from us even if it’s not,” he continued.

The commission’s consideration of the moratorium resulted in a majority vote not to recommend it. Its appearance on the commission’s agenda was particularly confusing

because supervisors had already approved a commercial medical marijuana ordinance that allows manufacturing.

Supervisor Estelle Fennell said that she also fielded questions about it.

“It would have been a good thing to have been informed that people were approaching the Planning Commission to address that issue so that we could actually task them with doing that, if that’s the process,” she continued. “I didn’t have anybody coming to me asking that the Planning Commission review that, or that we review it.”

Planning Commissioner Ben Shepherd, who is Sundberg’s appointee to the commission, told supervisors that the moratorium item attracted many meeting attendees and was continued multiple times.



Ben Shepherd

The traffic impact fee also attracted public attention, he continued, but both items were ineligible for commission action. Shepherd said such practices lead residents to assume that policy changes may be afoot.

“The most important thing to me is clear communication with the public understanding where this is coming from and what authority we have to act on it,” he continued. “Because it’s really a disservice to the public to make them come to a meeting and feel that we have the ability to change something when we really can’t do it.”

Supervisor Rex Bohn supported giving the commission leeway, however. He said government code can be interpreted to include the type of agenda items in question and he pointed out that the Board of Supervisors is the ultimate decisionmaker on them.

Asked for analysis, County Counsel Jeffrey Blanck said that if the commission is taking initiatives for which planning staff has not developed reports or recommendations, “Then who’s actually going to literally draft that letter and send it up saying it’s a recommendation from the commission – they don’t have support staff.”

Sundberg made a motion that he work with the County Administrative Officer, the Interim Planning Director and Blanck in writing a letter to the commission clarifying the limits on agenda items “outside of the normal regulatory procedures.”

Bohn was the only supervisor to vote against drafting the letter, which will come back to the board for final approval.

The meeting began on a solemn note, as Board Chair Mark Lovelace announced the previous night’s death of former county Supervisor Jimmy Smith at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Eureka.

Smith was 67 years old and was supervisor from 2001 to 2012. He also served as a Harbor District commissioner and was well-respected for his work on fisheries and watershed projects. Smith had dealt with cancer for many years and resigned from the board in 2012 to undergo treatment for it. (See page C3 for more about Smith.)

Not excise tax advanced

The Times-Standard

Assembly Bill 2243, a proposed cannabis excise tax, passed the state Assembly with 56 votes Thursday.

According to a press release from the office of state Assemblyman Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg), who introduced the bill, the proposed legislation would levy a \$9.25 per ounce tax on cannabis flowers, a \$2.75 per ounce tax on cannabis leaves and a \$1.25 tax on immature cannabis plants from nurseries.

"I have worked from day one to ensure our rural communities have the resources we need to prevent, and cleanup the environmental catastrophe currently underway in our forests and watersheds," Wood said in the release. "This excise tax was part of AB 243 last year and was ultimately pulled at

the last minute; this victory today is a huge step forward."

According to the release, the tiered approach is modeled after the way alcohol is taxed based on the potency of the product, and is designed to ensure funding goes to the most impacted communities. The proposed tax is expected to raise nearly \$80 million annually.

"AB 2243 imposes a reasonable tax on the production and distribution of commercial cannabis and will focus revenue on the communities, forests and rivers," California Growers Association Executive Director Hezekiah Allen said in the release. "This legislation is an important step to take to ensure immediate relief is available for the watersheds and communities that need help now."

The release states that

TAX » PAGE 3

Tax

FROM PAGE 3

30 percent of the funds from the proposed tax would go to the Watershed Enforcement Team, 30 percent would go to local law enforcement, 30 percent would go to environmental cleanup on public and private lands, 8 percent would go to restarting state funding of the Williamson Act — which enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners in order to restrict

parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use — and 2 percent would fund interagency regional enforcement coordinators within the Department of Justice. "As chief of a city greatly impacted by cannabis, I appreciate Assemblyman Wood moving this bill forward to get those communities hit hardest by illegal cannabis cultivation the help we need," Eureka Police Chief Andrew Mills said in the release.

AB 2243 will now go to the state Senate to be heard next in Senate Rules Committee.

Assembly approves California State Bar reforms

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO » Lawmakers are advancing a proposal to restructure the board that oversees lawyer accreditations in California following a critical audit.

The California Assembly passed AB2878 on a 75-0 vote Thursday after amending it to appease legislators seeking strict reforms at the California State Bar.

The proposal from Democratic Assemblyman Mark Stone of Scotts Valley would reduce the number of professional lawyers on the bar's governing board, giving non-attorneys majority control.

It also establishes a commission to study the

possibility of removing the bar's ability to self-regulate attorneys.

State Auditor Elaine Howle last year faulted the bar for overpaying executives, mishandling financial reports and lacking transparency.

The bill moves to the Senate.

Feminine hygiene tax

California lawmakers are moving one step closer to repealing sales tax on feminine hygiene products.

The California Assembly voted 68-0 Thursday to pass AB1561 to the state Senate.

The proposal by Democratic Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia of Bell Gardens would exempt

tampons, pads, menstrual cups and menstrual sponges from the state's 7.5 percent sales tax.

Supporters say the tax unfairly burdens women who have little choice but to purchase the products.

At least six other states are considering similar legislation.

Feminine hygiene products are already excluded from sales taxes in five other states.

Canada decided last year to scrap tampon taxes. In March, the European Union gave the United Kingdom and other member nations the go-ahead to do the same.

Drug sentences

The California Senate is

advancing a bill that would end a practice of extending jail and prison sentences for repeat drug offenders.

The Senate's 22-14 vote on Thursday follows Sen. Holly Mitchell's decision to scale back the measure after it failed more than a month ago on the Senate floor.

The Los Angeles Democrat says her bill would help address the disproportionate incarceration of minority offenders.

Law enforcement officials strongly opposed the bill, saying it would make it harder to crack down on drug dealers.

Mitchell's bill would scale back a 1985 law allowing so-called sentence enhancements for drug defendants with prior

drug convictions. Mitchell agreed not to apply the bill to certain crimes, including those involving children.

The legislation now goes to the Assembly.

Copyrights, property

California lawmakers are moving to spell out the government's ability to copyright public property after a trademark dispute over site names in Yosemite National Park.

The Assembly voted 58-1 Thursday in favor of AB2880 by Democratic Assemblyman Mark Stone of Scotts Valley. It would allow state and local governments to own intellectual property including names, research and documents.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Budget faces deficit increase

Measure Z, poll results for new sales tax before board

By Will Houston

whouston@times-standard.com
@Will_S_Houston on Twitter

While Humboldt County's proposed budget for the approaching 2016-2017 shows an \$33.4 million increase from last year, the county will be spending more than anticipated in order to cover possible service gaps attributed to Measure Z.

"One thing Measure Z did not address was the long-term structural imbalance of the General Fund," county Administrative Officer Amy Nilsen wrote in the budget report. "By increasing funding for public safety departments, this has had a trickle-down effect, increasing the workload for already-understaffed departments that provide internal support service."

At the first of three budget meetings on Tuesday, the county Board of Supervisors is set to approve nearly \$6.5 million in new Measure Z funding requests as well as \$530,000 of allocations to maintain levels of services and comply with state requirements. The proposed budget also includes day-use fees at some county parks as well as trust fund transfers as a stop-gap measure to prevent

BUDGET » PAGE 2

Budget

FROM PAGE 1

county parks from closing due to increased insurance costs.

"It will buy us time to look at longer term solutions for how to keep the parks going," 3rd District Supervisor and Board Chairman Mark Lovelace said, "because they're supposed to be an enterprise where use fees cover the costs."

County residents who were recently polled state they would be supportive of paying a 20-year, half-cent sales tax in order to improve and repair county roads. The board is set to discuss these poll results as well as the state's reduced road budget on Tuesday.

2016-2017 budget

The proposed 2016-2017 budget totals at \$352.5 mil-

lion, which is a \$33.4 million increase over last year.

The county's General Fund, which the Board of Supervisors has discretion over, is estimated to have more than \$117 million — a \$4.9 million increase over last year attributed to Measure Z sales tax revenues — but also has a \$6.8 million increase in expenditures. As a result, the county now has a General Fund deficit of nearly \$5 million, which is more than double the \$2.1 million deficit the county was projecting during its third-quarter budget review in March.

"This increase is necessary to fund contingencies and reserves as previously approved by your board, state-mandated ongoing costs, cannabis-related investments and the support of public safety services," the county staff report states.

Among these additional expenses are \$100,000 to

unabis plan- Planning and Department due increased workload the county's new can-permitting program, 500 for new Public der's Office staff to with the increase in brought about by in-law enforcement as t of Measure Z, and 000 to cover unan-ed costs relating to required jail inmate al care costs. County departments tted more than \$4 n in budget requests, \$530,000 are being ed due to financial ations, according to aff report. Lovelace said the in-sed deficit and unan-ated costs from Mea-Z on various county artments and county rement plan payments omething that has to be pressed before sales tax isets or is reinstated by

it is not propos- uts or reductions service at the parks," Lovelace said.

However, Lovelace said the use of trust funds is an "unsustainable" solution.

The county is set to hold a special budget meeting on June 20 and the Board of Supervisors is set to adopt the budget at its June 28 meeting. The 2016-2017 fiscal year begins on July 1.

Will Houston can be reached at 707-441-0504.

IF YOU GO

What: Board of Supervisors meeting

When: 9 a.m. Tuesday

Where: Supervisors' chamber, first floor, Humboldt County Courthouse, 825 Fifth St., Eureka

The full agenda can be viewed online at humboldt.gov.org/167/Board-of-Supervisors

voters in 2020.

"I think that is where the board, the public and agencies requesting these funds will have to recognize that the fiscal well-being of the county as a whole is essential for public safety and that's going to have to be accommodated somewhere down the line," he said.

After the county's Parks and Recreation Division faced service cuts caused by rising insurance costs relating to a fatal collision on U.S. Highway 101 involving a county parks employee in 2013, the board's budget proposes a temporary fix to prevent parks from closing.

Lovelace said that parks and campgrounds already implementing use fees will be increased, while funds from three trust funds in the Public Works Department will also be used to raise the parks division budget to \$924,500.

"The budget as I un-

County working to make upgrades

Feds negotiating new settlement agreement

By Will Houston

whouston@times-standard.com
@Will_S_Houston on Twitter

The U.S. Department of Justice and Humboldt County are currently negotiating a new agreement to bring the county into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act after the county has been unable to fulfill the terms of a similar agreement signed in 2008.

As a result of its noncompliance, the county anticipates the Department of Justice will have the courts oversee future progress. Under the 2008 agreement, the county was mandated to make accessibility upgrades at several of its buildings, polling locations and maintained roads and sidewalks while also training employees to accommodate disabled community members.

These changes were to be made within three years, but Humboldt County Human Resources Director Dan Fulks said the downturn of the economy in 2008 made funding for the ADA upgrades nonexistent.

"I think it was just horrible timing," Fulks said. "The (Humboldt County Board of Supervisors) did the best they could do to maintain a certain level of service through those economic times. Now that the economy is improving, we're making this a priority."

The department retained its right to file litigation against the county should it not comply, but Fulks said he had yet to hear of any threat of litigation.

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"Certainly we're interested in spending the county's money on improvements rather than spending it on attorneys," he said. "We believe the DOJ feels the same. It's in everyone's best interest to enter into a workable settlement with the DOJ than to enter litigation."

The Department of Justice declined requests for interviews. Humboldt County Counsel Jeffrey Blanck declined to comment for this story.

The agreement is part of the Department of Justice's Project Civic Access, which seeks to bring state and local governments into full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which passed in 1990.

More than 200 similar compliance agreements were also signed by communities nationwide in 2008, and 95 percent fulfilled the directives within the required time frame, according to a previous interview with the Department of Justice. Humboldt County was not among them.

Nearly eight years have elapsed since the county signed its agreement. Within that time, Public Works Director Tom Mattson said that many of the priorities addressed in the agreement have been or are being addressed. Projects include sidewalk repairs, the airport terminal expansion, adding a wheelchair ramp in the board of supervisors chambers, and addressing accessibility concerns at polling locations.

But other mandates, such as ADA staff training and upgrades, have not been completed.

The issue comes down to a lack of funding and manpower, Fulks and Mattson said. Mattson said he did not have an exact figure of how much funding in ADA upgrades will be needed to address all existing problems, but estimated it would "easily" be the millions of dollars.

While Mattson said the board of supervisors has allocated about \$900,000 from the General Fund in the last two years to be used on ADA improvements, he said most of the mandates are being completed on a project-by-project basis.

"There is no outside funding technically available for ADA compliance," he said. "It's included in every funding request we do for projects. ... There is a lot in the works, but there is more needed."

But even if the funding was available right now, Mattson said many of the projects, such as the replacement of the juvenile hall and Public Defender's Office buildings, will take several years to complete due to the planning and design process.

For Mattson and Fulks, the county has poorly communicated its progress to the federal government as well as the community. To address this, they are currently working to catalogue its progress at a centralized office.

"We're really good at doing projects, but we're really horrible at telling people what we did," Mattson said.

Local community activist and disabled Eureka resident Charlie Bean said Department of Justice agents were in Humboldt County earlier this year and have visited routinely in the past few years to check on the county's progress and talk with disabled citizens about any concerns.

Bean, who also serves as the California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance executive director, among other positions, has been working with the county in tandem with Tri-County Independent Living over the last few years to prioritize what projects should be completed with the resources available.

"I don't think the county has a problem," Bean said. "I think they had a little problem with money. ... A lot of it takes money that we don't have."

This has led to several improvements at the Humboldt County Superior Courthouse and county jail building, such as the inclusion of a handrail, more signage, braille and other changes.

Tri-County Independent Living Executive Director Donalyn Sjostrand said there are many projects and issues that still need to be addressed, but the organization supports and appreciates the county's work to date.

"We certainly look forward to them continuing to make this a priority," Sjostrand said.

For Bean, the lack of access for disabled citizens can discourage them from seeking employment at county facilities.

But it also goes the other way.

As he uses an electric wheelchair to get around town, Bean said the addition of a ramp in the board of supervisors chambers in Eureka is now making his aspiration to become a county planning commissioner reachable.

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