

Dear Lake County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed commercial cannabis project and its potential impact on Highland Springs Recreation Area. As a frequent visitor to the park, I believe this project conflicts with the area's intended use and poses significant safety risks.

Highland Springs Road, which runs through the park, is designated as a Bike Trail and is referenced in the current Kelseyville Area Plan as a recommended scenic drive. The plan also proposes improving safety on this road. However, the introduction of commercial cannabis traffic would directly contradict these goals and compromise the safety of park users.

Dr. Pawan Upadhyay, Director of Lake County Watershed Protection District (LCWPD) and Lake County Water Resources, has expressed support for the park and shared concerns about the project's impact. These include:

1. Conflict between commercial traffic and the park's peaceful atmosphere
2. Increased roadway speeds requiring additional safety measures
3. Potential conflicts between trails and the applicant's access road
4. Dust pollution and its environmental impact, including serpentine/asbestos runoff
5. Erosion, sedimentation, and phosphoric pollution affecting nearby water bodies
6. Threats to local wildlife, including rare and endangered species

I share these concerns and have personally experienced the challenges of navigating Highland Springs Road with its current traffic levels. Introducing commercial cannabis traffic would only exacerbate these issues and compromise the safety of park visitors.

I urge the Board to reconsider allowing commercial cannabis traffic on Highland Springs Road and to support LCWPD's proposal to install a gate across the road on county property that the applicant wants to use as an access road. This measure would help reduce serpentine dust and align with the treatment of other side roads off Highland Springs Road.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for prioritizing the safety and preservation of Highland Springs Recreation Area.

Sincerely,
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