



**Report on Interim Ordinance No.
3555 Temporarily Prohibiting all
industrial Hemp cultivation in The
Unincorporated Areas of the County**

**Tom Tucker
Tulare County Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer**

Directive

- On 3/26/19 the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution No. 2019-0200 that:
- Adopted a 45 day Urgency Interim Ordinance prohibiting the cultivation of Industrial Hemp in unincorporated Tulare County
- Directed the Agricultural Commissioner to deliver a preliminary report on the impacts of Industrial Hemp cultivation

Agricultural Commissioner's Report

- I reached out to the following departments, agencies, committees, and city officials:
 - Sheriff, District Attorney, County Health Officer, RMA, County Counsel, APAC
 - City managers of Visalia, Tulare, Porterville, and Woodlake
 - I have plans to reach out to others

Report Cont.

- Others were contacted or made contact with us
 - More than a dozen phone conversations in the last few weeks. These include local farmers, want-to-be Hemp farmers, a Pest Control Advisor, consultants, and realtors in and out of the county
 - 59 direct comments from 2,800 emails or postcards we sent out in the previous two months. Fifteen (15) were unsure or against with 44 in favor of Industrial Hemp cultivation in Tulare County

Report Cont.

- There has not been enough time to catalog everyone's concerns, much less derive solutions. However, the top concerns, issues, questions are as follows:
 - Lack of State regulations, forms, cultivar lists...
 - Lack of regulations preventing the abuse of Institutional Research cultivation
 - California has not submitted, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is not ready to approve plans submitted by the states
 - Proper acreage limits and setbacks to provide a safe buffer between adjacent crops, residences, schools, rural residential areas, city limits and daycare facilities

Report Cont.

- **Continued:**
 - Methodology that would prevent illegal cannabis from being interplanted or hidden in an Industrial Hemp field
 - Study of alternatives for Industrial Hemp farmers that have few resources to deal with insect and disease pests which could lead to crop loss for the grower or his/her neighbor
 - Time to consult with those in the Industrial Hemp industry for helpful suggestions and input
 - Study of current and future zoning and land use regulations to accommodate Industrial Hemp cultivation and other related activities

Report Cont.

- **Continued:**
 - Development of a policies that work cooperatively with other agencies and assists them as they interact with those cultivating Industrial Hemp
 - Adequate time for Agricultural Commissioner staff to develop registration, inspection, and testing procedures to comply with yet unknown regulations
 - Time to work with the County's Chief Administrative Officer and Human Resources Director to develop and approve new positions to accommodate the increased workload
 - Development of a fee structure to cover Department expenses not otherwise covered by the proposed registration fee

Request from the Agricultural Commissioner:

- APPROVE AN EXTENSION OF INTERIM ORDINANCE NO. 3555 PROHIBITING ALL INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATION IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF 22 MONTHS AND 15 DAYS



Thank you

❖ Questions?