

Measure C pot tax adds \$6.8 million to county coffers

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Tax Collector Barbara Sullivan reported that as of this week, \$6,779,867 in Measure C Tax has been collected from the cultivators, and another \$163,300 from dispensaries. These taxes were on top of the \$3 million in fees collected via the Urgency Ordinance Registration in Spring/Summer 2016. Payments by the cultivators represent 80 percent of the total amount that has been billed this year.

The Calaveras Cannabis Alliance pointed out that according to the Internal Revenue Service, only 64 percent of Americans required to pay income tax do so. Calaveras cannabis formers came in at 81 percent. They also pointed out that District 4 Supervisor Dennis Mills predicted the county would not see more than \$2 million in Measure C Tax revenue, nearly \$5 million less than collected in the first installment.

A portion of the taxes collected, the CCA said, has already been allocated to balance the county budget and the revenue goes straight to the general fund. The money can be used for things that benefit all residents like public safety, road repairs, parts etc. However, should the county supervisors enact a ban on cultivation, this tax revenue will disappear, making it difficult for the county to meet many of its obligations. The Calaveras cannabis community has made it clear that it wants to operate legally and is dedicated to the betterment of the county.