

# Clapp determined to pursue marijuana ban at board level

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / Wednesday, April 5, 2017

District 5 Calaveras County Supervisor Clyde Clapp reiterated his stand for a complete ban on commercial cultivation of marijuana in the county during a town hall meeting Thursday at the Rancho Calaveras Property Owners Association Clubhouse.

Clapp's meeting came two days after a Superior Court judge removed Measure B, a citizens' initiative to ban commercial cultivation of cannabis in the county, from a May 2 vote.

However, Clapp sees a silver lining in the decision. He said supervisors are now free to craft their own ban ordinance.

In an interview Friday with The Valley Springs News, Clapp said if Measure B had passed, it would have superseded anything the board could have done and parts of Measure B would have immediately been in conflict with state law, such as Proposition 64, and would have tied the county up in lawsuits.

A county ban on growing marijuana commercially won't stop people from growing small quantities of pot for recreational use under Proposition 64, but the county also has a say in that, according to Clapp.

Proposition 64, approved by state voters in November, allows individuals to grow six plants.

However, the county has the right to impose regulations on that cultivation, Clapp said.

"We should treat it like having a dog. A dog needs a license and so should those who grow pot," Clapp said. "Along with getting a license for your dog you have other restrictions like keeping it on a leash when it's away from your home and making sure it has all of its shots. We should also have restrictions for pot, like growing it indoors and making sure odors don't disturb the neighbors."

An environmental review to determine the impact a ban would have on the county is expected to be released in the coming weeks for public review, Clapp said.