

New Marijuana Regulations Discussed in Trinity County

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TRINITY COUNTY, Calif. - The Trinity County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission gathered at a public meeting to watch a presentation given by Rural County Representatives of California about the three new marijuana laws recently passed by Governor Jerry Brown.

Dozens of people gathered at the meeting Tuesday night, held at the Trinity Alps Performing Arts Center.

The presentation focused on medical marijuana regulations. The county expressed a desire to keep tax authority at the county level, bring environmental awareness to the issue and preserve local control.

"I think it should be able to be grown legally," said Thomas Fox, a medical marijuana user who said it saved his life after he was diagnosed with cancer. "the cannabis industry could bring a tremendous amount of growth and prosperity to this county. It could bring jobs and income."

After the presentation at a later date, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will sit down and vote on final rules for marijuana regulation within Trinity County.

"This will hopefully bring some sanity to the issue," said Chair of the Board, Judy Morris. "there is local taxing authority and that will go to the voters. We're also hoping for an excise tax."

Local voter and meeting attendee, Noel O'Neill said he wanted the revenue from the tax to go towards keeping marijuana out of the hands of children below age 21.

"Especially if marijuana does become legalized for recreational use. I hope that there will be taxable revenue for programs that might assist youth such as: prevention programs, compliance programs, education and treatment programs," said O'Neill.

Governor Brown signed the bills to regulate the industry for the first time since medical marijuana became legal in 1996. The three laws create the first statewide licensing and operating rules for growers, manufacturers and retailers.

Individuals still have rights to grow small amounts for personal use, and local governments will not be able to tax marijuana-related businesses.

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