

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

1 Killingsworth Drive
Felicity, CA 92283
(760) 572-0294
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)



May 24, 2024

File No.: 620.16366

Imperial County Planning and Development Services
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Re: SCH # 2024050090

The Winterhaven Command of the California Highway Patrol received the “Notice of Completion” of the Environmental document for the proposed WH Lounge LLC for State Clearinghouse #2024050090. After careful review, we have concerns with potential impact to traffic safety.

Our concern relates to the business having a “lounge for onsite consumption of cannabis products.” The ability for patrons to consume cannabis products onsite, lends to a greater potential for violations of Driving Under the Influence (DUI), thus creating a greater impact to public safety. The location of the proposed business is located in a remote region of the County providing limited rideshare and mass transit availability. Due to the aforementioned, the concern falls with the potential increase in impaired drivers leaving the business creating an increased traffic safety concern for the patrons and motoring public alike. It is well known regardless of the type of cannabis; its effects are often instant (Smoking form) and onset unpredictable (Edible form). The effects in all manner of consumption range from 2-10 hours depending on dosage and strength. We would also like to inquire if trained staff will be required to monitor usage and the condition of patrons similar to overserving laws related to alcohol sales? We assume there will be some liability on the proprietor for any significant incidents resulting from / related to the consumption on property as well.



If you have any questions regarding these concerns, please contact me at (760) 572-0294.

Sincerely,



JIM McNAMARA, Lieutenant
Commander
Winterhaven Area