


IT'S ALL GOING
DOWN THE DRAIN!!!

WEED
WATER
&
WASTE



**Why
Do
You
Care?**

CRIME

- 
-
- Aquifer pollution
 - Soil contamination
 - Water and property theft
 - Illegal well drilling
 - Human trafficking
 - Murder
 - Animal abuse
 - Ineffective laws and regulations
 - Courts protecting the criminals
 - Criminals and drugs on our highways
 - Citizens terrorized by cartels

SISKIYOU COUNTY

- **6,279 square miles**
- **43,660 citizens**
- **7 people per square mile**
- **17,212 registered voters**
- **\$49,857 median household income**
- **16.8% in poverty**



2018



2018



2019



2019



2020





2020

2020



2020



**Just
Two
Short
Years**



2021



2021

Greenhouse Facts

- **Size 100' x 200'**
- **Grow 200 – 250 plants**
- **1 plant products 2 – 5 lbs of product = \$1,000 wholesale**
- **80% of CA marijuana is exported ON OUR ROADS**
- **20% of CA marijuana ends up in the marketplace**

2021





2021



2021





**THERE ARE ROUGHLY 5,000 GREENHOUSES
ILLEGALLY CULTIVATING IN SISKIYOU COUNTY.**



2021
Mt. Shasta Vista













2021

**7 citizens per
square mile**

**Until
the sun sets**



2021

2022

A TIMES INVESTIGATION



SIX YEARS after legalization with the idea of crippling the outlaw pot trade, illicit farms abound in Mount Shasta Vista, Calif.

PROMISES UP IN SMOKE

California has done little to address its explosion of illegal cannabis farms

Story by Paige St. John | Photographs by Brian van der Brug

At sunset from atop Haystack Butte, the desert floor below shimmers with a thousand lights.

Illegal cannabis farms. At this hour and distance, serene hues cloak the rugged expanse of Mount Shasta Vista, a tense collective of seasonal camps guarded by guns and dogs where the daily runs of water trucks are interrupted by police raids, armed robberies and, sometimes, death. Ho many hoop houses pack this valley near the Oregon border that last year it had the capacity to supply half of California's entire legal cannabis market.

Proposition 64, California's 2016 landmark cannabis initiative, sold voters on the promise a legal market would cripple the drug's outlaw trade, with its associated violence and environmental wreckage.

Instead, a Los Angeles Times investigation finds, the law triggered a surge in illegal cannabis on a scale



SAMPLES from a seized marijuana crop are bagged after a 2021 raid on an illegal site in Shasta County.

A view from space

The Times draws upon satellite imagery to map how many operations there are, and where. CALIFORNIA, IN

California has never before witnessed.

Rogue cultivation centers like Mount Shasta Vista now engulf rural communities scattered across the state, as far afield as the Mojave Desert, the steep mountains on the North Coast, and the high desert and timberlands of the Sierra Nevada.

Residents in these places describe living in fear next to heavily armed camps. Criminal enterprises operate with near impunity, leasing private land and rapidly building out complexes of as many as 300 greenhouses. Police are overwhelmed, able to raid only a fraction of the farms, and even those are often back in business in days.

The raids rip out plants and snare low-wage laborers while those responsible, some operating with money from overseas, remain untouched by the law, hidden behind straw buyers and fake names on leases.

[See Cannabis, A1]

USC scandals shake up race for mayor

Bass and Caruso, both Trojan alumni, attack each other's roles in university misdeeds.

BY MATT HAMILTON, JULIA WICK AND BENJAMIN ORESKIN

At USC's commencement ceremony in 2010, Rep. Kevin Bass and Rick Caruso marched across campus in crimson gowns, beaming at the thousands of soon-to-be graduates and their families.

Both alumni of the private university, the congressman and the developer sat side by side onstage, laughing and flashing the two-finger salute known to USC's legion of proud fans.

"We raise our two fingers whenever and wherever we see another 'Trojan,'" Bass told the audience after receiving an honorary degree, while Caruso, chair of the university's board of trustees, looked on. "USC Trojans fight on until we change the world."

Now, less than two months until election day, Bass and Caruso are waging a bitter and personal fight to become L.A.'s mayor, attacking each other's character and ethics, particularly when it comes to their alma mater.

Caruso has labeled his opponent "corrupt" for accepting a \$65,000 scholarship from USC before pushing favorable legislation for the university. Bass has countered by labeling the businessman, a long-time trustee, far not being transparent about the findings of an internal investigation into a gynecologist charged with sexually abusing fe-

[See Mayor, A12]

EXCLUSIVE DOCUMENTARY — NARCOFORNIA: How Progressives Sold Out Rural California To Drug Lords



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground is a hillside with sparse green trees and a large, dark, rocky outcrop. The middle ground shows a valley with numerous small buildings, likely farmhouses or small businesses, interspersed with trees. The background consists of rolling hills covered in dense green forest. A large, bold red number '2022' is overlaid in the bottom left corner of the image.

2022



A photograph of a makeshift settlement in a wooded area. In the foreground, there is a dirt clearing with a wire fence. Behind the fence, several tents are visible, some covered with black tarps. To the right, there is a blue portable toilet. The background is filled with tall, green trees under a clear blue sky. A black banner with white text is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

NOTHING YOU SEE IS LEGAL





NO PERMITS

➤ **Septic**

➤ **Well**

➤ **Homes**



Where

Is

OSHA?





EPA?









DOGS

- **STARVED**
- **NEGLECTED**
- **ABUSED**
- **EATEN**





**Abandoned
puppy**

Tied to a tree

**Chewing on
a chemical
container**



CHEMICAL STEW
HEADED FOR A
FAUCET NEAR YOU





**7 million
gallons of
water per
day**













Well drilling

No permits

NO DROUGHT FOR POT GROWERS





**SHARING THE
LAND AND
WATER WITH
OUR FOOD
SUPPLY**









**SELLING WATER TO CARTELS PAYS BETTER
THAN GROWING HAY**



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