



## 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















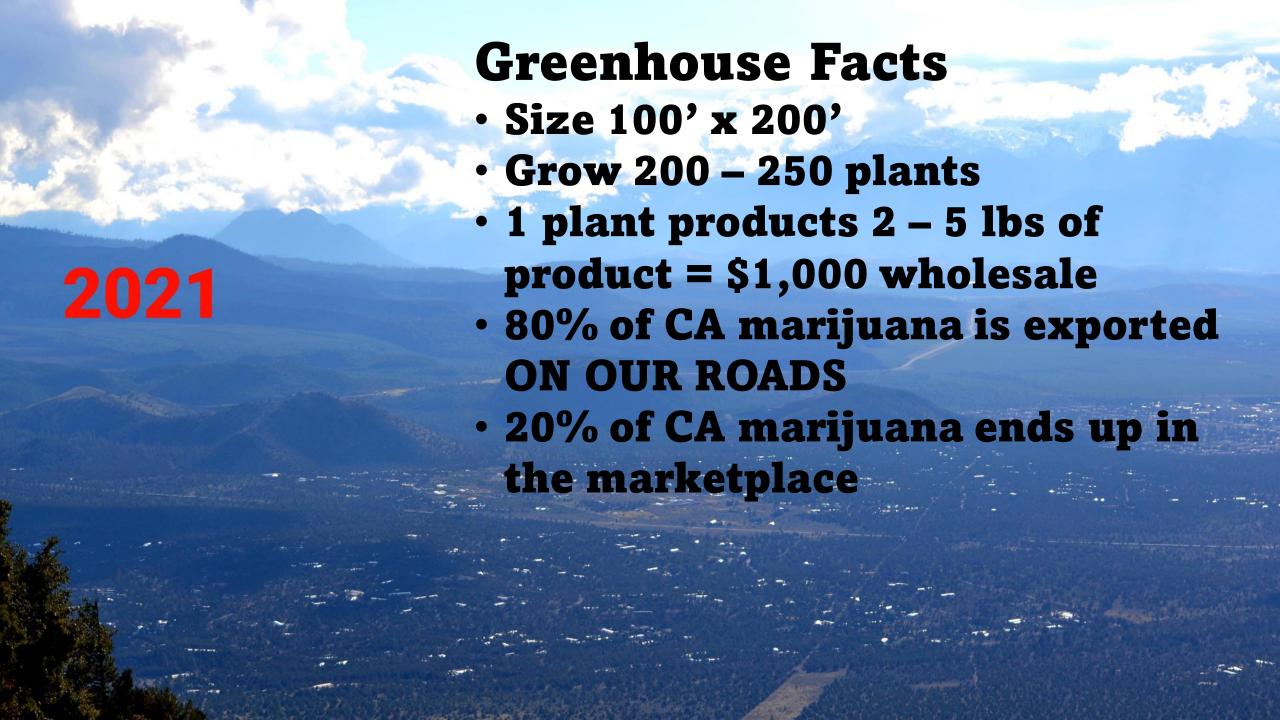




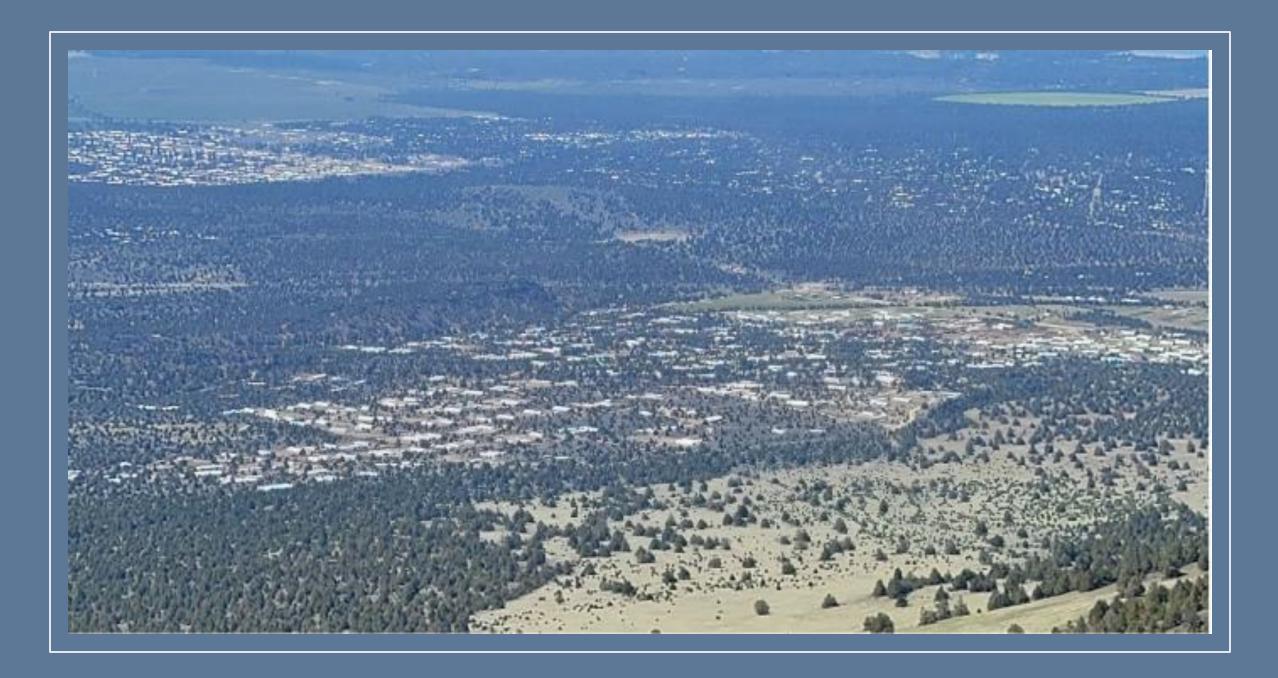
## Just Two Short Years





























## 7 citizens per square mile

Until . . . .

the sun sets



## 2022

# Los Angeles Times

#### 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 shim mers with a thousand lights.

Illiega) enanabis farms. At this hour and distance, serene hues cloak the rugged enclave of Mount Shasta Vista, a tense collective of seasonal camps guarded by guns and dogs where the dally runs of water trucks are interrupted by police raids, armed rubberies and, sometimes, death. So 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

connable market Proposition 64, California's 2096 landmark cannable initiative, sold voters on the promise a legal market would orippie the drug's outlaw trade, with its associated violence and environmental wreckage.

Instead, a Los Angeles Times investigation finds, the law triggered a



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

#### A view from space

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

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 Majave 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

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

[See Cannabia, A8]

#### 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 BENZAMIN ORESERS

At UBC's commencement ecremony in 2019, Rep. Karen Bass and Rick Caruso marched across campus in orimson gowns, beaming at the thousands of soonto-be graduates and their

Both alumn of the private university, the congresswoman and the developer sat side by side onstage aughing and flashing the two-finger solute known to USC's legion of proud fans.

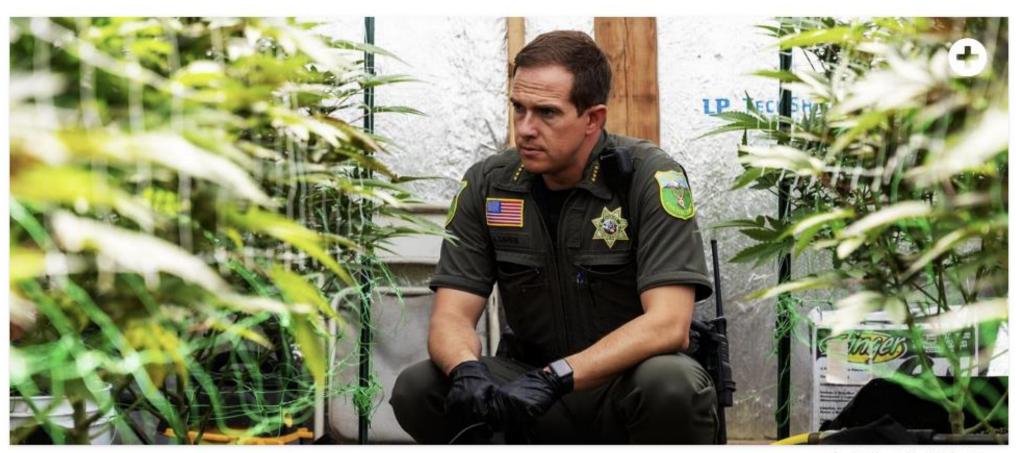
"We raise our two fingers whenever and wherever we see another Trojan," Basa told the audience after recelving an honorary degree, while Caruso, chair of the university's board of trustees, looked on. 'USC Trojans fight on until we change the world."

Now, less than two menths until election day, Bass and Caruso are waging a bitter and personal fight become LAA'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 \$95,000 scholarship from USC before pushing favorable legislation for the university. Bass has countered by tarring the businessman, a longtime trustee, for not being transparent about the findings of on internal investigation into a gynecologist charged with sexually abusing fe-

[See Mayor, Att]

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

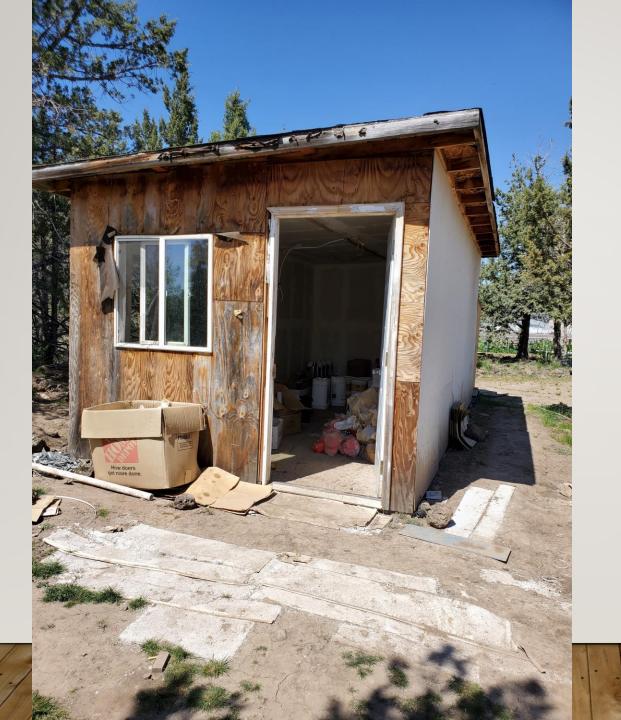












### **NO PERMITS**

> Septic

> Well

> Homes



## Where

Is

OSHA?



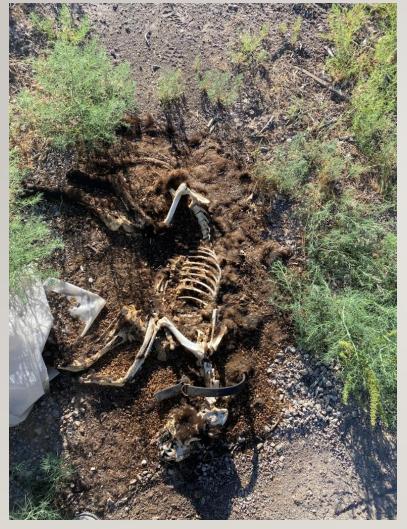


## EPA?









## **DOGS**



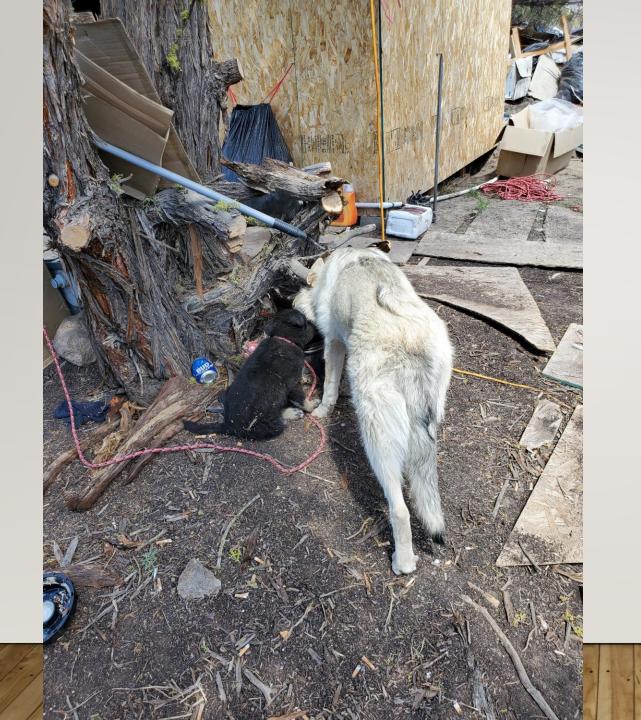
- STARVED
- NEGLECTED
- ABUSED
- EATEN











## Abandoned puppy

Tied to a tree

Chewing on a chemical container







7 million gallons of water per day









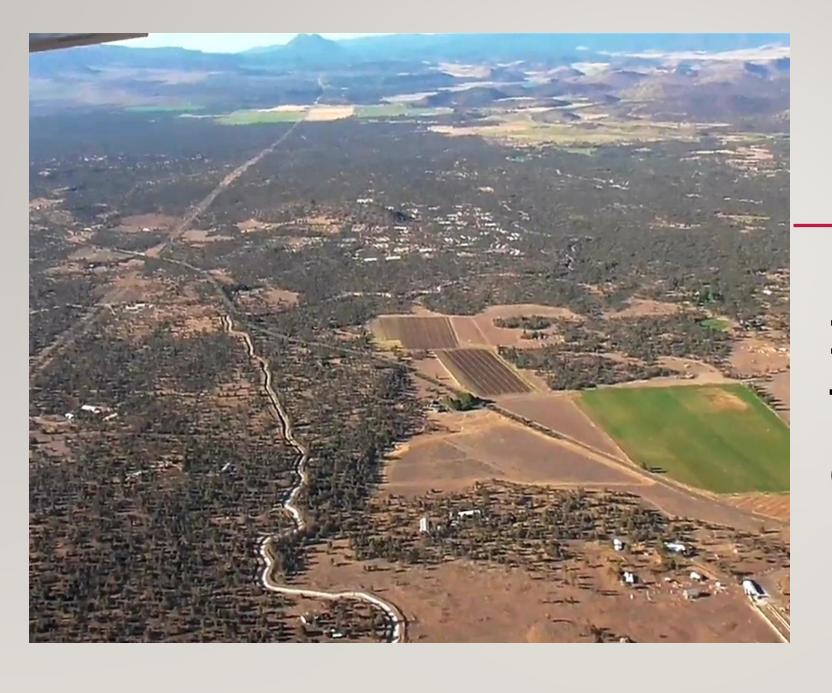




Well drilling

No permits





## SHARING THE LAND AND WATER WITH OUR FOOD SUPPLY











