



Sangre De Cristo (SDC) Laboratory, Inc.

Tierra del Sol Industrial Park, 2329 Lava Lane, Alamosa, CO 81101
Ph: (719) 589-1024 E – Mail: edv@sangrelabs.com Fax (719) 589-3697

December 19, 2015

Memorandum

To: Heather Brooks, City Manager
Erich Schwiesow, Alamosa City Attorney
City Council Members

From: Sangre De Cristo (SDC) Laboratory, Inc. – Edward and Evelyn Vigil

Subject: Prohibition on Marijuana Test Facilities – Retail Marijuana Code, C.R.S. 12-43-4-101

Sangre De Cristo (SDC) Laboratory, Inc. of Alamosa, Colorado has been approached several times in the last 1 – 1 ½ years by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPH&E), and asked us to ‘seriously consider’ testing marijuana. Since 1994, SDC Lab has maintained State and Federal certification for water, soil, and municipal drinking water analyses. SDC Lab currently services the entire San Luis Valley, Huerfano and part of Taos County to fulfill their state and federal water analyses requirements. In addition, SDC Lab is certified by the American Medical Association (AMA) for drug analyses of body fluids and hair analyses for drugs of abuse; and the National Association of Forage Testing (NAFTA) for forage testing to fulfill farmer/ranchers hay, wheat and oat test requirements.

Currently the City’s ordinance (CRS 12-43-4-101) prohibits marijuana testing if it requires a state license. However, if the testing does not require state licensing, than testing of marijuana is permissible. The disadvantage here, we believe, is the wild-west mentality that anyone can test without any restraints or accountability. This opens the door for i.e. testing of marijuana in kitchens, garages, trailers, apartments or other places of convenience without consequences to landlords, businesses, homeowners and the City of Alamosa. Under the current ordinance, there are no controls that prohibit unregulated testing operations to dump their test chemicals or by-products down the city’s drains, toilets, backyards, etc. These unregulated test activities may not only lead to adverse health effects to amateur (and maybe unpaid) analysts who clearly do not understand the dangers of the chemicals they are handling but as they find their way into the Cities lagoons and into the river, they will impact the aquatic vegetation and aquatic life. This is not only reckless behavior but completely negligent and irresponsible.

The advantage of changing this ordinance to require state licensing for testing of marijuana is:

- 1) The lab must be state certified and federally approved by DEA, DOE and CDPH&E for the test operations of marijuana. State licensing falls under the scrutiny of state inspection, laboratory examination and record inquiry. State licensing also requires a rigid and unyielding laboratory protocol for firm and inflexible quality control, quality assurance practices.
- 2) Additionally, State licensing requires that the laboratory will have specialized, skilled and trained analysts and test equipment to performing the marijuana analyses. These analysts, under this current certification are termed chemists and microbiologists and physical science technicians.



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- 3) Licensing approval will also assure the City that test chemicals will not be illegally dumped into the City's wastewater systems. The laboratory not only has EPA and State approved disposable systems in-place for current operations but by City's requirements, SDC Lab also has backflow prevention systems in various locations of SDC Laboratory. Contamination to the City's water supply and wastewater operations is not a possibility.
- 4) SDC Lab is located in the Tierra del Sol Industrial Park suited for laboratory testing.
- 5) City approval and state licensing for the testing of marijuana by SDC Lab will create an additional 2-3 job positions.
- 6) SDC Lab's strategic location in southern Colorado gives marijuana growers and producers the opportunity to leave and bring their business to Alamosa.
- 7) SDC Lab will fulfill Department of Revenue marijuana test requirements for bacteria, yeast, mold and heavy metals and provide product test results to the local medical professionals currently requesting and requiring client marijuana product test results.

According to CDPH&E, they are currently considered limiting the number of marijuana certified laboratories in Colorado. They are interest in the Alamosa location to be one of those locations to provide geographic equity to the marijuana business. SDC Lab has considered their requests and would like to fulfill state test requirements for marijuana. In doing so, we would comply to all requirements and inspections as deemed by the CDPH&E, DOR and DEA. In the interest of transparency, we would like to invite Council members to visit SDC Laboratory and the test facilities for the proposed change of current city ordinance.

To schedule a laboratory visit and/or if you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Evelyn M. Vigil

Edward Vigil

Evelyn M. Vigil
CEO/ Certified Chemist

Edward Vigil
SDC Lab Vice-President