

September 27, 2023

Hello to all El Dorado Gun Club members.

We have an important update for you.

On 9.25.23, Bob St. Amour (vice president El Dorado Gun Club), our legal counsel, Lee Smith with Michel and Associates and myself, met with representatives of the county environmental management department, Mark Moss, the El Dorado County Counsel David A. Livingston, El Dorado Sheriff Leikauf and Undersheriff Sheriff Bryan Golmitz..

The meeting was initiated by the office of Sheriff Leikauf over concerns brought to him by the County Counsel that started with the CUPA (Certified Unified Program Agency, County Environmental Management Department, representative Mike Moss). In a nutshell, the CUPA has run soil tests down in the area of the treatment plant and evaporation field that has lead levels in the reportable range. This area is where most of the lead shot from trap lands.

The county's CUPA plan is to follow up on these tests.

If we continue to shoot trap, they implied they will pursue a cease and desist order against El Dorado Gun Club's trap range. However, if we stop putting lead on to their evaporation field, they have suggested they won't go after the cease and desist. Regardless, we need to work with the county to clean up the site in question. If we were to receive a cease-and-desist order it would be much harder to satisfy the state's requirements and it would be a larger battle to fight.

So... We are going to work with the county to clean this up.

I asked if we could continue if we shot only steel. They were ok with that suggestion--assuming the lead was cleaned up.

I have contacted the company that did the lead reclamation on the pistol and rifle bays.

The problem with continuing to shoot with steel is the reclamation company is reluctant to clean up the lead contaminated with steel.

So, moving forward, **we are shutting down trap as of 7:00 PM October 1st** for the near future and hopefully temporarily. We will also be delaying the clay target shipment immediately. We may need all the money we can get to pay legal and consulting fees. If we don't have a range, we don't need birds. Consequently, all our effort will be in keeping Trap functional. Note that when Trap resumes in the future, we will most likely and out of necessity, be a "Steel Shot Only" range.

It should be obvious that as the President of the EDGC, I am not happy about this. However, we cannot avoid, at minimum, a temporary shutdown. I realize that this will impact the Youth Trap Team as well as our recreational shooters, but it cannot be avoided as a Cease-and-Desist order could lead to a more permanent shutdown and the risk is too great.

Our legal counsel is working diligently on this, and this is his area of expertise. If I have to say it, "working diligently" means "expensive," so prepare for that. But know that we are fighting with urgency to protect our club and all it represents to our members and the community.

Regards, Dave Longcor

President, El Dorado Gun Club