

**Cannabis Visioning Session – Water Considerations –
August 11, 2021 – 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM – Chat**

17:33:17 From Sarah Stierch to Everyone:

✉ Please email us your ideas, questions and comments to Cannabis@sonoma-county.org

🔗 Learn more about this process and get involved:

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Cannabis/Comprehensive-Cannabis-Program-Update-and-Environmental-Impact-Report/>

17:33:25 From Sarah Stierch to Everyone:

🐾 The Coastal Zone will not be effected by this ordinance. See what comprises the Coastal Zone here: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Services/Zoning-and-Parcel-Report/Zoning-Codes-Coastal/>

17:36:46 From Sarah Stierch to Everyone:

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17:40:03 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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17:46:52 From David Kuszmar to Everyone:

Water rates cited are from the Sonoma County Water Supply, Use, and Conservation Assessment Guidelines, which can be found here: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Policies-and-Procedures/8-2-1-Water-Supply-Use-and-Conservation-Assessment-Guidelines/>

17:48:56 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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17:49:05 From David Kuszmar to Everyone:

For those interested in learning more about trends in cannabis irrigation sources and water use rates in Northern California counties, check out this 2019 article, co-written by members of the North Coast Regional Water Board staff: <http://calag.ucanr.edu/archive/?article=ca.2019a0011>

Similar studies by UC Berkeley researchers are underway, and additional published works are expected soon.

17:57:10 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From C Bokaie: Growers use water conserving methods such as dry farming and grow drought resistant strains of cannabis Crops are limited during drought

17:59:04 From David Kuszmar to Everyone:

The Water Boards regulate discharges of waste associated with cannabis cultivation sites through its statewide Cannabis Cultivation Policy and General Order. For more information about

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statewide water quality protection requirements for cannabis cultivators, click here:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cannabis/cannabis_water_quality.html

18:13:22 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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18:17:15 From David Kuszmar to Everyone:

The Water Boards' riparian setbacks apply state-wide based on stream type. Here is a link to the statewide Cannabis Cultivation Policy:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cannabis/docs/policy/final_cannabis_policy_with_attach_a.pdf

Refer to Attachment A, Definition 100 and General Term 37 for details.

18:19:35 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From R Krauss: It is strongly recommended that no cannabis production operations be allowed in upland watersheds (County Water Availability Zones 3 and 4) and in particular watersheds already designated as impaired.

18:19:53 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From J Ballachino: Rip out half (32,500 acres) of vines and replace them with 1000 acres of cannabis . Bring in more tax revenue, save 75% of the water. This is the only solution. Do this or we become a desert.

18:25:04 From Crystal Acker to Everyone:

For all attendees: Please use respectful language. Thank you.

18:27:27 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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18:27:34 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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18:27:37 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From C Bokaie: Use newly updated data of water reserves and usage to assess the amount of cannabis the county could sustain without threatening current water use and needs.

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18:36:13 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From C Dusk: Adopt a moratorium until Sonoma County prepares an EIR to determine environmental conditions and an Ordinance to set standards for the industry. Under the current ordinance we will have cannabis 100 feet from our property lines and 300 feet from our residential homes. Stop accepting new cannabis applications until an environmental setting document is prepared and circulated which analyzes the County's water resource capacity and calculates current water use.

18:36:30 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

Continued: We are in an historic and prolonged drought. Today it was reported that residents living on Harrison Grade are watching their wells run dry. With the progress of Climate Change we can expect to see increased water scarcity and drought (California Department of Fish and Game). Many people in rural areas rely on their wells to provide water. Over-pumping aquifers leads to the collapse of the aquifer. That's it. They cannot be restored. This leaves existing agriculture and residents without the ability to provide water for themselves. It is urgently important to protect our aquifers from over water consumption and deep well drilling by cannabis cultivators. We must protect our wetlands to provide an environmental buffer. We must protect our water sheds. This is not the time to be seriously considering permitting large tracts of cannabis cultivation as it is a crop that requires six times the water that grapes do. Therefore, Cannabis must be prohibited from zones 3 and 4, impaired watersheds

18:37:52 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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18:50:34 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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