

**Cannabis Visioning Session – Visual Considerations –
August 12, 2021 – 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM – Chat**

17:38:30 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) 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/>

👤📄 Today's presentation: <https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/-pn0a5McFKU/PowerPoint%20Presentations/Cannabis%20Update%20Visioning%20Session%20PPT%20Visual%20Considerations%2008-12-2021.pdf>

17:39:17 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

REMINDER: We'll be using the dismiss tool for any comments that are racist, sexist, homophobic, or ageist, vulgar or disrespectful of others or deemed irrelevant to tonight's goals. The comments will still be part of the public record, they just won't detract from today's conversation. Thank you.

17:47:51 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From S Olsen: The visual beauty of Sonoma County that I value as a third generation Sonoma County resident is the open vistas seen from almost any road. Whether it is the undeveloped land with the native grasses and trees, the pasture land with the cows, sheep, horses, and the like, or the vineyards with the annual display of colors, Sonoma County offers an idyllic place to live.

17:49:23 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From D & V Strain: Sonoma County's tourist industry is largely based on its rural character, bucolic countryside vistas and rolling green hills dotting with grazing animals. To protect this valuable industry, Sonoma County must identify existing and eligible cannabis cultivation sites that may apply for a cannabis cultivation permit and provide an analysis of view sheds and simulations of views from public viewpoints such as trails, roadways, parks and scenic vistas to determine the best siting to mitigate visual impacts.

17:50:38 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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17:54:52 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From D & V Strain: Commercial cannabis cultivation operations must not be visible in designated scenic Corridors or scenic landscape units. Siting of operations and/or screening must not degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views and its surroundings and/or have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.

17:55:32 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From K Roberts-Gutzman: NO cannabis in rural neighborhoods

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17:56:09 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From C Dusk: Therefore, we urge the County to prohibit cannabis cultivation and processing in rural and residential development zones, slopes over 15%, in voter approved community separators or where visible from scenic roads, parks, public right-of-ways or any identified scenic resource. Prohibit cannabis cultivation/processing in our dwindling oak woodlands or anywhere where the operation will necessitate the felling of native trees.

17:57:30 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From K Roberts-Gutzman: Grow cannabis in warehouses where it is out of sight

18:03:41 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From D & V Strain: Prohibit cannabis hoop house use in any location that can be seen from a Scenic Corridor, a public park or a public right of way, classify hoop houses as outdoor cultivation with no electrical, plumbing or mechanical, limit the siting of hoop houses and require that no flapping plastic exists or contaminates the environment

18:04:39 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

Map for scenic corridors, etc. <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Long-Range-Plans/General-Plan/Open-Space-Scenic-Resource-Areas/>

18:04:39 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From R Krug: This agricultural crop should not be grown anywhere remotely near suburban neighborhoods. Industrial areas, not residential.

18:05:36 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From G Frederickson: The unsightly tall, plastic screened fences (as seen in construction sites) are commonly used for screening grows, creating a huge eyesore covering acres of a parcel. This is not in character with other properties in rural neighborhoods - traditional farms have fencing that keeps people out but still allows scenic views. We do not want to see those construction fences all over Sonoma County's beautiful countryside. Why must the marijuana plants be screened from view? We would prefer to see the plants rather than eight foot high plastic screens.

18:10:02 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From G Frederickson: Fences in character with the area. Deer or cattle fencing with standard barbed wire. Require vegetation for screening. There are many fast growing shrubs. Do not allow acres of land to be covered with 8+ ft high plastic screened fences that ruin scenic views and property values.

18:10:52 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From S Olsen: Visually separating a cannabis operation means putting it someplace where it is simply not visible. Perhaps what that means is putting cultivation operations where no one expects to have a view. If an operator wants to establish a grow he/she can buy land in an industrial park. If it is not visually separated you end up with an eyesore when you look out your window.

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18:11:14 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

Continued: . Retail and supply chain don't really require visual separation. These businesses simply need to operate within the zoning requirements and the law.

18:15:46 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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18:17:26 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

💡 Visit this link to learn more about the General Plan's Open Space and Resource Conservation Element which includes lighting, rural character, landscaping, scenic corridors and more.

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Long-Range-Plans/General-Plan/Open-Space-and-Resource-Conservation/>

18:18:56 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From D & V Strain: Specifically require the provisions of the County's Open Space & Resource Conservation Elements are applicable to Commercial Cannabis Cultivation.

Require that no light escape structures from dusk to dawn, and that security lights are aimed downward

18:20:38 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From K Roberts-Gutzman: No type of structure makes a difference when everything stinks.

18:21:26 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From D & V Strain: If the use of plastic sheeting is allowed by Sonoma County require cannabis applicants to develop a Recycling and Plastic Management Plan to cleanup cultivation sites and to prevent pollution of natural resources, danger to wildlife and aquatic animals, prevent plastic debris drift on adjacent properties and public rights of way and reduce aesthetic blight

18:24:17 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

You can download the General Plan's element about lighting here:

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Long-Range-Plans/General-Plan/Open-Space-and-Resource-Conservation/> Visit section 2.4

18:28:33 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From N Graalman: Re lighting: Only the absence of light -- except for the night sky -- can preserve the character of Franz Valley and all of Sonoma County.

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18:28:34 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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18:31:04 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From S Olsen: . The accountability for visual issues required an open and transparent permitting process where proposed activities are required to address the visual aspects or their proposed operation and that all affected neighbors are given proper notice and an opportunity to be heard. Ministerial approvals should not be a part of the process.

18:34:23 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From K Roberts-Gutzman: Cannabis rules are the rules. If you can't follow them you done.

18:35:56 From Sarah Stierch (she/her) to Everyone:

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18:38:50 From McCall Miller to Everyone:

From K Roberts-Gutzman: Cannabis should but out of sight. It is a control substance
Protect ou neighborhoods. We are saddened by the loss of our neighbors that are leave the
state. Please know our wonderful neighbors are LEAVING