

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNTY OF SONOMA CANNABIS LAND USE ORDINANCE AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS

WHO & WHAT: The County of Sonoma is proposing to adopt amendments to the County Code, Chapter 26 and new Chapter 38, to allow expanded ministerial permitting for commercial cannabis cultivation in agricultural and resource zoned areas. The County of Sonoma also proposes a general plan amendment to include cannabis within the meaning of agriculture. The proposed new Chapter 38 expands ministerial permitting of commercial cannabis cultivation in agricultural and resource zoned areas of the unincorporated county, outside of the coastal zone, sets objective standards for issuance of ministerial permits in those zones to protect public health, safety, and the environment and to promote neighborhood compatibility. It also clarifies and aligns ordinance definitions with state law. The proposed amendments to Chapter 26 are technical in nature. They are designed to align and harmonize with proposed Chapter 38 to avoid duplication concerning ministerial permitting. They also clarify the relationship between the two chapters regarding local land use regulation of cannabis cultivation and supply chain business activity and when a discretionary use permit is required. The ordinance changes include the removal of the prohibition on tasting, promotional activities, and events related to commercial cannabis activities.

LOCATION: The affected areas are unincorporated Sonoma County, outside of the coastal zone.

CEQA: A Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration is proposed to be adopted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State and County CEQA Guidelines. The draft Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration has found that the proposed ordinance amendments and general plan amendment as written will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

WHERE & WHEN: **The Sonoma County Planning Commission** will hold a virtual public hearing to consider making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on this project on **Thursday, March 18, 2021, at or after 1:10 PM**. In accordance with Executive Orders N-33-20 and N-29-20, this meeting will be conducted via videoconference only, without a physical location from which members of the public may observe and offer public comment. Members of the public may watch, listen, and participate in the hearing through Zoom or by phone call. Instructions for participating in the hearing via Zoom or phone call will be published on the Planning Commission's agenda for its March 18, 2021 meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Meeting materials are available on the Cannabis Program website, <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/cannabis-program/>. Additional project related documents may be obtained by contacting the County Administrator's Office, Department Analyst, McCall Miller via email to Cannabis@sonoma-county.org or (707) 565-2431.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED: Comments should be addressed to the Planning Commission c/o McCall Miller, Department Analyst, Cannabis Program, County Administrator's Office, and submitted electronically to Cannabis@sonoma-county.org; or by mail to 575 Administration Drive, Suite 104A, Santa Rosa, California 95403.

Public comment during the meeting: Members of the public who join the Zoom meeting, either through the Zoom app or by telephone, will have an opportunity to provide live comments during the hearing. Please refer to the meeting agenda for instructions on how to join the meeting via the Zoom app or by telephone. The agenda will be posted online approximately 1 week prior to the hearing date, at the following web address: <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Planning-Agency/Full-Calendar/>

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