

EIR Scoping Meeting for Sonoma County Comprehensive Cannabis Program Update

March 8, 2023

Presentation Overview

- Project Characteristics
- Introduction to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Scope of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Opportunities to Provide Input

Project Summary



Project Background

- Sonoma County currently regulates commercial cannabis land uses in the unincorporated areas of the County under Zoning Code Sections 26-88-250 through 26-88-256 and regulates personal cannabis cultivation under Section 26-88-258.
- On March 15, 2022, the Board adopted a Cannabis Program Update Framework to guide development of the project description, CEQA alternatives, and draft ordinance.

Cannabis Program Update Framework

- Consideration of one or more General Plan Amendments
- Policy development informed by data and factual analyses, including
 - Setbacks
 - Criteria for and mapping of “Rural Neighborhood Enclave”
 - Criteria for and mapping of Exclusion and Inclusion Zones
- Permit streamlining

CEQA Process Summary

CEQA Process: What is CEQA?

- Purpose of CEQA:
 - Evaluate project's environmental effects
 - Reduce significant effects, where feasible
 - Public involvement and disclosure
 - Informed decision making
- If potential for significant impact, EIR is prepared
- Significant impact is a substantial and adverse change in physical environment

CEQA Process: EIR Process Overview

- Scoping to gather public and agency input on the scope of the EIR
 - Notice of Preparation of an EIR
 - Public Scoping Meeting
- Draft EIR prepared
- Public review of Draft EIR to disclose impacts and allow for comments
 - Notice of Availability of Draft EIR
 - Draft EIR Public Hearing
- Final EIR, including responses to comments
- EIR certification
- Project consideration

CEQA Process: Scoping for EIR

Purpose: Solicit input and comments on the scope of the EIR, the issues it should address, and alternatives to consider

- Notice of Preparation Published: February 6, 2023
- Scoping Period: February 6 to March 23, 2023
- Scoping Meeting: March 8, 2023

Scope of the EIR

EIR Format

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Project Description
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Cumulative Impacts
- Alternatives
- Other Sections Required By Statute
- Report Preparers
- Appendices

Environmental Impact Areas to be Addressed in the EIR

- Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- Agricultural & Forest Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

Providing Input

Sonoma County is seeking your input

- Verbal comments may be offered today
- Written comments can be submitted today or sent to the following address:

Crystal Acker, Supervising Planner

County of Sonoma

2550 Ventura Avenue

Santa Rosa, California 95403

Or e-mail to: Cannabis@sonoma-county.org

- Focus comments on environmental issues
- Notice of Preparation comment period ends on March 23, 2023

Thank you!