

Public Comment Regarding Cannabis Ordinance
and Program Update

Received November 2021

From: [Bill Krawetz](#)
To: [Cannabis](#); [Tennis Wick](#); [Scott Orr](#)
Subject: Cannabis EIR Draft Ordinance timeline -status
Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:19:43 AM

EXTERNAL

Hi Crystal Acker, Scott Orr, and Tennis Wick,

Reviewing the below timeline from the County's website, I has a couple questions on the current status:

- 1) Are we currently in the "Development of Draft Ordinance Framework" phase?
- 2) If so is the expectation to be completed by year end?
- 3) If so, this phase mentions identifying elements through public outreach. Do you have such public outreach meetings scheduled or plan to schedule?

I know with the holidays coming, it's a tough time to fit everything in.

Thanks Bill Krawetz

Timeline (subject to change)

- June 8, 2021 Board approval of initial resources request ([Link to June 8, 2021 Board Summary Report](#))
- **Development of Draft Ordinance Framework – October 2021 through December 2021 - WE ARE HERE**
 - Complete a draft ordinance framework including all potential program elements to consider in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the new program
 - Identify potential program elements to develop further through additional public outreach
- **Development and Refinement of Draft Ordinance – January 2022 through May 2022**
 - January 2022 – Draft Ordinance Framework Complete/Initiate Competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) Process for an EIR Consultant
 - Continue public outreach to develop and refine potential program elements, listen to concerns, and develop options to address concerns
 - May, 2022 – Draft Ordinance complete for environmental analysis
- **Environmental Impact Report (EIR) – June 2022 through Fall 2023**
 - June, 2022 – EIR Professional Services Agreement Board Award
 - June, 2022 – Notice of Preparation published for the Draft EIR
 - July, 2022 – Public scoping meeting(s)
 - Seek public input on what Potential Environmental Impacts should be considered in the EIR

- Conduct environmental analysis of the proposed draft ordinance
- Provide public access to technical studies used in the environmental analysis, as available
- Provide regular public status updates throughout the EIR process
- Fall 2023 – Draft EIR Published for Public Comment
- **Draft Ordinance and EIR Approval – Fall 2023 through Summer 2024**
 - Fall 2023 – Draft EIR to Planning Commission for public comment
 - Revisions to draft ordinance based on public comment and Planning Commission direction
 - Spring 2024 – Planning Commission Hearing on Proposed Ordinance
 - Summer 2024 – Board Hearing on Proposed Ordinance

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From: [Crystal Acker](#)
To: "Bill Krawetz"
Cc: [Cannabis](#); [Tennis Wick](#); [Scott Orr](#)
Subject: RE: Cannabis EIR Draft Ordinance timeline -status
Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 3:45:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi Bill,

The Ordinance update team is working on developing the draft ordinance framework right now (highlighted in yellow below), based on the public outreach already conducted earlier this year and Board direction given on 9/28/2021. Part of the current effort is identifying specific elements of that framework where additional public outreach could help inform development of the actual draft ordinance during the **Development and Refinement of Draft Ordinance** phase, which is targeted to begin early next year. Additional organized public outreach would not occur until 2022. That said, comments can be submitted at any time through the [cannabis](#) email.

crystal

Crystal Acker, M.S.

Supervising Planner

www.PermitSonoma.org

County of Sonoma

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The Permit Center has reopened with limited capacity Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Wednesday, 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

Thank you for your patience as we work to keep staff and the community safe.

From: Bill Krawetz <billkrawetz@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:20 AM

To: Cannabis <Cannabis@sonoma-county.org>; Tennis Wick <Tennis.Wick@sonoma-county.org>;
Scott Orr <Scott.Orr@sonoma-county.org>

Subject: Cannabis EIR Draft Ordinance timeline -status

EXTERNAL

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From: [Emily Binder](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Franz Valley
Date: Friday, November 12, 2021 8:12:37 PM

EXTERNAL

I am writing to request that Franz valley be put in a cannabis commercial exclusion zone for the following reasons:

Rationale includes

- ~Marginal water (Zone 3)
- ~Bisected by Franz Creek that hosts rare endangered species (fresh water shrimp, steelhead fingerlings)
- ~in the Russian River watershed
- ~High fire risk (history of catastrophic fires including the Hanly/1964, the Tubbs/2017, the Kincade/2019)
- ~Air quality/Odor: Franz Valley is a small deep box canyon of a valley where air circulation may result in concentration of noxious odor constituting a Public Nuisance
- ~Risk of damage to long-existing commercial crops (tainting of wine grapes)
- ~Remote from first responders (approx 30 minutes), incl fire and law enforcement
- ~Narrow, winding roads

Sincerely,
Are you concerned resident, mother, and friend,

Emily Binder

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Debbie Schneider](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: Play place Benny Valley in a commercial Cannabis exclusion zone
Date: Friday, November 12, 2021 1:22:16 PM

EXTERNAL

We have been Residents of Bennett Valley since 1984 and own a business that helps provide tax income to Sonoma County. We try to protect Sonoma County and Bennett Valley in every possible way. We respectfully request that Bennett Valley be placed in a commercial cannabis exclusion zone.

George A. Schneider DDS
Debra Brown Schneider PhD

DBS

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From: [Geo Jackson](#)
To: [Cannabis](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [district4](#)
Subject: request that Franz Valley be placed in a commercial cannabis exclusion zone
Date: Friday, November 12, 2021 4:07:22 PM

EXTERNAL

Hello,

As a resident of Franz Valley, I want to request that Franz Valley be placed in a commercial cannabis exclusion zone. I am in favor of allowing small growers to grow cannabis here but our area is not suited for commercial growers.

Some of the reasons large grows should not be allowed include:

- ~Marginal water (Zone 3)
- ~Bisected by Franz Creek that hosts rare endangered species (freshwater shrimp, steelhead fingerlings)
- ~in the Russian River watershed
- ~High fire risk (history of catastrophic fires including the Hanly/1964, the Tubbs/2017, the Kincade/2019)
- ~Air quality/Odor: Franz Valley is a small deep box canyon of a valley where air circulation may result in a concentration of noxious odor constituting a Public Nuisance
- ~Risk of damage to long-existing commercial crops (tainting of wine grapes)
- ~Remote from first responders (approx 30 minutes), incl fire and law enforcement
- ~Narrow, winding roads
- ~Numerous long, narrow multi-resident shared rights-of-way

Thank you,

George Jackson
3470 Franz Valley Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707 579 8053

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From: [Bridget](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#)
Cc: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: request that Bennett Valley be placed in a commercial cannabis exclusion zone
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 4:08:12 PM

EXTERNAL

Hello, I have lived in Bennet valley for over 30 years. Keep this county nice. Keep our soil healthy. Don't let a short term goal of money ruin the long term goal of healthy environment and safety. I request that Bennett Valley be placed in a commercial cannabis exclusion zone.

Bridget

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From: [Crystal Acker](#)
To: [Cannabis](#)
Subject: FW: SCOPING QUESTIONS, CANNABIS EIR
Date: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 9:34:02 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Just FYI

From: Scott Orr
Sent: November 24, 2021 9:29 AM
To: 'nrchrdsn@sonic.net' <nrchrdsn@sonic.net>
Cc: Crystal Acker <Crystal.Acker@sonoma-county.org>; Tennis Wick <Tennis.Wick@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: RE: SCOPING QUESTIONS, CANNABIS EIR

Hi Nancy and Brantly,

It has been a little while since we've communicated so this might be a bit lengthy.

First, to answer your question if we are discarding comment: No.

Was the public comment only used to develop the item for 9/28: No.

We do not list environmental requirements as policy options because they are not options, they are mandatory. Even if no one cared about water we would be looking at impacts to water resources (Hydrology/Water Quality), for example.

Right now we are taking the feedback already received over the last few months, particularly at the September BOS meeting, and developing what we are calling the ordinance framework. Most of that comment was not new—you all, and others, have been very consistent in your message. We're still hoping to have the next deliverable for the public completed internally in December so that we can come to the BOS and public in late January and get feedback on that and hopefully get the green light for a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP process is how we begin the process of selecting a firm to conduct the EIR on the project.

While that RFP is occurring, which likely will take 6 months, we'll use that time to begin developing the draft ordinance content itself and coming back out to the public again. I'm hoping to go beyond small group zooms and surveys but we'll see what early 2022 has in store for us. To begin the RFP process we need what is essentially a list of expectations on what will be looked at, so that environmental firms can determine whether they have the qualifications and resources (time) to meet the needs of the project. Once the RFP process is complete we will then have the more refined project description to hand over to the environmental firm.

Sharing the draft ordinance framework, getting authorization to put out an RFP, and awarding the contract are all part of the public process.

One of the less exciting pieces that we've been working on since September is the admin side of things. Since this is a multi-year effort that involves new term-limited positions we have been working with Human Resources, conducting interviews, reviewing potential budgets, making sure we have outreach capacity with existing communications folks, and figuring out where our new planner and admin assistant are actually going to sit (once they are hired).

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, thank you for giving me the opportunity to share a bit about what we have been working on!

Scott Orr

Deputy Director of Planning

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Thank you for your patience as we work to keep staff and the community safe.

From: Nancy and Brantly Richardson <nrchrdsn@sonic.net>

Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 5:42 PM

To: Scott Orr <Scott.Orr@sonoma-county.org>

Cc: Crystal Acker <Crystal.Acker@sonoma-county.org>; Tennis Wick <Tennis.Wick@sonoma-county.org>

Subject: SCOPING QUESTIONS, CANNABIS EIR

EXTERNAL

Hello, Scott,

We recently reviewed the material presented to the BOS on 9/28 and see that this period of time (October through December of 2021) is to include “Continued public engagement” as you “develop complete framework”. Also “Continued public engagement” is listed to occur from January to May of 2022 after the “complete draft ordinance/EIR project description” has been released.

Questions: What exactly is being done to invite further public engagement? Will all the input the public has already provided in the workshops, small group sessions and survey be considered as you “develop the framework”? or has that been discarded and does the public have to resubmit? Was that input from the public only used to develop Staff recommendations (page 22) for the 9/28 hearing? In other words, are you only using page 22 to develop the framework? Did you notice that water resources is not on that list? There are many more CEQA requirements that do not appear on the list of staff recommended “policy options”. Copied below. Will they be addressed in the “complete draft ordinance/EIR project description? Will the “complete draft ordinance/EIR project description” be released in early or late January?

Thanks, N. and B.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

Aesthetics Agriculture and Forestry

Resources Air Quality

Biological Resources Cultural Resources Energy

Geology /Soils Greenhouse Gas Emissions Hazards & Hazardous Materials

Hydrology / Water Quality Land Use / Planning Mineral Resources

Noise Population / Housing Public Services

Recreation Transportation Tribal Cultural Resources

Utilities / Service Systems Wildfire

Mandatory Findings of Significance

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