



Industrial Hemp

Can I register to cultivate industrial hemp if I am not an “Established Agricultural Research Institution” as defined under state law?

No, not at this time. Currently there is a state approved registration fee established for industrial hemp cultivators to register with their local County Agricultural Commissioner’s office. However, the state has not yet promulgated regulations for the administration, inspection, and enforcement work associated with this program. Registration for industrial hemp cultivation in Monterey County will not be available until final state regulations are adopted.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is expected to finalize regulations for the registration of industrial hemp growers in April or May 2019. Regulations for inspections, sampling, and crop destruction are still under development and will follow later. Once CDFA makes registration materials available, growers will be able to register with the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner.

However, Monterey County considers the cultivation of industrial hemp to be a use of similar character, density and intensity to commercial cannabis cultivation.

Therefore, an Administrative Permit is required in the inland zone, and a Coastal Development Permit is required in the coastal zone. This includes industrial hemp grown as a research crop. Please contact the Monterey County Resource Management Agency at (831) 755-5025 for permit application information.

What are the requirements for an “Established Agricultural Research Institution” to legally cultivate industrial hemp in Monterey County?

The cultivator must meet all the following requirements:

- Meet the definition of an “Established Agricultural Research Institution” pursuant to California Food and Agricultural Code section 81000(c.)
- Provide the following information to the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner:

- GPS coordinates, in decimal degrees up to six decimals, of all sites used for cultivating industrial hemp.
- The name of the institution that is cultivating, including the name and contact information for the primary point of contact.
- The names of all individuals involved with cultivation as members of, or on behalf of the institution, and the nature of their relationship.
- Obtain the appropriate land use entitlement and all other applicable permits from the Monterey County Resource Management Agency.
 - An Administrative Permit is required in the inland zone, and a Coastal Development Permit is required in the coastal zone.
 - Industrial hemp cultivation must be in a zoning district where the commercial cultivation of cannabis is allowed under the Monterey County Code.
 - Industrial hemp cultivation must occur inside a greenhouse or industrial building that was legally established as of January 1, 2016.
- Post all appropriate signage identifying industrial hemp cultivation at the site.
- Industrial hemp cultivators are subject to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (Ag Order and Waiver) of the Water Quality Control Board. Please contact their Region 3 Office at (805) 549-3147 x 7 for more information and enrollment. (Enter the phone number again when prompted for the phone tree.)

What are the requirements to legally manufacture hemp-derived products?

Monterey County considers the manufacture of industrial hemp to be a use of similar character, density and intensity to commercial cannabis manufacturing.

The manufacturer must meet all the following requirements:

- Obtain the appropriate land use entitlement and all other applicable permits from the Monterey County Resource Management Agency.
 - An Administrative Permit is required in the inland zone, and a Coastal Development Permit is required in the coastal zone.
 - Manufacturing must be in a zoning district where manufacturing of commercial cannabis is allowed under the Monterey County Code.
- Pursuant to Chapter 10.04 of the Monterey County Code, obtain all applicable Health Permits from the Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau (EHB).
 - If volatile extraction is used, obtain permits for hazardous materials and hazardous waste from the EHB.

- Please contact the Environmental Health Cannabis Management Services at 831-796-1274 for permit information.
- If volatile extraction is used, obtain all necessary permits/review from the Monterey Bay Area Resources District, and the local fire district.

Also please note, the [California Department of Public Health](#) and the U.S. FDA inform that the use of hemp-derived CBD as a food additive or dietary supplement has not been approved and is not allowed.