

County of Monterey Cannabis Program Strategic Plan

September 2024 Through August 2026

Includes

Mission

Goals

Strategies

Priorities



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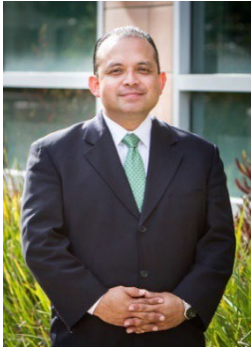
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County of Monterey Board of Supervisors

District 1 Luis Alejo	District 2 Glenn Church	District 3 Chris Lopez	District 4 Wendy Root Askew	District 5 Kate Daniels
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Strategic Planning Overview



Six interviews with County departments and key stakeholders were conducted as part of updating the strategic plan

In 2018, the County of Monterey Cannabis Program (Program) adopted a strategic plan to establish a mission and set goals and strategies that would guide the Program. Since the initial plan was adopted, there have been regulatory and policy changes, Program development, and shifts within the cannabis industry. In June 2020 and 2023 the strategic plan was revised keeping to the original mission and goal statements, updating only the strategies and priorities. The 2024 strategic plan has been updated with input from seven key County departments, fire districts, and members of the cannabis industry. While the mission of the 2024 strategic plan remains unchanged, the plan contains updated goals, strategies, and priorities to be implemented during the next two years.

Direction from Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors sets policy direction for the Program. That direction is imbedded within this strategic plan document.

Input from County Departments and Industry Representatives

In July and August of 2024, representatives of seven County departments, external departments with key roles in the Program, and industry members convened via Zoom and in person to update the strategic plan. The updated strategic plan includes focus group feedback that facilitated changes to the goal language, strategies, and priorities.

Strategic Plan Update Process

The strategic plan focus groups were facilitated by Program staff and included questions created to gather subjective perceptions and insights on goal strategies and priorities. The focus group meetings included follow-up emails and calls to clarify responses. Focus group results were analyzed identifying common key themes and differences in participant responses.



This strategic plan was updated based on feedback from:

- County departments
- External departments
- Members of the cannabis industry



County of Monterey Cannabis Program

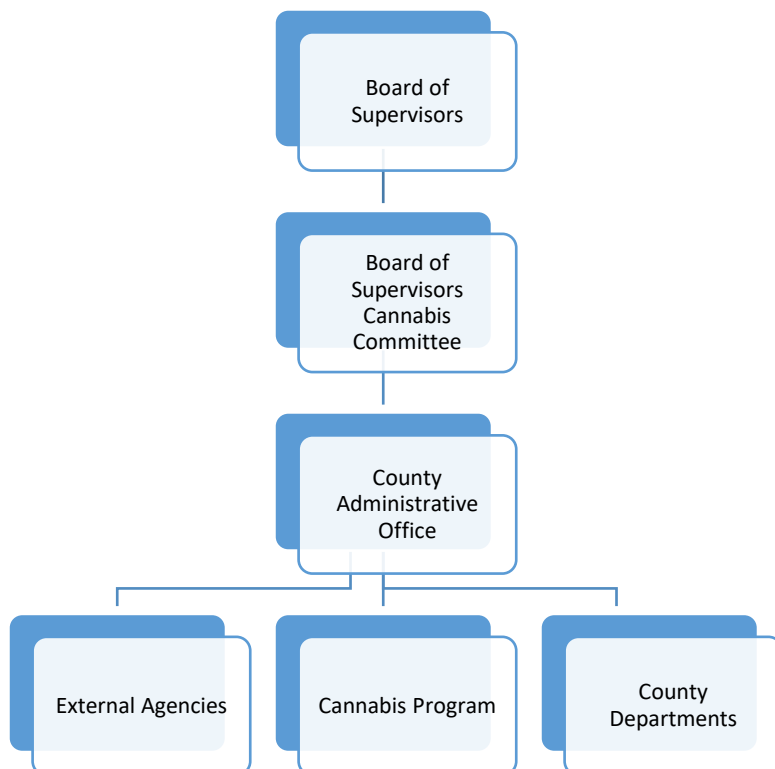
Brief History

In 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215 (Compassionate Use Act), making California the first state allowing the sale and medical use of cannabis. In 2016, California voters passed Proposition 64 (Adult Use of Marijuana Act) making California the most populous state to legalize adult use of cannabis. Today, California's main statute governing cannabis is the Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act.

On July 7, 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted an interim ordinance (ORD #5424) to address cannabis activities in the unincorporated areas of Monterey County. At the same time, the Board's ad hoc cannabis committee was formed. In September of 2016, the Board of Supervisors created policy to encourage a local cannabis industry as part of the County's economic development efforts, and to grow tax revenues to fund important County services. With the advent of the new State law Proposition 64 and the culmination of Monterey County voters approving a tax on cannabis products (Measure Y) in November of 2016 the County of Monterey Cannabis Program.

Policy Direction and Oversight

Policy direction and oversight is provided by the Board of Supervisors, which, in 2018, established a standing two-member Cannabis Committee. Both Supervisors are appointed to the Cannabis Committee at the beginning of each calendar year.



Program oversight is provided by the County Administrative Office (CAO) and coordination is provided by the Program. The Program is staffed by the Cannabis Program Manager, a Management Analyst III, and a Senior Secretary.

Seven County departments and multiple external agencies have key responsibilities in implementing various aspects of the Program. Together, they play an important role in the success of the cannabis industry within the County of Monterey.



7 County departments and the fire districts have key roles in the Cannabis Program's success

Program Coordination

The Program is a unit within the CAO's Office. It coordinates activities with and between key departments, external agencies, the Department of Cannabis Control, the cannabis industry, and public and community groups. Seven County departments and the fire districts work collaboratively to enforce local cannabis policies and regulations as well as regulations imposed by the Department of Cannabis Control and various state and federal agencies. Each of these organizations plays a critical role and requires the Program to be well coordinated, with effective internal and external communication to ensure the policy direction of the Board of Supervisors is achieved.

Program Manager

The Program is administered by the Cannabis Program Manager who has several key responsibilities:

- Coordinates the collaboration of County departments and fire districts.
- Manages Program staff.
- Department of Cannabis Control point of contact for state licensing local approval.
- Manages the cannabis compliance inspection process.
- Monitors progression toward proposed strategic plan goals and strategies to adjust the Program's direction when appropriate.
- Coordinates effective tracking for data and Program indicators.

*Overall Program management is provided from the County Administrative Office through the **Cannabis Program Manager**.*

The strategic plan will **establish a framework** to guide the Program over the next 2 years.

- Prepares and coordinates reports to the Board of Supervisors Cannabis Committee, Budget Committee, and the Board of Supervisors.
- Monitors the Program budget, including cannabis allocations and assignment.
- Monitors legislative and regulatory activity.
- Manages one state-funded grant (Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant).

Program Enforcement

Enforcement efforts related to the Program require high-level staff from several County departments to effectively respond to both permitted and unpermitted commercial cannabis activities. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for criminal and civil enforcement. The District Attorney's Office (DA) maintains a broad role, working collaboratively with other law enforcement, code inspectors, and governmental agencies. The DA conducts civil and/or criminal investigations into violations of law involving the illegal, unlicensed, and licensed cannabis industry. The DA enforces the law in a variety of ways including providing verbal notice, education, seeking civil penalties for unfair business practices, along with criminal probation and prison for severe illegal violations. These County departments collaborate with two State agencies (Department of Cannabis Control and California Department of Fish and Wildlife) when conducting cannabis enforcement activities.

Program Compliance

Ensuring Programmatic compliance within the legal cannabis industry involves a multi-faceted approach and participation from various County departments including the Office of the County Counsel, the Environmental Health Bureau (EHB), fire districts, and Housing and Community Development (HCD). These entities work together to enforce local, state, and federal laws and promote responsible business practices within the cannabis industry.

EHB is committed to balancing the economic opportunities presented by the lawful cannabis industry with the need to protect Monterey County's unique environmental resources and to support the well-being of its residents. This is accomplished by encouraging cannabis cultivation and production practices that minimize environmental impact, such as sustainable water use, soil conservation, and reduction of chemical use. EHB staff conduct regular inspections and monitoring to ensure compliance with environmental and health standards.

Inspectors from HCD enforce compliance with the County Code and work directly with regional fire districts and the industry to ensure businesses comply with local and state law and building and/or fire code requirements.

The strategic plan contains agreed upon *strategies for action*.



Cannabis inspections are completed several times a year to monitor and enforce State and local requirements, regardless of business size or location, holding all to the same standards, and, where appropriate, consistent with the severity of violations.

Program Finance

The Treasure Tax Collector's office and the Office of the Auditor-Controller collect and monitor cannabis tax revenue.

The County of Monterey has benefited from the commercial cannabis industry, which has generated collections of more than \$87 million in cannabis business tax revenue between fiscal year 2016-17 and fiscal year 2023-24. A breakdown of cannabis tax revenue can be found in Appendix A.

Public Health

The County of Monterey Cannabis Education Program (CEP) serves the entire County, including its 12 incorporated cities. Its overarching goal is to provide current fact driven information that empowers the community to make informed choices about their health. CEP is housed in the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division of the County Health Department, Public Health Bureau.

CEP provides school-based cannabis education and prevention classes to middle and high school youth. To further facilitate youth cannabis prevention, CEP staff provide parent focused cannabis education classes and skill building on how to be approachable and maintain open communication.

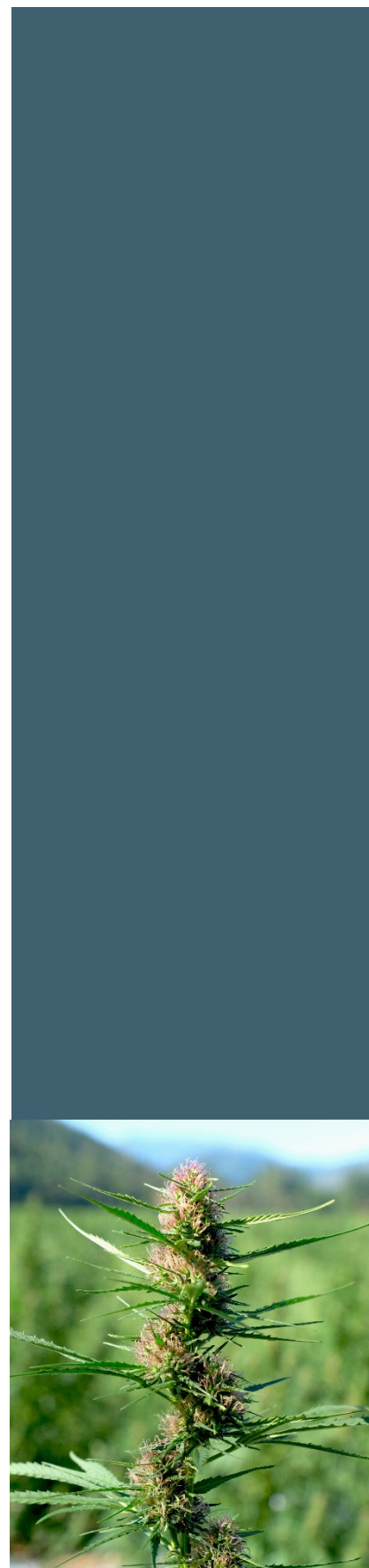
CEP utilizes social marketing to address a variety of issues including illicit market, over consumption, and safe storage. CEP creates media concepts in collaboration with the cannabis industry through the Cannabis Safety sub-committee.

Cannabis Industry

As the cannabis landscape evolves, with shifting market dynamics and regulatory challenges, it's crucial to adapt to meet these changes.

For example, in mid-2021, the commercial cannabis industry began to experience the effects of oversaturation statewide, causing wholesale price points to drop significantly. This affected the viability of many business operations and challenged the industry's sustainability.

Mixed-light cannabis production is economically unstable due to high electric costs pushing many cannabis operators to outdoor cannabis licenses. Further, if more cannabis licenses are converted to outdoor, tax revenue will decline unless offset by new and emerging growth. This can be realized by



providing space for on-site consumption and attracting new business to Monterey County.

Program Communication and Information

Providing timely information to stakeholders is critical to the success of the Program. Stakeholders include the Board of Supervisors, County departments, cannabis industry representatives, external agencies, and the public. Ongoing communication and dissemination of information is consistent with the Program's overall Program goals and strategies. Internal stakeholders are engaged through meetings, emails, and phone conversations to ensure continued communication among County departments and external agencies.

Bimonthly cannabis industry meetings are held to foster communication and review areas of concern. These meetings have proved invaluable and significantly increased County/industry collaboration. The Board of Supervisors is provided updates during bimonthly Cannabis Committee meetings. These meetings provide a venue for the Program, community, and cannabis industry members to disseminate information, discuss ideas, and offer the Program direction and oversight.

The Program webpage is maintained and will be reviewed and updated quarterly. During a recent cannabis industry meeting, ideas were shared on ways to improve the webpage. Over the next year, the Program will update the look of the webpage, adding a calendar of events and drop-down cannabis business permit menus. External links for the Board of Supervisors, County department, fire districts, and Department of Cannabis Control will be included. Additionally, the webpage will host permitting forms with instructions and have a "Contact Us" feature for questions and inquiries. Finally, the Program will provide links on its website to several County departments, to ensure public/industry inquiries are properly directed to Program staff.

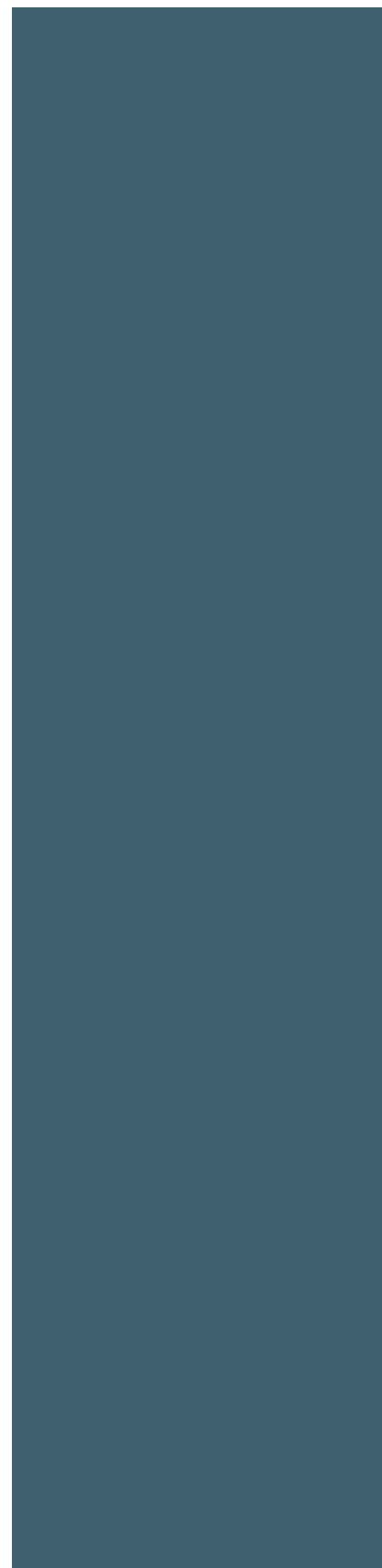
To increase public visibility and promote services, the Program will create a Meta account (Facebook/Instagram). The Meta account will provide industry news, product recalls, and links to County departments and State agencies. Program staff will work with collaborating agencies to gather current, relevant information and engage the community on a more personal level.

Performance Indicators

The Cannabis Program reports its progress during cannabis industry meetings and the Board of Supervisors Cannabis Committee. The Program will report on performance indicators to provide a quantifiable measure of progress over the next two years. These Performance indicators have been



developed to monitor Program progress towards the updated goal language found on page eight. They are driven by the strategies that will achieve the Program's goals over the next two years.



Cannabis Program **Mission and Goals**



*The **mission** statement describes the purpose of the Cannabis Program*

*4 **Program goals** have been established to work toward*

Our Mission

Through collaboration with multiple County departments, provide a local framework for management of commercial cannabis to address regulation, policy, enforcement, education, and the health and safety of our communities.

Goal A. *Foster a resilient and innovative industry that creates sustainable economic growth.*

Goal B. *Protect public safety, health, and the environment as the industry expands.*

Goal C. *Sustain a well-coordinated Program with effective, transparent, and equitable compliance and enforcement.*

Goal D. *Generate revenue to ensure a self-funded Program and services to the public.*



Cannabis Program Strategies



The strategies for the Cannabis Program are intended to be implemented during the next two years to fulfill the mission of the Program and the four Program goals described below. Each Program goal has its own set of attainable strategies.

Goal A. Foster a resilient and innovative industry that creates sustainable economic growth.

Strategies

1. Review and update the cannabis ordinance (Monterey County Code Chapter 7.90) to ensure it is consistent with current Department of Cannabis Control regulations.
2. Research a data source that can be used to monitor the local cannabis marketplace.
3. Facilitate the cannabis industry moving from provisional to annual cannabis permits.
4. Monitor cannabis legislation, provide legislative updates during Industry meetings, and advocate for state-level legislation when appropriate.
5. Attend the statewide Cannabis Program Forum.



Goal B. Protect public safety, health, and the environment as the industry expands.

Strategies

1. Foster interdepartmental collaboration and communication to ensure a cohesive approach to cannabis regulation and oversight by hosting a departmental wide meeting with appropriate County departments at least once annually.
2. Provide a proactive and coordinated approach to enforce laws against the illegal cannabis market that is aligned with the necessary resources.
3. Promote community outreach programs focusing on youth use prevention. For those that choose to use cannabis, promote community education to ensure they do so safely.
4. Attend Cannabis Safety sub-committee meetings.
5. Establish clear, transparent, and accessible regulatory guidelines to ensure public understanding and adherence to Environmental Health Bureau standards (e.g., water, solid waste, hazardous materials, etc.).



Goal C. Sustain a well-coordinated Program with effective, transparent, and equitable compliance and enforcement.

Strategies

1. Meet bi-monthly with cannabis industry members.
2. Conduct quarterly compliance inspection to ensure County and State requirements for legally permitted cannabis operations are followed.
3. Improve the clarity of correction notices by including specific details of non-compliance.
4. Review and update the County of Monterey Cannabis Program website quarterly.
5. Create a Program Meta account (Facebook/Instagram).
6. Hold one annual in-person meeting for industry and Program departments.
7. Engage relevant County departments to obtain feedback on improving the cannabis application and renewal process.
8. Maintain criminal background check requirement records for cannabis business permits for business owners.



Goal D. Generate revenue to ensure a self-funded Program and services to the public.

Strategies

1. Collaborate with the Auditor-Controller's Office and the Treasurer-Tax Collector to provide accurate and complete revenue information to the Cannabis Committee so it can continue to make informed financial decisions.
2. Administer the Department of Cannabis Control Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program.
3. Diversify the cannabis revenue base by exploring new income sources.

Program Priorities

Goal A: Foster a resilient and innovative industry that creates sustainable economic growth.

- ✓ Research a data source that can be used to monitor the local cannabis marketplace.
- ✓ Facilitate the cannabis industry moving from provisional to annual cannabis permits.

Goal B: Protect public safety, health and the environment as the industry expands.

- ✓ Provide a proactive and coordinated approach to enforce laws against the illegal cannabis market that is aligned with the necessary resources.
- ✓ Establish clear, transparent, and accessible regulatory guidelines to ensure public understanding and adherence to Environmental Health Bureau standards (e.g., water, solid waste, hazardous materials, etc.).

Goal C: Sustain a well-coordinated Program with effective, transparent, and equitable compliance and enforcement.

- ✓ Conduct quarterly compliance inspection to ensure County and State requirements for legally permitted cannabis operations are followed.

Goal D: Generate revenue to ensure a self-funded Program and services to the public.

- ✓ Collaborate with the Auditor-Controller's Office and the Treasurer-Tax Collector to provide accurate and complete revenue information to the Cannabis Committee so it can continue to make informed financial decisions.

Conclusion



The 2024 strategic plan has been updated with input from key County departments, external agencies, and members of the cannabis industry. While the Program mission statement remains unchanged, the 2024 strategic plan contains updated goals, strategies, and priorities that will be implemented during the next two years.

Strategic plan direction was obtained through focus groups conducted by Program staff. The focus group interviews included six questions created to gather subjective perceptions and insights on goal strategies and priorities. Focus group results were analyzed identifying common key themes and differences in participant responses.

Effective communication and coordination between the seven County departments and fire districts will play a critical role in the Program's success. The Program will need to work to ensure effective internal and external communication to achieve the Board of Supervisors' policy direction.

Accountability for the strategic plan will be provided through regular reports to the Board of Supervisors Cannabis Committee and tracking of performance indicators that provide capacity for the Program to report on quantifiable measure of progress over the next two years. Performance indicators have been developed to monitor progress towards the updated goal language and are driven by the strategies that will achieve the Program goals over the next two years. In addition, progress will be monitored through internal department meetings, at which relevant County departments can share updates on strategies and discuss emerging issues.

Attachment A. Timeline of Notable Events



Date	Event
6/19/2015	Board Referral - Urgency Ordinance
7/7/2015	Board Adopts Interim Urgency Ordinance (ORD #5254); Creates Ad Hoc Committee
7/28/2015	Extension to the Interim Urgency Ordinance (ORD #5256)
10/9/2015	State enacts Med Cannabis regulations (AB243, AB266, and SB643)
2/3/2016	State repeals March 1, 2016, deadline (AB21)
2/26/2016	Extension and amendment to Interim Urgency Ordinance (ORD #5265) - Exceptions
3/2/2016	Board Referral - Options for cannabis taxation
7/12/2016	Monterey County Adopts Chapter 7.100 – Commercial Cannabis Business Tax
7/19/2016	County adopts 5 ordinances (Inland Zoning, Intent to adopt Coastal Zoning, Business License, Business Permits, Personal cultivation), subject to passage of tax measure
8/10/2016	Coastal Ordinance amendments submitted to California Coastal Commission
9/27/2016	Board adopts fee resolutions for cannabis permitting, Coastal Commission requires changes to coastal regulations (9/29.16)
11/8/2016	County Tax Measure and Adult-use Marijuana Act (AUMA) both adopted by voters (AUMA to become effective 1/1/2018)
12/7/2016	Ordinance becomes effective 1-year amortization period from August 1, 2016
1/9/2017	State releases draft medical licensing regulations (later rescinded)
4/18/2017	Board adopts resolution authorizing background investigations for cannabis applicants
6/13/2017	Board referral to amend setback requirements
7/27/2017	Revised State law (SB 94) - State rescinds aw medical cannabis licensing regulations
12/5/2017	Revised Ordinances adopted (Inland, Coastal) - adult/medicinal use per SB94
1/1/2018	State begins licensing - Local Authorization required
2/7/2018	California Coastal Commission certifies Coastal Ordinances
3/13/2018	Board adopts coastal ordinance and portion of setback ordinance amendments; dispensary setbacks sent back to Cannabis Committee for discussion.
3/21/2018	Board Referral - Staffing, tax rates, outdoor grows, distribution; Memo from HCD to Industry (Business Permits/tax reporting).
7/24/2018	Monterey County Amends Chapter 7.100 of Monterey County Code
10/10/2018	Titles 20.67 and 21.67 amended to change commercial cannabis activities from a Use Permit/Coastal Development to an Administrative Permit/Coastal Administrative Permit and to create an exception process for a proposed retail facility that does not comply with the 1,500-foot setback from another approved retail facility.

Date	Event
12/6/2019	County amends Chapter 7.90 of Monterey County Code to allow for an amendment of Cannabis Business Permit within the annual term, designates the Cannabis Program Manager as the Appropriate Authority, requires owners to obtain a new permit when there is a full transfer of ownership or a change in business entity type, requires all owners and employees to be 21 years of age or older and wear an identifying badge while on commercial cannabis premises, and requires operators to submit data to California Cannabis Authority.
3/17/2020	County amends Chapter 7.90 of Monterey County Code to add definition of “manager” and “owner”, allow for Live Scan fingerprinting to be done at any entity authorized by the California Department of Justice, remove the Live Scan requirement for property owners, supervisors, and employees, and require permittees to keep a roster of all employees and their date of birth in addition to verification that employees do not have felony convictions or drug related misdemeanor convictions within the past ten years.
4/21/2020	Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) announces awards for FY 19-20 round of grant funding, which includes a \$150,000 in funding for the County of Monterey to conduct an equity assessment and begin program development.
5/19/2020	Board adopts an ordinance amending Chapter 7.100 of the Monterey County Code to suspend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 automatic increases on the County’s commercial cannabis business tax rates and resume the automatic increases in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 on July 1, 2022. This was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
7/7/2020	Board adopts an ordinance to add Chapter 21.17 to Title 21 (non-coastal zoning ordinance) of the Monterey County Code and amend other sections of Title 21 to establish a Mixed-Use zoning district and to provide definitions, regulations, and standards for the Mixed-Use zoning district in the non-coastal unincorporated areas of the County of Monterey.
5/18/2021	Board adopts ordinance amending Chapters 20.67, 21.67, 20.69, and 21.69 to revise renewable energy generation requirements for indoor cannabis cultivation, expand the outdoor cannabis cultivation regulations to include the permanent grazing zoning district within the Cachagua Area Plan as locations where outdoor cultivation may be permitted, reduce the setback required from the nearest off-site structure from 500 feet to 250 feet, modify the criteria for granting an exception to the setback from the nearest off-site structure, increase the maximum allowable canopy from 10,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet, and extend the pilot program from 5 years to 8 years.
5/25/2021	Board adopts ordinance amending Chapter 7.100 of the Monterey County Code to suspend the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 automatic increases on the County’s commercial cannabis business tax rates and resume the automatic increases in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 on July 1, 2022. This was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to a local outbreak of the Hop Latent Viroid in April 2021.
6/22/2021	Board adopts an ordinance amending Chapter 21.67 of the Monterey County Code to allow for permitting of commercial cannabis cultivation within new or expanded greenhouses on properties zoned Farmland that contain at least one greenhouse that was legally established prior to January 1, 2016.
7/13/2021	Board adopts an ordinance amending Chapter 7.100 of the Monterey County Code to set a tax rate for outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation. The rate was set at \$2.50 per square foot of canopy. Governor Newsom signs Cannabis Trailer Bill to create the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC).
8/31/2021	Board receives the Cannabis Equity Assessment, a report culminating 11 months of effort with partner agency California State University at Monterey Bay.

Date	Event
10/12/2021	Board approves proposed framework of the Growing Equity Together Program (GET).
10/26/2021	Board adopts an ordinance amending Chapter 7.90 of the Monterey County Code to allow permitted cultivators to modify the total canopy area of any cultivation or nursery operation in their commercial cannabis permit on two occasions during the permit's annual term if certain criteria are met.
12/7/2021	Board adopts resolution to authorize creation and implementation of the Growing Equity Together Program.
12/24/2021	Department of Cannabis Control awards the County of Monterey \$1.7m through the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program to assist provisional licensees with meeting annual license requirements.
2/7/2022	Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development awards the County of Monterey \$550k through the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions to develop the Growing Equity Together Program and assist qualified equity applicants with participation in the licensed cannabis industry.
3/1/2022	Board adopts ordinance amending Chapter 7.100 of the Monterey County Code to reduce commercial cannabis business tax rates, remove automatic increases, and waive penalties and interest for cultivation activities in the second and third quarters of Fiscal Year 2021-22.
3/15/2022	Board adopts an ordinance amending Chapter 7.90 of the Monterey County Code to make administrative changes including, but not limited to, clarifying commercial cannabis operation requirements, updating fee and refund provisions, revising on-site tobacco provisions, and establishing cessation of business requirements.
3/22/2022	Board appoints Cannabis Program Manager to serve as a member of the California Cannabis Authority Board of Directors.
6/1/2022	Board adopts a standalone ordinance to establish the Provisional Cannabis Business Permit.
8/30/2022	Board considers and approves proposed amendments to Monterey County Code Titles 20.69 and 21.69 and extends the sunset date of the Outdoor Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Pilot Program to 2030.
9/13/2022	Board adopts ordinance amending Chapter 7.100 of the Monterey County Code to reduce the commercial cannabis business tax rates for mixed-light and indoor cultivation retroactive to October 1, 2022, authorize the Board to, by resolution, waive and/or stay interest and penalties for cannabis operators with delinquent cannabis business taxes, extend the Board's conditional waiver of penalties and interest for FY 21-22 Quarters 2, and 3, from July 31, 2022 to January 31, 2023, and add FY 21-22 Quarter 4 to that conditional waiver.
9/27/2022	Supervisor Lopez submits Referral 2022.20 to consider a review of the department specific local requirements for commercial cannabis operators to achieve local authorization for the transition from a Department of Cannabis Control Provisional License to Annual Licensure.
10/18/2022	Board adopts a resolution to authorize the Treasurer-Tax Collector to conditionally waive all penalties and interest on unpaid installments of the annual commercial cannabis business tax imposed on cultivation activities for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2022-2023, so long as the full amount due for that quarter is received by the Treasurer-Tax Collector on or before January 31, 2023.
10/25/2022	Board approves amendments to Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program, which reallocates funding from an environmental impact report of District 5 to passthrough funding.

Date	Event
11/8/2022	Board directs staff to implement cannabis business tax payment plans for Quarters 2-4 of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and authorizes immediate shut down for operators who are not participants in the payment plan.
12/6/2022	Board adopts an ordinance to lower the commercial cannabis business tax rate imposed on manufacturers from 3.5% of gross receipts to 1.5% of gross receipts.
12/6/2022	Board adopts resolution to extend the previously authorized conditional waiver of penalties and interest on unpaid installments of the annual commercial cannabis business tax imposed on cultivation activities for the second through fourth quarters of Fiscal Year 2021-22 to include all quarters of Fiscal Year 2022-2023, so long as the full amount due is received by the Treasurer-Tax Collector on or before September 30, 2023.
12/7/2022	Board approves reductions to Cannabis Program allocations effective February 1, 2023.
1/10/2023	Board approves revisions to the County of Monterey Growing Equity Together Program and adopts an administrative manual.
2/14/2023	Board adopts ordinance amending Chapter 7.100 of the Monterey County Code to reduce the commercial cannabis business tax rates for cultivation activities retroactive to January 1, 2023.
2/28/2023	Board considers the cannabis consumption lounge concept and directs staff to revisit the concept in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.
3/9/2023	Cannabis Program Manager appointed to serve as a member of the Cannabis Advisory Committee, which advises the Department of Cannabis Control on the development of relevant standards and regulations for commercial cannabis businesses.
3/21/2023	Board adopts an ordinance amending Chapter 7.90 of the Monterey County Code to make organizational changes which clarify and simplify permit procedures and requirements for processing and manufacturing activities, be consistent with the regulations of the Department of Cannabis Control, and update requirements for odor control, business owners, and employees.
4/4/2023	Board directs staff to implement cannabis business tax payment plans for Quarters 1-4 of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and return with options to extend the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 payment plan for an additional three years while charging interest on unpaid balances.
5/31/2023	Considering the number of business closures, outcomes of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 payment plan, and the Fiscal Year 2023-24 projections for cannabis business tax revenue, the Board approves a 30% reduction to the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Cannabis Program budget.
5/3/2024	The Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Report titled <i>"Cannabis Tax Revenues: Highs and Lows"</i> is released.
5/28/24	The California State Audit titled <i>"Local Cannabis Permitting"</i> is released.
8/28/24	The California State Audit titled <i>"Cannabis Business Licensing"</i> is released.

Appendix A.

Cannabis Business Tax Revenue

