



CANNABIS PROGRAM
MONTEREY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors Meeting
August 30, 2022

Proposed Amendments to Chapters 20/21.69

History of Outdoor Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Pilot Program

- Board adopted in June 2019 to add Chapters 20/21.69 to Monterey County Code.
- Board amended in May 2021 to:
 - Extend Pilot for 3 years.
 - Expiration date: 2026.
 - Coastal Ordinance adopted in May 2021 has not been certified by the Coastal Commission.
 - Expiration date: 2024.
 - Modified square footage and setbacks
 - Add Permanent Grazing as an allowable zoning type within Cachagua Area Plan.
 - Increased canopy limit from 10,000 → 20,000 square feet.
 - Reduced setbacks from nearest offsite structure from 500 → 250 feet.
 - Expanded exception criteria for discretion of Appropriate Authority.

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Current status of Outdoor Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Pilot Program

- No operations in the three years the Pilot has been active.
- Board adopted Growing Equity Together Program in December 2021.
 - Included Retirement, Remediation, and Relocation (RRR) component.
- Program applied for two different grants to support interested applicants.
 - Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program (LJAG).
 - Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions.

Reasons to remove proof of prior cultivation

- Interested applicants no longer own/lease property and are ineligible for Pilot.
- HCD has only received one eligible formal land use permit application for outdoor cultivation.
 - 3 other - “Given out” status and are not formal applications.
 - 3 are Growing Equity Together applicants
 - 1 other – ineligible due to zoning area.
- Resources required to implement RRR would be better utilized in other areas.

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Proposed course of action

- Remove requirement for parcels cultivated prior to January 1, 2016.
 - Create aggregate canopy limit of 300,000, which is subject to individual 20,000 cap.
- If approved, RRR component and its accompanying environmental study not needed.
 - Staff will request an LJAG budget amendment to repurpose for passthrough funding.

Incremental costs to operate Pilot Program with proposed amendments

- Program does not need additional allocations for staff or non-staff costs.
 - Inspections can be scheduled with existing allocations.
- HCD may incur expenses above permit fees, as staff time is required to:
 - Prepare reports.
 - Draft ordinance amendments.
 - Process additional Pilot Program applications.



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Questions