

# MONTEREY COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES  
HENRY S. GONZALES, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER  
1428 ABBOTT STREET - SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93901  
PHONE: (831) 759-7325 FAX: (831) 422-5003  
WEBSITE: ag.co.monterey.ca.us



February 11, 2020

To: Board Cannabis Standing Committee

From: Henry S. Gonzales, <sup>H.S.</sup> Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner

Cc: Nicholas E. Chiulos, Chief, Intergovernmental Affairs

Re: Review and Assessment of the Monterey County Industrial Hemp Pilot Program Registrations, Applications and Acreage.

At the request of the Board Cannabis Standing Committee, please find the Month-Over-Month summaries for industrial hemp pilot program registrations and industrial hemp acreage as well as a review/assessment of the pilot program.

## Industrial Hemp Registered Operations:

Category	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Application Acreage	Registered Acreage	Sampled/ Tested Acreage	THC Concentr ation
Cultivator	8	8	610	539.6	3	0.1283%
Established Agricultural Research Institution (EARI)	2	2	110	110	-	-
Application Denied	11	11	465	-	-	-
Application Incomplete	5	5	172	-	-	-

## Summary:

At the direction of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors Cannabis Standing Committee, the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office prepared the following review/assessment of the Monterey County Industrial Hemp Pilot Program.

Monterey County has a total 336,990 acres designated as Farmland Zoning Areas. Within the North County Inland and South County Planning areas, 99,080 acres were considered for the Pilot Program. Further restrictions outlined below contributed the reduction in the number of potential acres available for Industrial Hemp production.

In the North County Inland area, there was a restriction of a 1,000-foot buffer from community areas, as well as a three-mile buffer from existing Cannabis operations. To the South of the County, restrictions included a two-



**NORTH COUNTY OFFICE**  
29-B BISHOP STREET - PAJARO, CA. 95076  
PHONE: (831) 784-5900 FAX: (831) 724-6935



**SOUTH COUNTY OFFICE**  
522 N 2ND STREET - KING CITY, CA. 93930  
PHONE: (831) 385-5266 FAX: (831) 385-0551

mile buffer from Rural Centers. Combined these two areas, reduced the cultivated areas by 20,560 acres (99,080 acres – 20,560 acres = 78,520 acres allowed after eliminating the restrictions).

In the North County, because of the requirement of a three-mile buffer consent from a Cannabis Cultivation Site and the unwillingness of Cannabis operations to grant such consents, potential industrial hemp cultivators were eliminated from the pilot program. Additionally, potential industrial hemp cultivators with eligible properties were eliminated from eligibility because a portion of the parcel was within the two-mile restriction and/or 1,000 ft from residences (also known as “Split Parcels”).

**Monterey County Industrial Hemp Pilot Program 2019-2020:**

	<u>Sites</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<b>CDFA Registered Operations</b>	8	540
South County (5 Acres Planted)		
<b>Research Operations</b>	2	110
South County (15 Acres Planted)		
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>650</b>

Over 100 people contacted the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office indicating an interest to grow industrial hemp, of which 37 provided site locations indicating their desire to cultivate it.

**Summary of Sites Interested in Participation:**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Sites</u>	<u>Acres</u>
South County	22	1,891
Salinas Area	9	349
North County	2	30
Coastal Area	4	144
<b>County Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2,414</b>

The Agricultural Commissioner’s Office held a meeting on December 18, 2019 to measure the success of the Monterey County Industrial Hemp Pilot Program and receive feedback and suggestions from the public.

After analyzing the information collected, the following recommendations are being put forth to the Cannabis Standing Committee:

1. Re-open registration to allow participation for those who are interested in cultivation Spring 2020.
2. Allow for a 12-month registration, as required by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Industrial Hemp Program.
3. Allow for open continuous registration for the duration of the pilot program.
4. Extend the length of the program from a one-year to a three-year period (2020 – 2023).
5. Allow Split Parcel zoning for parcels split inside and outside of residential buffers.
6. Continue to explore future recommendations, such as buffers and agronomic/cultural practices.