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COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration
Emergency Medical Services

Animal Services
Environmental Health

Behavioral Health
Public Administrator/Public Guardian

Clinic Services

Public Health

County of Monterey Health Department Administration Bureau

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 07/27/2023

TO: Fionna Jensen, Housing and Community Development Senior Planner

FROM: Roxann Seepersad, Planning, Evaluation and Policy Supervising Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: Letter of Public Convenience and Necessity for ABC License Type 20

Thank you for the opportunity to consider PLN230071. The application process is for an original Off-Site Type 20, off-sale beer, and wine license, for the sale for consumption off the premises of the proposed Windmill Market, 115 Monterey-Salinas Hwy, Salinas, CA 93908. This application has been submitted to the Planning, Evaluation and Policy Unit, Administration Bureau, for consideration due to the potential for increased health and environmental effects related to alcohol consumption in this census tract (106.06).

Our review is based on the public health considerations related to alcohol availability and consumption. "Overall, there are causal relationships between alcohol consumption and more than 60 types of disease, disability, and injury, including traffic fatalities." (*A Call for a Framework Convention on Alcohol Control*, American Public Health Association, Policy Statement).

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2022) "Excessive alcohol use is responsible for more than 140,000 deaths annually in the United States, including 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults aged 20–64 years, costing the United States \$249 billion in 2010, or \$2.05 per drink. Binge drinking, or four or more drinks per occasion for women and five or more drinks per occasion for men, is responsible for more than half the deaths and three-quarters of the costs caused by excessive drinking. Yet, 9 in 10 adult excessive drinkers are not alcohol dependent. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alcohol and Public Health; 2022). High alcohol outlet density, defined as a high concentration of retail alcohol outlets in a small area, is known to be an environmental risk factor for excessive drinking." (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guide for Measuring Alcohol Outlet Density. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Dept of Health, and Human Services; 2017).

Alcohol

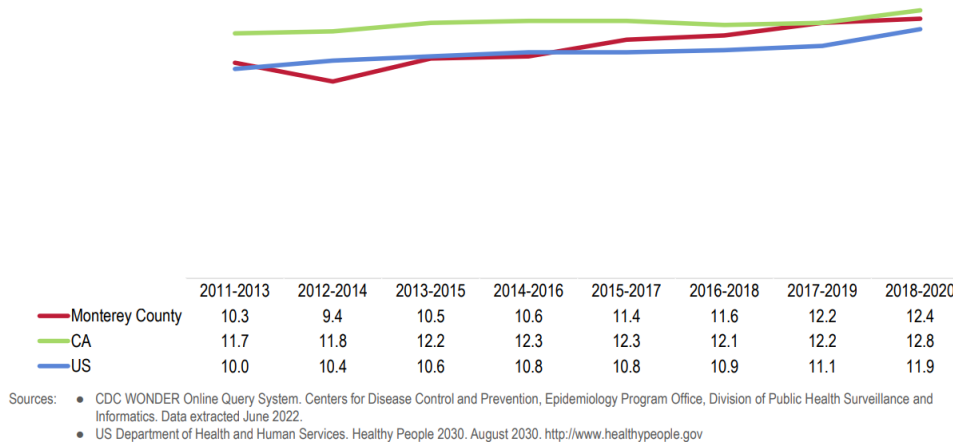
Age-Adjusted Cirrhosis/Liver Disease Deaths

Heavy alcohol use contributes to a significant share of liver disease, including cirrhosis. The following chart outlines age-adjusted mortality for cirrhosis/liver disease in Monterey County. [COUNTY-LEVEL DATA]

Cirrhosis/Liver Disease: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends

(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)

Healthy People 2030 = 10.9 or Lower



In 2019, there were 402 total collisions in Monterey County that involved alcohol, a 35% increase from 2018 and 80% or greater increase from the 171 reported in 2013 (Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System; 2019).

In the greater Salinas area, which encompasses the 93908 ZIP code, rates of excessive drinking were 23% in 2022. Alcohol consumption not only impacts the lives of consumers but those around them. In the greater Salinas area, 50.8% of individuals report their lives have been negatively affected by substances which include alcohol. Of those with an alcohol problem, 2.9 per 100,000 seek medical attention in Salinas, almost half of the national report of 5.4. (2022 PRC Community Health Needs Assessment [SVMH]).

Currently, crime data is not tracked for the specific census tract (106.06) or ZIP code (93908). However, alcohol is a contributory factor in violent crimes and domestic violence (Sontate et al., 2021). Throughout California, 4,858 arrests were made for individual driving under the influence in 2021 (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2021). The rate of violent crime (444.2 per 100,000 population) was higher in California than the nation, with most victims involving domestic or intimate partner (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2021).

Given these local public health outcomes associated with alcohol and excessive drinking, there is a public health need to assess new alcohol outlet permit applications in relation to the density of alcohol outlets in Monterey County.

The application for a new off-site alcohol outlet located at 3115 Monterey-Salinas Hwy, Salinas, CA 93908, is in census tract 106.06. This census tract is not currently over saturated (over the number allowed by California Alcohol Beverage Control, CA ABC) for ABC off-sale licenses. The number licenses allowed is 7 while the number of existing off-sale licenses in the census

tract is 3. However, an addition of one more outlet to the number already licensed in census tract 106.06 contributes to increasing density.

Monterey County Health Department (MCHD), Planning Evaluation and Policy Unit, cannot at this time support the issuance of this license. From public health perspective, although this census tract is currently not oversaturated for permitted off-sale alcohol outlets, there are several adverse health outcomes due to alcohol consumption. Less permitted alcohol outlets in the county would likely be associated with improved health outcomes, including reductions in alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our input.
Sincerely,

Roxann Seepersad

Roxann Seepersad
Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Supervising Epidemiologist

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