



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: October 28, 2025

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Certifying the Environmental Impact Report for the Comprehensive Cannabis Program
Update, Making Findings of Fact Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act,
Adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Adopting a Mitigation Monitoring
and Reporting Program**

Whereas, opportunities in the County of Sonoma for commercial cannabis businesses are important to promote agricultural diversity and a robust and sustainable local economy;

Whereas, establishing clear regulations to guide land use permitting for commercial cannabis uses and simplifying personal cultivation regulations is essential to encourage legal cannabis market participation, discourage illegal market participation, and ensure commercial cannabis uses are appropriately designed and located to provide diverse business opportunities while minimizing impacts on the environment and residents;

Whereas, in October 2015, the state enacted the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (Medical Cannabis Act) to provide a regulatory framework for medical cannabis businesses. On November 8, 2016, the voters of California passed the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Adult Use Cannabis Act). On June 27, 2017, the state passed Senate Bill 94 which consolidated regulations into the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and safety Act (Cannabis Act) (California Business and Professions Code 26000 et seq.), which, in addition to other amendments, provides the current state regulatory structure for cannabis businesses;

Whereas, in 2006 the County began permitting medical cannabis dispensaries. On

December 20, 2016, a Negative Declaration and Ordinance No. 6189 were adopted establishing the County's first comprehensive Cannabis Land Use Ordinance codified in Sonoma County Code Chapter 26 (Zoning Code) Section 26-88-250 through 258, establishing permitting requirements and standards for cultivation and supply chain uses. On October 16, 2018, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 6245 amending Chapter 26 to allow adult use cultivation and cannabis businesses in Sonoma County for the full cannabis supply chain and make other minor amendments to enhance neighborhood compatibility and better align with state law;

Whereas, on March 15, 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution of Intent (Resolution 22-0088) and the Cannabis Program Update Framework, to direct and guide Permit Sonoma's work in the preparation of a General Plan Amendment, Ordinance, and a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report to amend the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and related regulations ("Cannabis Program Update" or "Project");

Whereas, the Project has been environmentally reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000, et seq. ("CEQA"), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000, et seq.), and the County's Local CEQA Guidelines. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") was prepared; and

Whereas, on February 6, 2023, the County issued a Notice of Preparation of an EIR ("NOP") and Notice of Public Scoping Session for the Project to the State Office of Planning and Research. A public scoping meeting was held on March 8, 2023, to provide responsible, trustee, and federal agencies and members of the public an opportunity to comment on the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be included in the EIR. Written comments from public agencies and members of the public were accepted during the 45-day scoping period that ended on March 23, 2023; and

Whereas, on March 22, 2023, the County gave written formal notice to the California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the area of Sonoma County listed on pages 3.15-11 and 3.15-12 of the Draft EIR that the County was undertaking the

Cannabis Program Update project, and of the opportunity to consult regarding the potential significant impacts to tribal cultural resources that may result from adoption of the Cannabis Program Update. The County consulted with all tribes that requested consultation; and

Whereas, On May 16, 2025, the County posted and filed the Draft EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2023020144), and a Notice of Completion (“NOC”) of the Draft EIR was published and Notice of Public Hearing to be held on June 19, 2025 was posted with the County Clerk, transmitted to the State Clearinghouse, mailed to local and state agencies, published in the Press Democrat, and emailed to interested parties. In accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, the County analyzed the Project’s potential impacts on the environment. The County circulated the Draft EIR and its appendices for the Project for a 60-day comment period, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15105, from May 16, 2025 through July 15, 2025. The Planning Commission held a public meeting on June 19, 2025, to receive comments on the Draft EIR; and

Whereas, on September 3, 2025, in accordance with applicable law, the County published and posted the Final EIR, which includes written response to all comments received on the Draft EIR during the public review and comment period, as well as revisions to the Draft EIR; and

Whereas, in accordance with applicable provisions of law, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on August 7, 2025 on Project and held a duly noticed public hearing on September 17, 2025, at which time the Planning Commission heard and received all relevant testimony and evidence presented orally or in writing regarding the Final EIR and the Project and all interested parties were given an opportunity to hear and be heard regarding the Project; and

Whereas, the September 17, 2025, hearing was continued for further deliberations to a date and time certain on September 18th, 2025, after which the Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 25-10 recommending that the Board of Supervisors certify the Final EIR and adopt the Project with modifications to the proposed General Plan amendment and zoning ordinance; and

Whereas, on October 22, 2025, the County published an erratum to the Final EIR to make certain technical corrections and clarifications; and

Whereas, in accordance with applicable provisions of law, the Board of Supervisors held a duly noticed public hearing on October 28, 2025, at which time the Board of Supervisors heard and received all relevant testimony and evidence presented orally or in writing regarding the Project. All interested persons were given an opportunity to hear and be heard regarding the Project; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors considered the evidence presented regarding the Project and the environmental review conducted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et. seq., (CEQA)), the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15000 et seq.), and the County's local guidelines.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. The forgoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated into the findings herein.
2. The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) is comprised of the Draft EIR dated May 2025 and all appendices thereto; the Final EIR published October 22, 2025, including all appendices there to, responses to comments on the Draft EIR, the clarifications, revisions and corrections to the Draft EIR, and Final EIR Errata; all of which collectively is referred to herein as the "Final EIR" and incorporated herein by this reference. The Final EIR was presented to the Board of Supervisors, and the Board independently reviewed, considered, and analyzed the Final EIR and other information in the entire record of these proceedings, including all evidence, both written and oral, including staff reports, supporting documentation, and public comment letters presented at the hearing, prior to approving the project.
3. The findings made in this Resolution are based upon the information and evidence set forth in the Final EIR and upon other substantial evidence that has

been presented at the hearing and in the record of proceedings. The Final EIR, staff reports, technical studies, appendices, plans, specifications, and other documents and material that constitute the record of proceedings on which this Resolution is based are on file for public examination during normal business hours at the office of the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Each of these documents is incorporated herein by reference.

4. The Board of Supervisors finds that agencies and interested members of the public have been afforded ample notice and opportunity to comment on the Final EIR and the Project.
5. No comments or any additional information submitted to the County have produced any substantial new information requiring additional environmental review or re-circulation of the Final EIR under CEQA because no new significant environmental impacts were identified, nor was any substantial increase in the severity of any previously disclosed environmental impacts identified, nor was a feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerable different from others previously analyzed. Further, the Draft EIR was neither inadequate nor conclusory in nature and meaningful public review and comment opportunities were provided.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Certifies, in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21082.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15090, that the Final EIR reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the County as lead agency and the Board of Supervisors as its decision-making body.
2. Adopts the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for Project, attached as Exhibits 1-C and 1-D and incorporated herein by reference.

3. Adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached as Exhibit 1-E.

Be It Further Resolved that the individual parts of this resolution are severable, such that if one or more parts are determined to be invalid, all the other parts will remain in full force and effect.

Be It Further Resolved that the Director of Planning is directed to promptly file a Notice of Determination as provided in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15094 after adoption of the Cannabis Program Update.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Supervisors designates the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors as the custodian of the documents and other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the decision herein is based. These documents may be found at the office of the Clerk of the Board at 575 Administration Drive, Room 102 A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 and the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, 2500 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

Supervisors:

Hermosillo: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.