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Sonoma County Planning Commission

Actions

Board Chambers Room 102a
575 Administration Dr.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

PlanningAgency@sonoma-county.org

September 17, 2025

Meeting No.: 25-09

Roll Call

Commissioner Freeman, District 1
Commissioner Reed, District 2
Commissioner Bahning, District 3
Commissioner Marquez, District 5
Commissioner McCaffery, Chair, District 4

Staff Members

Scott Orr, Deputy Director of Permit Sonoma
Crystal Acker, Supervising Planner
Marina Herrera, Planner III
Stacie Groll, Administrative Assistant
Sita Kuteira, County Counsel Contractor

Planning Commission Regular Calendar

Item No.: 1
Time: 1:00 PM
File: ORD21-0004
Applicant: N/A
Owner: N/A
Cont. from: N/A
Staff: Crystal Acker, Marina Herrera
Env. Doc: Final Environmental Impact Report

Proposal: Adoption of the proposed Cannabis Program Update will require the following actions by the County:

- Certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Cannabis Program Update.
- Repeal of the existing Cannabis Ordinance: Article 88 (Sec. 26-88-250 through Sec. 26-88-258) of the existing County Code.
- Adoption of the proposed General Plan Amendments that consist of reclassification of cannabis to “controlled agriculture” to expand cannabis uses on agricultural lands, and adoption of policies that would limit the area of permanent structures on agricultural land and separate cannabis production on agricultural lands from existing residential areas to protect public health and safety.
- Adoption of proposed changes to Chapter 4, Article IX to add a cannabis business license and Chapter 26, Articles 18, 20, 22, 26, and 86 of the existing County Code to add new zoning standards for cannabis uses. The zoning amendments would allow supply chain uses by-right (no planning permit required), including retail (dispensaries), lounges, distribution, testing labs, manufacturing, and processing, and would allow for larger cannabis grows in agricultural and resource zones with accessory uses such as events, retail, processing, and manufacturing, and allow period special events to include cannabis sale and consumption.
- Adoption of refinements of the Sonoma County Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones to include cannabis as a qualifying prime agricultural use.

Recommended

Action: Staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend 1) that the Board of Supervisors certify a Final Environmental Impact Report, with the necessary findings and statement of overriding considerations consistent with Sections 15091 and 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines and 2) Adopt a General Plan Amendment to redefine cannabis as controlled agriculture and, 3) Adopt amendments to Chapter 26 of the Sonoma County Code modifying and establishing use standards for cannabis uses.

Location: County

APN: Various

District: All

Zoning: N/A

Action: **Commissioner Reed** motioned to continue item to September 18, 2025
Seconded by **Commissioner Freeman** and approved with a 5-0-0 vote.

Appeal Deadline: No Appeal Period

Resolution No.: N/A

Vote:

Commissioner Freeman	Aye
Commissioner Reed	Aye
Commissioner Bahning	Aye
Commissioner Marquez	Aye
Commissioner McCaffery	Aye

Ayes:	5
Noes:	0
Absent:	0
Abstain:	0