

# Proposed Amendments to Cannabis Ordinance

Chapter 35 of Sonoma County Code

May 16, 2023

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# Summary of Action and Timeline

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- Introduce ordinance and waive further reading of the ordinance amending Chapter 35 of the Sonoma County Code.
- If the board approves the proposed changes by resolution and waives the second reading, we will bring the ordinance back for adoption on May 23<sup>rd</sup> , 2023.
- Approved changes would take effect 30 days after the adoption of the ordinance.



# Recommended Cultivation Tax Rates

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**Sec. 35-5 (a)(4) (7):** Amended the cultivation tax rates to the new rates approved by the Board on February 28, 2023 and removed all references to temporary rate reduction.

Permit Type	Rate per Square Foot
Outdoor	\$0.75
Mixed-Light	\$3.00
Indoor	\$12.50



# Key Proposed Amendments

## Administrative Changes Part 1

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- **Sec. 35-4:** Updated reference to Chapter 26 of the Sonoma County code, to refer to correct section for definitions 26-04-020.
- **Sec. 35-4:** Amended the definitions of “Indoor”, “Personal cannabis cultivation”, and “Treasurer-tax collector” to make necessary non-substantive corrections.
- **Sec. 35-6(b) (c):** Changed the language regarding reporting and remittance of tax, to clarify when cultivation area (cannabis canopy) verifications should be performed and who has authority over this process. Amended language aligns with existing County practice.
- **Sec. 35-27:** Changed the language regarding tax assessment hearing, application, and determination to align with existing tax-collector review processes in order to streamline cannabis assessment appeals for the operator and tax-collector.
- **Sec. 35-30, 31, 32:** Changed the language regarding appeal hearing to explicitly reference the Board’s option to select the Hearing Officer, in line with current practice, and make the Hearing Officer’s decision final.

