



Legislation Text

File #: 2019-0501, **Version:** 1

To: Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma
Department or Agency Name(s): Agriculture/Weights & Measures
Staff Name and Phone Number: Sue Ostrom 565-2371
Vote Requirement: 4/5th
Supervisory District(s): Countywide

Title:

Industrial Hemp Ordinance

Recommended Actions:

Adopt an Ordinance to add Chapter 37 to the Sonoma County Code and impose a moratorium on the cultivation of industrial hemp, including hemp cultivation by Established Agricultural Research Institutions but excluding industrial hemp research by institutions of higher education, within the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County prior to April 30, 2020.

Executive Summary:

On April 2, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution introducing, reading the title and waiving further reading of the proposed ordinance to imposing a moratorium on the cultivation of industrial hemp, including hemp cultivation by Established Agricultural Research Institutions but excluding industrial hemp research by institutions of higher education, within the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County prior to April 30, 2020.

This is the second board meeting to finalize the adoption of the ordinance. Staff recommends the Board adopt the ordinance.

Discussion:

Recent changes in federal and state laws regarding industrial hemp will soon allow the commercial growing of industrial hemp in California. The State is currently promulgating regulations to regulate certain elements of industrial hemp cultivation, however they are not yet finalized. Cultivation of industrial hemp poses several challenges at the local level including concerns over public safety, enforcement and compatibility with the emerging legal cannabis industry. Industrial hemp also presents opportunities for the economy and agricultural diversity.

On April 2, 2019, the Board of Supervisors considered the recommended ordinance to add Chapter 37 to Sonoma County Code and establish a moratorium on the cultivation of industrial hemp. The Board directed staff to make certain changes that were read into the record including: 1) excluding from the moratorium

industrial hemp research conducted by institutions of higher education as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1001; and 2) adding a sunset date for the moratorium of April 30, 2020. At the same meeting, the Board of Supervisors also adopted an urgency ordinance establishing a similar moratorium on industrial hemp cultivation that went into effect immediately following passage.

An ordinance prohibiting the growing of industrial hemp, with the exception of research by institutions of higher education, will allow time for the State to finalize regulations and for staff to better understand what local controls may be needed to ensure the cultivation of industrial hemp is compatible in Sonoma County. Additionally, institutions of higher learning may conduct research related to odor control and compatibility which would help to inform decisions related to regulation.

Prior Board Actions:

4/2/19: Adopted Urgency Ordinance prohibiting the cultivation of industrial hemp with the exception of research by institutes of higher learning

FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenditures	FY 18-19 Adopted	FY19-20 Projected	FY 20-21 Projected
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures			
Funding Sources			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources			

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:			
Position Title (Payroll)	Monthly Salary Range (A - I Step)	Additions (number)	Deletions (number)

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

N/A

Attachments:

Permanent Industrial Hemp Ordinance

Industrial Hemp Resolution

Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board: