

Dear Stakeholder:

The County anticipates that the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the County's new ordinances on Cannabis cultivation and manufacturing will be released for public comment in mid-August. The County expects that the final EIR, with responses to the comments received from the public, will be completed in December, allowing for public hearing before the Planning Commission to take place in December. After the Planning Commission has made a recommendation on the ordinances and any associated General Plan policies, the ordinances will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at a public hearing. This public hearing will likely take place in January or February 2018. Until the new cultivation ordinance is adopted by the Board of Supervisors, cultivators will be under the existing cultivation ordinance Chapter 7.126. This means that cultivators are limited to 99 plants per parcel.

The Cannabis Licensing Program will continue to prepare for the final versions of both the evolving State policies and the County's final ordinances. For registrants, we recommend that anonymous registrants transition to non-anonymous registrations prior to the adoption of the new ordinances. We further recommend that registrants set up a Cannabis Business Tax (CBT) account and begin paying the CBT on any cannabis revenues received. Registrants may also want to consider whether they may benefit from a Pre-Licensing Inspection; registrants that have a Pre-Licensing Inspection will be given priority and will receive an itemized list of requirements unique to their parcel once the final ordinance is adopted and the County is in a position to issue licenses.

We would also like to remind registrants that activities such as land clearing, vegetation removal/alteration, or construction may require permits from the County. Registrants who perform these activities without the proper permits risk endangering their prospects for a license with the County of Santa Cruz. Please be advised that the County is unable to issue land clearing or development permits until the environmental review is completed and a final ordinance is adopted. We ask that anyone who may be uncertain about what activities require permits please call our office or contact the Planning Department before any work commences.

If you have any questions regarding the EIR, whether or not a permit is required, or the requirements for cultivation under Chapter 7.126, please contact us via email at:

Cannabis.Info@santacruzcounty.us

Or by phone at: **(831) 454-3833**