



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Agricultural  
Commissioner  
**Department No.:** 051  
**For Agenda Of:** October 8, 2019  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Time:** 15 Minutes  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Cathleen Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner 681-5600  
Director  
Contact Info: Lottie Martin or Traci Lewis 681-56000  
**SUBJECT: Industrial Hemp Presentation**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:  
Receive and file the Industrial Hemp Presentation.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to allow the Agricultural Commissioner to provide the Board of Supervisors, through a PowerPoint presentation, a better understanding of Hemp and its history, uses and its current regulatory status.

**Background:**

Hemp or Industrial Hemp is a strain of the Cannabis sativa plant species grown specifically for the industrial uses of its derived products such as fiber, oil and seed. Hemp was first introduced into the United States in 1608 which quickly became a cash crop commonly used for the making of rope, fabric and lamp oil and made up a significant portion of the economy. In 1937 the Marijuana Act was signed into federal law which established tight restrictions and levied a tax on those who dealt commercially in hemp or marijuana. In 1970, the Controlled Substance Act was signed into federal law which established the schedules that categorize drugs according to their perceived medical utility and potential for abuse. Cannabis and hemp were assigned to the highly restrictive Schedule I Federal Controlled Substance List.

In 2014 the Farm Bill allowed universities to cultivate industrial hemp for research purposes. The UC system in California did not establish a hemp research program. In 2018 the Farm Bill not only

removed hemp from the Schedule I Federal Controlled Substance List, it also directed the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop regulations for a new federal regulatory program for industrial hemp cultivation. These regulations would require States and Indian Tribes to submit production plans to the USDA for approval to administer commercial hemp production.

The California Industrial Hemp Farming Act was signed into law on January 1, 2017 authorizing the cultivation of industrial hemp by registered growers and research institutions. California law does not currently provide any requirements for the manufacturing, processing or selling of non-food industrial hemp or hemp products.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), is in the process of developing a program to administer the new law for hemp cultivation. CDFA has adopted several sections pertaining to the registration process, fees, sampling and testing for THC content through emergency rulemaking. The emergency regulations will be in effect for a minimum of 180 days. CDFA will also submit an industrial hemp plan to USDA for review and certification once the federal regulations take effect.

In California some local authorities have taken different approaches for the type of cultivation that is allowed within their jurisdictions. Several counties have adopted moratoriums prohibiting all types of hemp cultivation or only allowing cultivation for research. A total of 20 counties are allowing commercial hemp cultivation. As of today there is approximately 21,000 acres of commercial hemp being grown within those counties. In Santa Barbara County, only research cultivation by an Institution of Higher Education as authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill is permitted.

**Performance Measure:**

N/A

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Narrative: N/A

**Key Contract Risks:** N/A

**Staffing Impacts:** N/A

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

**Special Instructions:** N/A

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Industrial Hemp Power Point

**Authored by:**

Rudy Martel

**CC:**

NA