

# CHAPTER 50

# Licensing of Cannabis Operations Ordinance Amendments

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Board of Supervisors  
March 18, 2025



*one*  
**COUNTY**  
*one*  
**FUTURE**

# Background

- Board adopted Chapter 50 - Licensing of Cannabis Operations, in May 2018
- Chapter 50 has been amended several times to address unanticipated issues identified over time
- At the January 14, 2025 Board meeting, staff was directed to return with an ordinance amendment to incorporate odor abatement requirements in compliance with proposed Land Use Development Code (LUDC) amendments and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO)
- The live scan proposed amendment discussion is temporarily postponed to review Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office feedback

## Introduction

- This amendment requires use of Multi-Technology Carbon Filtration (MTCF), or equivalent, for cultivation, processing and manufacturing facilities in accordance with Chapter 35 and allows for the revocation or denial of a business license if technology is not timely implemented
- Chapter 50 proposed changes relate primarily to the MTCF installation and implementation timelines
- The broader odor changes requested by the BOS will be addressed in county land use ordinances
- Chapter 50 strives to be consistent with the LUDC and CZO and often refers to LUDC and CZO requirements

# Introduction

- Concern has been raised that Coastal Commission review process of the land use ordinance amendments may delay the installation timeline. Staff proposes the following in Chapter 50 which would be slightly different than provisions of the LUDC/CZO:
- ***Chapter 50 Initial Implementation:*** Require the installation within 12 months of Board of Supervisor's final approval of the Chapter 50 amendment (not wait for Coastal Commission certification of the land use ordinance changes)
- ***Chapter 50 Extension Process:*** Provide one extension period up to 12 months

## Discussion *Implementation Timeline and Extension Process*

- Coastal operators' installation deadline is on or before March 31, 2026, within 12 months of BOS approval (regardless if Coastal Commission certification is after)
  - One-time extensions may be granted for coastal operators upon CEO Office recommendation and BOS approval up until California Coastal Commission certification
- Chapter 50 extension process will be voided upon certification and revert to the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO) requirements, by Planning and Development through process adopted in Chapter 35.
- Inland operators' installation deadline is on or before March 31, 2026, within 12 months of BOS approval
  - Extensions will be administered by Planning and Development through process adopted in Chapter 35

## Discussion

### *Extension Process*

- Requests for extensions may include, but are not limited to:
  - ✓ Supply chain delays
  - ✓ On-site power supply upgrades
  - ✓ Off-site power supply upgrades and availability
  - ✓ Other circumstances as determined by the Board
- To align Chapter 35 and Chapter 50, staff recommends that the BOS provide one LUDC/CZO extension period up to 12 months
  - Recommended by P&D Director and approved by the BOS
  - Requests for extensions must be submitted 90 days prior to expiration of the installation period
  - No allowance for further appeals

# Proposed Amendments - Odor

Issue Area	Proposed Amendment	County Code
Definition	<p>Adds a new definition for multi-technology carbon filtration or equivalent, consistent with the definition in the LUDC and CZO.</p> <p><i><u>Current language:</u> Provides a list of defined terms.</i></p>	§ 50-2
Application content for annual business license	<p>Establishes that all new applicants must submit a statement agreeing to the ongoing operation of their odor control system.</p> <p><i><u>Current language:</u> States that provisional license holders must submit a statement agreeing to the ongoing operation of their odor control system.</i></p>	§ 50-8

# Proposed Amendments - Odor

Issue Area	Proposed Amendment	County Code
Grounds for denial of license	<p>States that non-use of multi-technology carbon filtration or equivalent technology with run time meters on or before March 31, 2026, is grounds for denial of a new or renewal license unless an extension is granted in accordance with Chapter 35.</p> <p><i><u>Current language:</u> States that non-use of best available control technology is grounds for denial.</i></p>	§ 50-17
Cannabis business license renewal process	<p>Adds a new requirement to submit an odor control system affidavit attesting to compliance with Chapter 50 and Chapter 35 as part of the renewal application.</p> <p><i><u>Current language:</u> Provides requirements to renew a cannabis business license.</i></p>	§ 50-19



# Proposed Amendments - Odor

Issue Area	Proposed Amendment	County Code
Cannabis business license operating requirements	<p>Updates language to include continuous operation of odor prevention devices for cultivation, processing, and manufacturing facilities.</p> <p><i><u>Current language:</u> States that continuous operation of odor prevention devices is required for cannabis cultivation.</i></p>	§ 50-25
Suspension or revocation of a cannabis business license	<p>Adds a new requirement that failure to install multi-technology carbon filtration or equivalent with run time meters on or before March 31, 2026, is grounds for revocation. Adds extension process for operators in coastal zone prior to Coastal Commission certification of CZO amendment.</p> <p><i><u>Current language:</u> Provides a list of grounds for suspension or revocation.</i></p>	§ 50-26

# Proposed Amendments – Suspension or Revocation

Issue Area	Proposed Amendment	County Code
Administrative	Updates section 50-17(1) to read 50-17(l).  <i><u>Current language:</u> 50-17“(1)” is a typo.</i>	§ 50-17

# Summary

- Currently, Chapter 50 requires compliance with Chapter 35 requirements; business licenses can be denied, suspended or revoked for non-compliance
- This amendment proposes:
  1. Defining Multi-Technology Carbon Filtration (MTCF) or equivalent
  2. Requiring odor control affidavits for new and renewal applicants
  3. Updating denial language and adding revocation language to include MTCF or equivalent + run time meter requirements
  4. Clarifying that the requirements apply to cultivation, processing, and manufacturing facilities
  5. Requiring implementation on or before March 31, 2026
  6. Allows one time extension in Chapter 50 as needed

# Summary

- Proposed language is meant to address odor nuisance and provide language for business license denial or revocation for non-compliant odor control systems
- If approved, new ordinance language is effective 30 days from second reading (approval) on April 1, 2025

# Recommended **Actions**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara amending Chapter 50 of the Santa Barbara County Code, Licensing of Cannabis Operations existing odor abatement requirements for cultivation, processing, and manufacturing facilities to require the use of multi-technology carbon filtration or equivalent odor control systems;
- b) Read the title and waive further reading of the Ordinance in full; and;
- c) Set a hearing on the Administrative Agenda for April 1, 2025 to consider the Second Reading and CEQA determination for amendments to Chapter 50.