



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

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

**Agenda Number:**

**Submitted on:  
(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** CEO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** May 12, 2026: Set Hearing  
June 9, 2026: 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
June 23, 2026: 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
**Placement:** Set-Hearing  
**Estimated Time:** 20 minutes on June 9, 2026, Adoption on June 23, 2026  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Contact Info: Brittany Odermann, Deputy CEO  
**SUBJECT:** Amendments to the Cannabis Business Licensing Fee Ordinance

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors on May 12, 2026 set a public hearing on the Departmental Agenda for June 9, 2026 to consider recommendations, as follows:

On June 9, 2026:

- a) Consider the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara amending the Ordinance 5256, "An Ordinance Amending and Superseding Ordinance No. 5181 Establishing the Cannabis Business License Fee";
- b) Read the title and waive further reading of the Ordinance in full; and
- c) Set a hearing on the Administrative Agenda of June 23, 2026 to consider recommendations, as follows:

On June 23, 2026:

- a) Consider the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara amending the Ordinance 5256, "An Ordinance Amending and Superseding Ordinance No. 5181 Establishing the Cannabis Business License Fee"; and
- b) Determine for the purposes of CEQA that:
  - i. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15168(c), these actions are within the scope of the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and Licensing Program, and the Cannabis Land Use

Ordinance and Licensing Program Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) (17EIR-00000-00003, State Clearinghouse No. 2017071016) adequately describes this activity for the purposes of CEQA.

- ii. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15162(a), after considering the PEIR certified by the Board of Supervisors on February 6, 2018, that no subsequent EIR or Negative Declaration is required because: i) no substantial changes are proposed which require major revisions of the PEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; ii) no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the ordinance is undertaken which require major revisions of the PEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; and iii) no new information of substantial importance concerning the ordinance's significant effects or mitigation measures, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time that the PEIR was certified, has been received that shows any of the elements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3) apply.

### **Summary:**

The proposed amendment will recommend changes to Cannabis business license fees including:

- remove the County of Santa Barbara Sheriff Department ("Sheriff") from the Cannabis business license fee schedule, contingent upon Board approval of the Amendment to Chapter 50 of the County Code – Licensing of Cannabis Operations scheduled for June 9, 2026; and
- remove the California Cannabis Authority (CCA) annual subscription membership fee of \$10,000 to participate in the "Keep Our County Informed" regulatory and legislative updates.

At the time of the set-hearing notice, the exact decreases per fee were still under review but will be established in time for the June 9, 2026 hearing.

### **Discussion:**

This proposed ordinance will update fees to reflect the current cost for the cannabis licensing program, which was last updated in 2025. The amendment is to remove the County of Santa Barbara Sheriff Office ("Sheriff") from one-time initial applicant fees and annual renewal and compliance flat fees. This licensing fee update is contingent upon Board approval of the replacement of the Sheriff Office role in cannabis business licensing activities specific to site security plan review and live scan check responsibilities as required in §50-11 with staff from the Cannabis Licensing Division. It is anticipated that initial one-time deposit application fees, renewal flat fees, and compliance flat fees will decrease slightly across license types.

The California Cannabis Authority (CCA) has dissolved as a member organization and will no longer provide membership benefits including, the "Keep Our County Informed" regulatory and legislative updates and weekly news clips. This amendment will remove the expense from the licensing fee schedule.

### **Background:**

In May 2018, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 5041 of the Santa Barbara County Code, "An Ordinance Establishing the Cannabis Business Licensing Fee." Ordinance No. 5041 has since been amended six times in August 2019 (No. 5089), January 2020 (No. 5098), January 2022 (No. 5148), June 2023 (No. 5181), August 2023 (No. 5188), and June 2025 (No. 5256). Cannabis business license

fees are collected for initial applications, annual renewals, and compliance activities. On June 3, 2025, the ordinance was amended to update fees to reflect changes in salary and benefits; adjust annual set fees to accurately reflect the time coded and associated with renewal and compliance activities; adjust Indirect Cost Rate Proposals (ICRP) for each department; secure full-cost recovery for one cannabis business license specialist; secure partial-cost recovery for the cannabis program manager; and withdraw the fee recovery measure associated with the California Cannabis Authority (CCA) data platform participation.

A more detailed Board Letter with all the necessary attachments will be prepared and provided prior to the June 9, 2026 hearing.

**Special Instructions:**

The Clerk of the Board shall publish the ordinance in accordance with Government Code section 25124.

**Authored by:**

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