

CHAPTER 50

Licensing of Cannabis Operations Ordinance Amendments

Board of Supervisors
August 19, 2025



County Executive Office

Overview

- Chapter 50 Ordinance Amendments
 - Acreage cap reduction
 - Directed by Board on June 3, 2026
- Seek any other board direction regarding the County's cannabis program

Background *Cap Reduction*

- At the March 18, 2025 Board meeting, staff received direction to provide acreage cap reduction options.
- At the June 3, 2025 Board meeting, Board gave direction to change acreage cap ordinance amendments aligning with Option 3 to include Issued, Approved and Submitted acres excluding processing acres.
- Issued: includes all acreage with issued land use entitlements
- Approved: includes applicants with an approved but not issued land use entitlement
- Submitted: includes submitted cannabis cultivation acres in the permit application pending land use entitlement approval and issuance

Reduced Cap

Region	Existing Cap	Issued	Approved	Submitted	REDUCED CAP Issued, Approved and Submitted (Rounded to the nearest whole number)
Carp Ag Overlay	186	131.55	0	1.9	134 (28% reduction)
Unincorporated	1,575	1,313.72	49.97	52.73	1,417 (10% reduction)
Total	1,761	1,445.27	49.97	54.63	1,551 (12% reduction)

Proposed Amendments – Acreage Cap

Issue Area	Proposed Amendment	County Code
Limits on cannabis business licenses	<p>Updates the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District acreage cap as 134 acres.</p> <p><i><u>Current language:</u> States the current Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay acreage cap as 186 acres.</i></p>	§ 50-7
Limits on cannabis business licenses	<p>Updates the Unincorporated area outside of the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay acreage cap as 1,417 acres.</p> <p><i><u>Current language:</u> States the current Unincorporated area outside of the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay acreage cap as 1,575 acres.</i></p>	§ 50-7

Summary

- Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District new proposed acreage cap is 134 acres
- The Unincorporated area outside of the Carpinteria Ag Overlay new proposed acreage cap is 1,417 acres
- If approved, new ordinance language is effective 30 days from second reading (approval) on August 26, 2025
- Staff is seeking board approval for proposed Chapter 50 ordinance amendments
- Other direction as appropriate

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 to reduce the cultivation acreage cap to 134 acres in the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay (“Carpinteria Overlay”) and to 1,417 acres in the Unincorporated area outside of the Carpinteria Overlay (“Unincorporated area”);
- b) Read the title and waive further reading of the ordinance in full;
- c) Provide other direction as appropriate; and
- d) Set a hearing on the Administrative Agenda for August 26, 2025 to consider the Second Reading and CEQA determination for amendments to Chapter 50.