

# Agriculture Weights & Measures Department

## Hemp Ordinance Proposal

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# Hemp Ordinance Overview

- Regulate the cultivation of hemp within the unincorporated area of the County
- Will enhance local oversight with compliance tools that exceed those in the State Regulation
- Annual local licensing requirement
- Necessary to offset costs and provide a high level of customer service to industry without increasing County subsidy.





# Background

- **2014 Farm Bill**
  - Allowed universities to cultivate industrial hemp for research purposes
- **2018 Farm Bill**
  - Removed hemp from the Schedule I Federal Controlled Substance List
  - Directed United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop regulations for a new federal regulatory program
- **California State Regulations**
  - 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
  - 32 counties currently have registered commercial hemp cultivation sites
  - USDA recently certified the State Plan submitted by CDFA as of 1/1/2022
  - Santa Barbara County began accepting Industrial Hemp Registrations on 1/1/2022
  - Hemp grown for research purposes is required to register as of 1/1/2022



# Allan Hancock College Research Hemp

- Dr. Anjali Misra -plant molecular biologist and professor in the AHC industrial hemp research program
- AHC began the program in 2020.
  - 8 growers currently growing Hemp
  - 179 acres of Hemp currently planted
- Built a grower funded lab on the Lompoc Campus to perform genetic testing on hemp plants
- The Hemp and Cannabis Club (THC)
  - Prepare students for industry positions
  - Opportunity to take part in in-field training
  - Hands on work with local community partners





# Key Features of the Ordinance

- **County License required to grow Hemp**
- **Cultivation Requirements**
- **Inspection and Sampling**
- **Compliance and Enforcement**



# Potential Additional Restrictions

- **Limit the number of licenses available**
- **Limit the number of acres allowed**
- **Combination of limiting acres and licenses**



# Recommended Actions

## **That the Board of Supervisors:**

- Approve the introduction of an Ordinance regulating Hemp in the County of Santa Barbara
- Read the title, “An Ordinance Regulating Hemp”, and waive further reading of the Ordinance
- Find that the proposed actions are exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) based on CEQA Guidelines 15307, 15308, 15060(c)(2), and 15061(b)(3) as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that these actions will have a significant effect on the environment, these actions will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and these actions will assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of natural resources and the environment
- Set a hearing on the Administrative Agenda of February 1, 2022, to consider and approve the adoption of “An Ordinance Regulating Hemp”