



**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: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: July 15, 2025 Set Hearing
August 19, 2025 (First Reading)
August 26, 2025 (Second Reading)
Placement: Set-Hearing
Estimated Time: 20 minutes on August 19, 2025, Adoption on August 26, 2025
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Brittany Odermann, Deputy CEO
Carmela Beck, Cannabis Program Manager
SUBJECT: Amend Chapter 50 of the County Code – Licensing of Cannabis Operations

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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 July 15, 2025, set a public hearing on the Departmental Agenda for August 19, 2025, to consider recommendations, as follows:

On August 19, 2025:

- a) Consider the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara amending Chapter 50 to the Santa Barbara County Code, Licensing of Cannabis Operations to reduce the cultivation acreage caps in the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay ("Carpinteria Overlay") and Unincorporated area outside of the Carpinteria Overlay ("Unincorporated area");
- b) Read the title and waive further reading of the Ordinance in full;
- c) Set a hearing on the Administrative Agenda of August 26, 2025, to consider recommendations, as follows:

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On August 26, 2025:

- a) Consider adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara amending Chapter 50 to the Santa Barbara County Code, Licensing of Commercial Cannabis Operations to reduce the cultivation acreage caps in the Carpinteria Overlay and Unincorporated area; 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:

This amendment will recommend changes to Chapter 50 of the Santa Barbara County Code, Licensing of Commercial Cannabis Operations to address reductions to the cultivation acreage caps in the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay and Unincorporated area.

Discussion:

Chapter 50 limits the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District to 186 acres of cannabis cultivation activity and limits the Unincorporated area to 1,575 acres of cannabis cultivation activity. The proposed amendment includes an estimated 25% reduction to the cultivation acreage cap in the Carpinteria Overlay and a reduction of approximately 10% in the Unincorporated area. Although the cannabis cultivation acreage is not at the cap limit in either area, the Board directed reductions to the acreage cap to include all issued, approved and submitted cultivation acres using the current definition in County Code Chapter 50 which excludes areas for processing. A more detailed Board Letter with all necessary attachments and the exact acreage cap numbers will be prepared and provided prior to the August 19, 2025, hearing.

Background:

Since the effective date of the cannabis ordinances (June 2018 in the inland area, November 2018 in the coastal zone), cannabis operations have been applying for County cannabis land use permits and business licenses. Chapter 50 has been amended in April, August, December of 2019, January 2020, February, November of 2021, March, November of 2022, July 2023, April and June 2025.

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On March 18, 2025, the Board directed staff to provide options to reduce the Carpinteria Overlay and Unincorporated area cultivation acreage caps. On June 3, 2025, staff presented three options for the Board's consideration.

1. **Cap Option 1:** Status Quo (186 acres in Carpinteria Overlay; 1,575 acres in Unincorporated), or
2. **Cap Option 2:** Existing acreage for which land use entitlements have been issued and approved, or
3. **Cap Option 3:** Existing acreage for which land use entitlements have been issued, approved, and submitted, or
4. Other direction as appropriate.

The Board approved Cap Option 3 to reduce the acreage caps to include currently issued, approved and submitted cultivation acreage in the queue and directed staff to return with an ordinance amendment.

Special Instructions:

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

Authored by:

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