

# Cannabis Odor Abatement

Supervisors Capps and Nelson

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Place County Department specific logo here, or program/division



# Proposed Cannabis Odor Control Amendments

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## Objectives:

- Provide a proven solution to eliminate/reduce the harmful impacts of odor on the neighbors of Santa Barbara County
- Puts into policy what many operators are already implementing because of the positive results.
- SCS study shows that carbon scrubbers reduce the smell of cannabis by 84 percent before the gaseous compounds emitted by the cannabis could escape through the roof vents.
- Reduce the time and money spent by neighbors, operators and county staff on litigation and appeals



## Components:

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- Require carbon scrubbers or equivalent technology (MTCF) for cannabis operations
- Establish 12-month implementation timeline
- Create flexible exemption process
- Provide foundation for all parties and increase fiscal responsibility
- Shift responsibility to cannabis operators, as is required in other industries



# Current Situation

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- 3,700+ odor complaints since 2018
- Zero complaints ever verified or enforced
- Well intended but ineffective complaint-driven system
- Difficulty identifying specific odor sources



# Solutions

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- Mandatory carbon scrubbers or equivalent effective technology (MTCF) for mixed-light operations
- Site-specific implementation considerations
- 12-month compliance timeline, beginning with Board adoption
- Amortization period for existing operations



# Process of Implementation

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## Amendments to Chapter 50, Chapter 35, Article II

- Scrubber ratio determined case-by-case
- Factors considered: Cultivation area size
- Facility layout
- Local environmental conditions



# Exemption Process

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- Board of Supervisors as final decision-maker
- Extension requests can be considered on a case by case basis.



# Overall Benefits

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## Benefits of Proposed Amendments:

- Addresses longstanding community odor concerns
- Recognizes the realities of cannabis operations
- Provides clear implementation guidelines
- Provides exemption process
- Enhances financial prudence



## Next Steps:

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- a) Direct the CEO's Office to draft necessary amendments to Chapter 50 of the County Code, specifically to integrate mandatory multiple technology carbon filtration odor control measures such as carbon scrubbers or equivalent effective technology in mixed light cannabis cultivation operations;
- b) Direct the Planning Department to introduce changes to require Multi-Technology Carbon Filtration in mixed-light cannabis cultivation operations throughout the County of Santa Barbara for consideration to the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission as part of their discussion on odor abatement and enforcement, which is currently scheduled for January 22, 2025;
- c) Determine that these actions do not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5); and
- d) Provide any additional direction to staff, as appropriate.



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# Thank You

