

DRAFT NOTES

Sonoma County Cannabis Program Framework

December 12, 2018 Meeting

The notes below are based on the December 12th brainstorming visioning kickoff meeting. They are only a draft and the CAG will work each month to revise and each category.

Program Categories & Goals

	Community Compatibility	Economic Vitality	Environmental Stewardship	Land Use	Public Safety
GOAL #1	Develop comprehensive long-term vision of Cannabis in Sonoma County	Support local and cottage businesses	Protect and enhance Sonoma County's natural resources	Utilize existing technology and best practices from non-cannabis agricultural operations and other industries	Ensure health & safety of Sonoma County residents, workforce and visitors
GOAL #2	Dispel public misconceptions about & build support for commercial cannabis	Increase cannabis-related tax revenue	Minimize the cannabis industry's global footprint	Offset outdoor cultivation odor impacts through increased allowance of controlled greenhouses	
GOAL #3	Balance needs and priorities of all stakeholders	Provide for equitable and streamlined permitting process		Allow for flexibility of permit requirements w/ evidence of current and future neighborhood support (ex. Good Neighbor Policy or memorandum of understanding)	

DRAFT CATEGORY GOALS & ACTION ITEMS:

Economic Vitality: Goals & Action Items

GOALS	Support local and cottage businesses	Increase cannabis-related tax revenue	Provide for equitable and streamlined permitting process
OBJECTIVES	Showcase successful local operations to dispel concerns & encourage leading by example	Showcase successful local operations to dispel concerns & lead by example	Develop standard criteria/expectations for application processing and supporting materials required
	Ensure equitable opportunities exist for all operators throughout commercial cannabis supply chain	Ensure equitable opportunities exist for all operators throughout commercial cannabis supply chain	Provide more information on process, submittals, costs and timeline at the front-end of the application process
	Utilize local data on permitted operations to better direct future efforts & policy decisions	Utilize local data on permitted operations to direct future efforts	Provide sufficient staffing for timely permit processing
	Incentivize local food sheds	Support and encourage cannabis events and tourism	Encourage proactive neighborhood engagement prior to application submittal
	Remove barriers to and incentivize smaller-scale and specialty cultivation	Embrace and encourage cannabis businesses the same as any other	Ensure presence of adequately qualified staff member(s) for review/analysis of technical studies required by applicants
	Develop plan to integrate commercial cannabis w/ existing property uses		Develop minimum/maximum thresholds for impacts and mitigations
			Process and review cannabis permits w/ same criteria and level of scrutiny as comparable non-cannabis permits

			Revise response to public comments procedure and associated at-cost billing to applicants
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Environmental Stewardship: Goals & Action Items

GOAL	Protect and enhance Sonoma County’s natural resources	Minimize the cannabis industry’s global footprint
OBJECTIVES	Promote and incentivize environmental restoration & ongoing environmentally-friendly and sustainable practices	Incentivize use of current best practices and modern technology to reduce natural resource consumption, waste generation, greenhouse gas emissions and other statewide and global environmental concerns
	Increase enforcement of illegal & non-compliant operations	

Land Use: Goals & Action Items

GOAL	Balance needs and priorities of all stakeholders
OBJECTIVES	Utilize existing technology and best practices from non-cannabis agricultural operations and other industries
	Develop minimum/maximum thresholds for impacts and mitigation requirements
	Utilize local data and feedback on permitted operations to prioritize efforts and direct policy decisions
	Offset outdoor cultivation odor impacts through increased allowance of controlled greenhouses
	Allow for flexibility of permit requirements w/ evidence of current and future neighborhood support (ex. Good Neighbor Policy or memorandum of understanding)

Public Safety: Goals & Action Items

GOAL	Ensure health & safety of Sonoma County residents, workforce and visitors
OBJECTIVES	Develop a system for prioritizing enforcement at specific locations and/or during peak harvest periods
	Implement public safety educational campaign with medical resources (e.g., cannabis “poison control” hotline)

Community Compatibility: Goals & Action Items

GOAL	Develop comprehensive long-term vision of Cannabis in Sonoma County	Dispel public misconceptions about & build support for commercial cannabis	Balance needs and priorities of all stakeholders
OBJECTIVES	Complete Cannabis Program Framework	Implement countywide educational campaign & community forums	Develop minimum/maximum thresholds for impacts and mitigation requirements
	Integrate cannabis into vision and goals of General Plan 2030	Publicly showcase successful operations	Utilize local data and feedback on permitted operations to prioritize efforts and direct policy decisions