

NOTICE OF A SONOMA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE REGULATING INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATION

WHO: The County of Sonoma is proposing amendments to Chapter 26 (Zoning Code) and Chapter 37 (Industrial Hemp Ordinance) in reference to industrial hemp. The **Sonoma County Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to review proposed zoning regulations and make its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

WHAT: The zoning regulations include amendments to Chapter 26 of the Sonoma County Code to limit cultivation of industrial hemp to certain zoning districts, and make clarifying changes to definitions and allowed uses related to industrial hemp cultivation, agricultural processing, and manufacturing. Additionally, the proposed zoning regulations would amend Chapter 37 to add certain restrictions on industrial hemp cultivation within some Zoning Districts.

The Planning Commission will be acting on the zoning regulations although the Board of Supervisors will consider additional regulations related to hemp including the establishment of a registration process for industrial hemp growers, requirements for pollen management, and special enforcement provisions for distinguishing between hemp cultivation and unpermitted cannabis cultivation. **Supervisorial Districts, All.**

The Sonoma County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider zoning regulations for industrial hemp cultivation in which all interested persons are invited to attend and provide comments.

The County has determined that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under sections 15307 and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines, because the proposed regulations would purely restrict the cultivation of industrial hemp, an allowed agricultural crop, to further assure protection of the environment and natural resources. The project is also exempt under CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that minor clarifications to the County Code and added restrictions to an allowed use will have no significant effect on the environment.

WHERE & WHEN: The public hearing will be held on **November 21, 2019 at 1:20 PM at: the Permit Sonoma Hearing Room**, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Project materials and associated documents are available at Permit Sonoma, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, the Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures, 133 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa and published online at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/AWM>

GETTING INVOLVED: If you have questions or concerns regarding the proposed project please contact Agricultural Commissioner Tony Linegar at SonomaAg@sonoma-county.org or (707) 565-2371.

Written comments may be submitted prior to or at the hearing. Comments received at least 10 days prior to the hearing date will be included in the staff report; all other comments will be made available to decision-makers prior to or at the hearing.

If you challenge the decision on the project in court you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to Permit Sonoma/Ag Weights & Measures at or prior to the public hearing.

NOTICE ALSO PUBLISHED: November 10, 2019

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