



COUNTY OF SONOMA

PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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Sonoma County Cannabis Ordinance Transition Period

What is the “Transition Period?”

[The Cannabis Land Use Ordinance](#) (No. 6189) adopted Dec 20, 2016 includes the following language which provides a period of time for existing cannabis cooperatives and collectives (cultivation only) to apply for permits to legalize their operation or cease the use.

Transition Period. *This ordinance hereby supersedes Resolution 06-0846. Existing cannabis cultivation cooperatives or collectives that demonstrate to the review authority that they were in operation before January 1, 2016 shall have until January 1, 2018 to come into compliance with this ordinance, provided that there has been no increase in the size of the cultivation area and the operations are in compliance with the best management practices and the operating standards.*

How do I Meet the Transition Period?

1. **Required Proof (May be requested as part of permit process or code enforcement complaint) -**
Documentation of cultivation activities occurring prior to Jan 1, 2016 including evidence and calculation of square footage. Operations may only be relocated in order to prepare for the permit process (the new property will be verified for consistently with previous cultivation area size). Below are some examples of the types of documentation to verify existence of operation. Documentation is not limited to this list and items should be used in combination to provide clear proof.
 - a) Aerial photography that is time stamped (google earth or other service)
 - b) Incorporation documents of a collective or cooperative
 - c) Tax Receipts
 - d) Invoice or sales documentation
 - e) Energy Bills
2. Compliance with Best Management Practices (required for both outdoor and indoor) - Evidence must be provided to show compliance.
3. Compliance with the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Operating Standards- Evidence must be provided that each standard is being met (see Ordinance Exhibit A-2 for detail of each standard).
 - a) Air Quality and Odor
 - b) Energy Use
 - c) Hazardous Materials
 - d) Hours of Operation
 - e) Noise Limits
 - f) Occupational Safety
 - g) Waste Management
 - h) Waste Water Discharge
 - i) Water Supply
 - j) Groundwater Monitoring
4. Site Plan showing the property boundaries, all structures, the cultivation area, and any other features associated with the cultivation operation.
5. Proof of property ownership or written consent by landlord with contact information.