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 1 attachments (335 KB)

El Dorado County Ordinance - Suggested changes (3).pdf;

Hi,

Somehow a couple of minor comments were missing when I moved the redline document from Google to Word. Please replace the existing document I sent with this one. Thanks.

Lee Tannenbaum
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President El Dorado County Growers Alliance
650.515.2484

CHAPTER 130.41. - COMMERCIAL CANNABIS

Sec. 130.41.100 - Commercial Cannabis Activities Permitting and Enforcement.

1. Applicability.
 - a. The purpose of this Section is to provide for the permitting and enforcement procedures to regulate commercial cannabis activities that are independently authorized in a separate chapter. Nothing in this Section is intended to authorize any commercial cannabis activity.
 - b. While the ordinance from which this Section is derived was originally enacted by voters, the Board of Supervisors retains discretion to amend the ordinance in any way, including but not limited to all procedures provided herein, permit requirements, and penalties, without further voter approval.
2. Definitions. The terms and phrases in this Section, any County Code authorizing a commercial cannabis activity, and Chapter 3.22 (Taxation of Commercial Cannabis Activities) shall have the meaning ascribed below, unless the context in which they are used clearly suggests otherwise. For any term not defined, the definition shall be that given by the State in the most current cannabis statutes or regulations.

Cannabis means all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* Linnaeus, *Cannabis indica*, or *Cannabis ruderalis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin, whether crude or purified, extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound. ~~"Cannabis" does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination, or "Industrial hemp" as defined by Section 11018.5 of the Health and Safety Code. (Business and Professions Code Section 26001.)~~

Deleted: manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or resin. "Cannabis" also means the separated resin, whether crude or purified, obtained from cannabis.

Cannabis business means any person engaged in any commercial cannabis activity.

Cannabis products means cannabis that has undergone a process whereby the plant material has been transformed into a concentrate, including, but not limited to, concentrated cannabis or an edible or topical product containing cannabis or concentrated cannabis and other ingredients. (Health and Safety Code Section 11018.1; Revenue and Taxation Code Section 34010.)

Canopy means the designated area(s) at a licensed premises, calculated in square feet, that will contain mature plants at any point in time, as follows:

- 1) For indoor and mixed-light cultivation and nurseries, canopy shall be calculated in square feet and measured using the room boundaries, walls, or ceiling-to-floor partitions of each enclosed area that will contain mature plants at any point in time, including all of the space(s) within the boundaries. If mature plants are being cultivated using a shelving system, the surface area of each level shall be included in the total canopy calculation.
- 2) For outdoor cultivation and nurseries, canopy shall be calculated in square feet and measured using physical boundaries of all area(s) that will contain mature plants at any point in time, including the space within the boundaries. Canopy may be noncontiguous, but each unique area included in the total canopy calculation shall be separated by a physical boundary, such as a fence, hedgerow, garden plot, or other stable, semi-permanent structure that clearly demarcates the canopy edge.

Child care center means any licensed child care center, daycare center, childcare home, or preschool.

Place of worship means a structure or leased portion of a structure that is used primarily for religious worship and related religious activities.

Commercial cannabis activity includes any activity involving the propagating, cultivating, harvesting, processing, drying, curing, storing, trimming, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, transporting, delivering, possessing, distributing, or laboratory testing of cannabis or cannabis products for the sale, distribution, gifting, or donating to any other person regardless of whether the activity involves medicinal or adult recreational cannabis or cannabis products, is operated for profit, or is in compliance with State laws and regulations. "Commercial cannabis activity" does not include any activity expressly allowed under Business and Professions Code Section 26033, Health and Safety Code Section 11362.1, and County Code Title 130, Article 9, Section 130.14.260 (Outdoor Medical Cannabis Cultivation for Personal Use) or the transportation of cannabis or cannabis products through the County without delivery within the County on public roads by a transporter licensed under State law.

Commercial Cannabis Activities Tax means the tax due under this article for engaging in the commercial cannabis activities in the unincorporated area of the County.

Commercial cannabis operation includes all of the commercial cannabis activities performed at a premises by one person as a single operation regardless of the number of individual permits or State licenses required and regardless of whether the activity involves medicinal or adult recreational cannabis or cannabis products.

Cultivation or cultivating means the propagation, planting, growing, harvesting, drying, curing, grading, or trimming of one or more cannabis plants or any part thereof.

Delivery means the commercial transfer of cannabis or cannabis products to a customer and includes the use by a retailer of any technology platform. (California Business and Professions Code Section 26001.)

Distribution means the procurement, sale, and transport of cannabis and cannabis products between licensed cannabis businesses, but not the direct sale or transport to the general public.

Distributor means a person engaged in the distribution of cannabis and/or cannabis products between cannabis businesses.

Dried flower means all dead cannabis that has been harvested, dried, cured, or otherwise processed, excluding leaves and stems.

Flowering means that a cannabis plant has formed a mass of pistils measuring greater than one half inch wide at its widest point.

Gross receipts shall have the same meaning as set forth in California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 6012.

Immature plant or immature means a cannabis plant that has a first true leaf measuring greater than one half inch long from base to tip (if started from seed) or a mass of roots measuring greater than one half inch wide at its widest point (if vegetatively propagated), but which is not flowering.

Indoor cultivation means the cultivation of cannabis within a permanent structure using exclusively artificial light or within any type of structure using artificial light at a rate above 25 watts per square foot. Indoor cultivation does not include immature plant propagation from seeds or mother plants ancillary to operation of a cultivation license.

Commented [LT2]: Added comment to allow for indoor propagation. State allows and also a greenhouse is not suitable for cold weather conditions.

Infusion means a process by which cannabis, cannabinoids, or cannabis concentrations are directly incorporated into a product formulation to produce a cannabis product.

Legal parcel means any parcel of real property that may be separately sold in compliance with the Subdivision Map Act (Division 2 (commencing with Government Code Section 66410) of Title 7 of the Government Code).

Manufacture means all aspects of the extraction and/or infusion processes, including processing, preparing, holding, storing, packaging, or labeling of cannabis, cannabis

products, or other components and ingredients that is performed pursuant to a license issued by the California Department of Public Health's Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch,

Commented [LT3]: Manufacturing and Processing have mixed definitions. Manufacturing includes processing. State does not do this.

Mature plant means a cannabis plant that is flowering.

Medical or medicinal cannabis means cannabis grown for personal medicinal use by a qualified patient as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 or a person with a valid cannabis identification card issued under Health and Safety Code Section 11362.71.

Mixed-light cultivation means the cultivation of mature cannabis in a greenhouse, hoop-house, glass house, conservatory, hothouse, or other similar structure using a combination of natural light and artificial lighting at a rate of less than or equal to 25 (twenty five) watts per square foot.

Commented [4]: Change needed to allow propagation and nurseries. The existing code does not fill the gap and the state does.

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Nursery means all activities associated with producing clones, immature plants, seeds, and other agricultural products used specifically for the propagation and cultivation of cannabis.

Organic certification standards means the organic certification adopted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture for cannabis pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 26062.

Outdoor cultivation means cultivation activities that are not conducted within a fully enclosed, permitted building, constructed of solid materials, accessible only through one or more locking doors.

Owner means any person that constitute an "owner" under the regulations promulgated by the Bureau of Cannabis Control. Person means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, limited liability company, cooperative, collective, organization, entity, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, syndicate, or any other group or combination acting as a unit, whether as principal, agent, employee, or otherwise, and the plural as well as the singular. For simplification, suggest using state definitions. All other counties do.

Deleted: and (1) a person with any ownership interest, however small, in the person applying for a permit, unless the interest is solely a security, lien, or encumbrance; (2) the chief executive officer of a nonprofit or other entity; (3) a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit entity; (4) a person who will be participating in the direction, control, or management of the person applying for a permit, including but not limited to a general partner of a partnership, a non-member manager or managing member of a limited liability company, and an officer or director of a corporation; or (5) a person who will share in any amount of the profits of the person applying for a permit or has a financial interest, as defined by the regulations promulgated by the Bureau of Cannabis Control, in the person applying for the permit.¶

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Premises means the, portion of the legal parcel of property where cannabis activity occurs. Where contiguous legal parcels are under common ownership or control, such contiguous legal parcels may be counted as a single "premises." Use State definition or Parcel of land means any quantity of land capable of being described with such definiteness that its locations and boundaries may be established, which is designated by its owner or developer as land to be used, or developed as, a unit or which has been used or developed as a unit.

Commented [LT6]: A cannabis permit should not exclude property owners from conducting other legal activities.

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Process or processing means all cannabis business activities associated with drying, curing, grading, trimming, storing, packaging, and labeling of raw cannabis, or any part thereof, for transport.

Processor means a cultivation site that conducts only trimming, drying, curing, grading, packaging, or labeling of cannabis and non manufactured cannabis products.

Propagate or propagation means to cultivate immature plants from cannabis plant cuttings or seeds.

Retail sale, sell, and to sell means any transaction whereby, for any consideration, title to cannabis or cannabis products is transferred from one person to another, and includes the delivery of cannabis or cannabis products pursuant to an order placed for the purchase of the same and soliciting or receiving an order for the same, but does not include the return of cannabis or cannabis products by a cannabis permittee to the cannabis permittee from whom the cannabis or cannabis product was purchased.

School means an institution of learning for minors, whether public or private, offering a regular course of instruction required by the California Education Code. This definition includes a nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school, middle or junior high school, senior high school, or any special institution of education, but does not include a home school or vocational or professional institution of higher education, including a community or junior college, college, or university.

School bus stop means any location designated in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 1238, to receive school buses, as defined in Vehicle Code Section 233, or school pupil activity buses, as defined in Vehicle Code Section 546. *Testing laboratory or laboratory* means a laboratory, facility, or entity in California that offers or performs tests of cannabis or cannabis products and that is accredited by an accrediting body that is independent from all other persons involved in commercial cannabis activity in the state.

Transport or transportation means the transfer of cannabis from the licensed cannabis business site of one State commercial cannabis licensee to the State licensed cannabis business site of another State commercial cannabis licensee for the purposes of conducting cannabis business activities as authorized pursuant to California Business and Professions Code Section 26000 et seq.

Treasurer-Tax Collector means the Treasurer-Tax Collector of the County of El Dorado, his or her deputies, unless another County officer or employee is assigned by resolution of the Board of Supervisors, to perform all or a portion of the duties as listed herein, in which case, the Treasurer-Tax Collector shall interpreted as the person defined in the resolution.

Watts per square foot means the sum of the maximum wattage of all lights identified in the designated canopy area(s) in the cultivation plan divided by the square feet of designated canopy area(s) identified in the cultivation plan.

Youth-oriented facility means any facility that caters to or provides services primarily intended for minors.

3. Permits Required. No person shall engage in any commercial cannabis activity in the unincorporated areas of the County without a valid Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit.

4. Commercial Cannabis Use Permit.

- a) A Commercial Cannabis Use Permit shall be subject to Article 5 of Title 130 of the County Code (Application Forms, Submittal Process, and Fees), unless provided otherwise herein. It shall be treated as a Conditional Use Permit under Section 130.52.021 (Conditional Use Permits), subject to the public hearing procedures and recommendation from the Planning and Building Director and decision by the Planning Commission.
- b) *Notice to Interested Parties, Cities, and Counties.* Prior to the hearing before the Planning Commission, notice of the application shall be provided pursuant to Section 130.04.015. If a commercial cannabis activity is proposed within a one-half mile radius of an incorporated city or county, notice of and an opportunity to comment on the application for the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit shall be provided to the applicable city or county before the permit is considered by the Planning Commission.
- c) No Commercial Cannabis Use Permit may be granted unless the applicant demonstrates compliance with all standards in the County Code and State law and regulations for the particular commercial cannabis activity. Any setback for a commercial cannabis activity may be reduced in a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit so long as the applicant demonstrates that the actual setback will substantially achieve the purpose of the required setback and that the parcel was owned or leased by the applicant before voter approval of the ordinance from which this Section is derived on November 6, 2018.
- d) Issuance of a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit under this Chapter is a discretionary act requiring compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and the applicant shall comply with Article 5, Section 130.51.030 (Environmental Review). The applicant shall be responsible for all costs associated with CEQA compliance, including but not limited to environmental analysis and studies, preparation of the appropriate CEQA document, and all County staff time, including attorney time, spent reviewing and pursuing final adoption of the appropriate environmental document.
- e) Pursuant to Article 5, Section 130.51.020 (Application Forms, Submittal Process, and Fees), application fees adopted by resolution of the Board of

Commented [LT7]: Remove this language. Unneeded as the original intent was to prevent new folks coming in and flooding the cultivation licenses.

Commented [8]: Suggestion for thought. Nevada county and others have done a county wide EIR. It does take time and there is a cost. However, this cost could be quickly recovered and turn into a profit center. Reasoning for this is current process is extremely costly and will by default many applicants. The goal of this is to allow farmers to enter the market easily and inexpensively. Also, this would allow for fee's to reflect actual costs as fee's currently are based on an hourly rate that is significantly more than the county employee's salary

Supervisors shall be paid upon application submittal. Additional fees may be required subject to the provisions of the adopted fee schedule, such as for "time and material" fee categories.

- f) An application for a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit shall be submitted in accordance with Article 5, Section 130.51.020 (Application Forms, Submittal Process, and Fees) and, in addition to any information requested by the Planning and Building Department, shall include:
- i) The name, contact address, and phone number of the applicant and all owners, as defined above, and spouses or registered domestic partners of owners, all documents providing for the establishing and ownership and control of the applicant, including but not limited to operational agreements, bylaws, stock agreements, and any other documents demonstrating the ownership interest of each owner and any other funding sources for the applicant.
 - ii) Consent to a background check of all owners, ~~including providing the information necessary for performing the background check and fingerprinting. The Sheriff's office shall use resources currently available to them which could include but are not limited to CA DOJ background checks. In order to expedite the process, the Sheriff's office has no more than 45 days after receipt of background check application to make their recommendation to the county planning department.~~ If the applicant is not the record title owner of the parcel, written consent of the owner of the parcel with original signature and notary acknowledgement. The written consent must be notarized within 30 days of the date that the application is submitted with the County.
 - iii) Name and contact information for the Designated Local Contact.
 - iv) Site plan showing the entire parcel, including any easements, streams, springs, ponds, and other surface water features and the location and area for cultivation on the parcel with dimensions of the area for cultivation ~~including any area or building used for immature plant propagation and setbacks from property lines, if applicable.~~ The site plan shall also include all areas of ground disturbance or surface water disturbance associated with cultivation activities, if applicable, and identify any areas where cannabis will be stored, handled, or displayed.
 - v) Detailed explanation of how the applicant will prevent theft and access to cannabis and cannabis products by individuals under the age of 21 unless the individual has a valid medical cannabis card and is lawfully purchasing medicinal cannabis from a licensed retailer.
 - vi) Proof that the operations will comply with all of the County regulations and standards in the County Code for the particular commercial cannabis activity and any other applicable County regulations and standards, including but not limited to Title 130, Chapter 130.36 (Signs).

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Commented [10]: Lots to discuss here, but short version is the sheriff's office has been trying for 4+ years to get special background check process and been rejected 3 times. Lot's more.

Commented [11]: Remove as the EDSO will not waive this. Also moot if we follow state guidelines

Deleted: The Sheriff's Office has the discretion to waive a fingerprinting if the individual owns five percent or less of the business.¶

Commented [LT12]: Cultivators should show where propagation areas are located on their property. Immature plant propagation is allowed under state law and regulation.

- vii) Proof that the operations will comply with all State standards and regulations by all State agencies with jurisdiction over the particular commercial cannabis activity, including submission of a copy of all documents and exhibits that are required for a State license.
 - viii) An operating plan demonstrating proper protocols and procedures that address enforcement priorities for cannabis activities, including ensuring that cannabis and cannabis products are obtained from and supplied only to other permitted licensed sources within the State and not distributed out of State.
 - ix) If applicable, description of how the applicant will meet and maintain organic certification standards or the substantial equivalent or, if pesticides and fertilizers are used, a list of all pesticides and fertilizers that may be used.
 - x) Complete copy of the State license application, including all exhibits, diagrams, and attachments, along with a certification under penalty of perjury that the copy provided is accurate and that the County will be notified in writing immediately if any information provided to the State differs from what was provided to the County.
 - xi) The security plan for the operation that includes adequate lighting, security video cameras with a minimum camera resolution of 1080 pixels and 360 degree coverage, alarm systems, and secure area for cannabis storage. The security plan shall include a requirement that there be at least 90 calendar days of surveillance video (that captures both inside and outside images) stored on an ongoing basis and made available to the County upon request. The County may require real-time access of the surveillance video for the Sheriff's Office. The video system for the security cameras must be located in a locked, tamper-proof compartment. The security plan shall remain confidential.
 - xii) Detailed diagrams of the premises, including any buildings, structures, fences, gates, parking, lighting, and signage.
 - xiii) Certification of the accuracy of the information submitted and agreement to comply with all conditions of the permit.
- g) No Commercial Cannabis Use Permit may be issued until a background check of all owners is completed with review and recommendation by the Sheriff's Office, including but not limited to criminal history, fingerprinting, and any pending charges. The applicant shall be responsible for the cost of the background check. The County may deny an application based on the results of a background check if the County determines that information in the background check including but not limited to, prior convictions involving violent crimes (per state code...), The Sheriff's office shall use resources currently available to them which could include but are not limited to CA DOJ background or livescan checks. In order to expedite the process, the Sheriff's office has no more than 45 days after receipt of background check application to make their recommendation to the county planning department

Deleted: <#>If applicable, written acknowledgement that the County reserves the right to reduce the size of the area allowed for cultivation under any permit issued in the event that environmental conditions, such as a sustained drought or non-compliant odor, merit a reduction in the cultivation size.⁶⁷

Deleted: and the Designated Local Contact

Deleted: makes it more likely than not that any amount of funding for the operation will be or was derived from illegal activity or because the criminal history or other information discovered in the background check of an owner or spouse of an owner weighs against the owner's trustworthiness or ability to run a legal business in compliance with all regulations,

Deleted: the risk of involvement or influence by organized crime

Deleted: controlled substances or

Deleted: , the likelihood that sales and income will not be truthfully reported, or the risk that cannabis will be illegally provided or sold to individuals under the age of 21

- h) Concentration of commercial cannabis activities and proximity to an existing or proposed commercial cannabis activity shall be considered in determining whether to grant a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit.
- i) At a minimum, a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit shall include:
 - i) The name of all owners.
 - ii) The single commercial cannabis activity authorized in the permit, including any site specific restrictions or conditions of approval under Section 130.51.060 (Conditions of Approval).
 - iii) ~~Consent for onsite inspection by County officials during the permittee's regular business hours and outside of the permittee's regular business hours if the County has reason to believe that violations are occurring outside of regular business hours. With reasonable notice and an appointment.~~
 - iv) Indication of whether the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit is for approval of a commercial activity involving cannabis for medicinal, adult-use recreational, or both. A single Commercial Cannabis Use Permit may allow for a commercial activity involving both medicinal and adult-use recreational cannabis provided that the operation is consistent with State law and regulations.
 - v) Name and contact information for the Designated Local Contact.
 - vi) Condition of approval requiring timely payment of the Commercial Cannabis Activities Tax and all other applicable County taxes and assessments, including providing information related to such taxes and assessments to the County Treasurer-Tax Collector and Assessor upon request.
- j) Authorization may not be provided to the appropriate State licensing agency for an annual State license unless the County has issued a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit.

Deleted: ~~##>~~ If applicable, statement that the County reserves the right to reduce the size of the area allowed for cultivation under any permit issued in the event that environmental conditions, such as a sustained drought or non-compliant odor, merit a reduction in the cultivation size.¹⁾
 Condition of approval that the permittee and all owners shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the County of El Dorado and its agents, officers, elected officials, and employees for any claims, damages, or injuries brought by affected property owners or other third parties due to the issuance of a permit or the commercial cannabis activities and for any claims brought by any person for problems, injuries, damages, or liabilities of any kind that may arise out of the issuance of a permit or the commercial cannabis activities.¹⁾

5. Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit.

- A. In addition to a discretionary Commercial Cannabis Use Permit, a person may only conduct a commercial cannabis activity if the person obtains a Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit. When a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit is first issued, the Building and Planning Department shall also issue a Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit, subject to annual renewals. A Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit is valid for one year from the date of issuance and may be renewed after staff-level review with public notice as provided for in Chapter 130.50 (Application Filing and Processing) of this Title.
- B. In addition to any other information or documentation requested by the County Planning and Building Department, an application for renewal of a Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit shall include all of the information required for a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit, noting any changes from the information submitted with the original application, and the complaint report required under Section 9(B) (Designated Local Contact) below in this Section. The applicant must demonstrate continued compliance with all County and State regulations and site specific conditions in the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or Commercial

Cannabis Annual Operating Permit. If the applicant is not the record title owner of the parcel, an updated written consent of the owner of the parcel with original signature and notary acknowledgement must be provided and be notarized within 30 days of the date that the renewal application is submitted with the County.

- C. A Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit shall not be issued if the applicant owes any delinquent Commercial Cannabis Activities Tax or any other fines, violations, assessments, fees, costs, or amounts related to the commercial cannabis activity. Prior to issuance, Building and Planning Department shall notify the Sheriff's Office and Code Enforcement of the application and request information on any resolved or pending complaints or violations.
- D. If taxes under Chapter 3.22 (Taxation of Commercial Cannabis Activities) for cultivation of cannabis are assessed based on square footage, taxes shall be calculated based on the maximum square footage stated in the Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit. If a permittee does not intend to cultivate the entire square footage permitted in a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit in any given year, the permittee must request a reduction in square footage in the application for a Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit. Failure to request a reduction in the application will result in taxes being assessed on the square footage stated in the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit. Remove sq/ft tax. Tax should be charged on gross sales for retail/wholesale (Nursery) and net sales (after expenses) for cultivation (like any other business).
- E. A Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit is not transferrable and automatically expires upon any change of ownership to the applicant that results in a new owner or owners or new funding source. Before or upon the transfer of the business or addition of a new owner, an application for a new Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit must be submitted. While the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit may be transferred, upon issuance of the new Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit, conditions to the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit may be added or removed. The Director of Planning and Building may require a decision by the Planning Commission to impose any new conditions or remove any existing conditions of a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under this subsection consistent with Article 5, Section 130.54.070 (Revisions to an Approved Permit or Authorization). Revise to allow transfer of business to follow state guidelines. There must be a plan of succession.

β. Out-of-County Delivery and Distribution of Commercial Cannabis.

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- A. This Section applies to any person located outside of the unincorporated areas of the County who delivers or distributes commercial cannabis to a physical location in an unincorporated area of the County as part of a legal commercial cannabis activity. No person operating a commercial cannabis retail or distribution facility located outside of the unincorporated area of the County may deliver or distribute commercial cannabis within the unincorporated area of the County without a valid business license under Chapter 5.08 (License Requirements and Procedure).
- B. Cannabis delivery hours in the County are limited to commencing at 6:00 a.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. Any delivery must be initiated by a customer by 10:00 p.m.

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These restricted hours apply regardless of whether the sale originates within or outside of the County.

- C. The Commercial Cannabis Activities Tax shall be paid for the sale of all commercial cannabis delivered or distributed within El Dorado County regardless of where the retail or distribution facility is located.

7. Revocation After Three Violations. In addition to revocation of a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Article 5, Section 130.54.090 (Revocation or County Mandated Modification of a Permit), upon receipt of any combination of three administrative citations, verified violations, or hearing officer determinations of violation of any of the permit requirements or standards issued to one or more of the owners or operators at any property or combination of properties of one or more of the same owners or operators within a two-year period, the Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit shall be nullified, voided, or revoked, subject to prior notice and appeal under Section 130.54.090 (Revocation or County Mandated Modification of a Permit) and the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit may be revoked, subject to prior notice and appeal under Section 130.54.090. Upon revocation, an application for a Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit to reestablish a cannabis operation by one or more of the same owners or operators or at the subject property shall not be accepted for a minimum period of two years. If only the Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit is revoked under this Section, reissuance shall be subject to the procedures to issue a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit, including hearing before and decision of the Planning Commission and any new or amended conditions may be added to the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit. Needs to be reworded such that since this is a new business to the county that unless gross willful violations occur, there needs to be a period of time to allow for all to get into compliance.

8. Monitoring Program. All Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permits shall require the applicant's participation in a County-run monitoring program. The monitoring program shall be funded by applicants and will be used to conduct site visits and inspections of all commercial cannabis activities and verify compliance, including but not limited to all requirements of County Code and any site specific permit conditions and State regulations, including the State track-and-trace requirements. The Board of Supervisors shall by resolution or ordinance adopt such fees necessary to implement this monitoring program. The annual monitoring program fees shall be collected yearly at the time of renewal of the Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit. These costs should reflect actual costs. Between CAOP, Taxes, etc the operation is already taxpayer neutral. There does not need to be additional monitoring charges assessed.

9. Designated Local Contact.

- A. No Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit may be issued unless a current name and contact information for a Designated Local Contact is included. The Designated Local Contact must be available by telephone on a 24-hour basis, seven days per week and be able to respond to the County within two hours and corrective action, if required, must be completed within the time requested by the County.
- B. No less than one week before commercial cannabis operations commence, the permittee must notify the property owners and residents of property located within 1,000 feet of the perimeter of the parcel(s) upon which the commercial cannabis operations will occur and

Commented [16]: This is not reasonable. Being available 24/7 with a 2 hour response does not allow for vacation, activities, etc. Cannot hire an answering service as an error could cause for lack of license.

provide the name and contact information for the Designated Local Contact. Complaints made to the Designated Local Contact by any member of the public must be responded to within 24 hours of the initial complaint and corrective action, if required under any State or local law or regulation, must commence within a reasonable time based on the nature of the corrective action required. Complaints by any member of the public shall be logged in writing and the complaint log, including any corrective action taken, shall be provided to the Building and Planning Department annually with the application to renew the Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit.

- C. The permittee must immediately notify the County and owners and residents covered property owners and residents of property located within 1,000 feet of the perimeter of the parcel(s) upon which the commercial cannabis operations occur of any change to the Designated Local Contact or change to the telephone number for the Designated Local Contact.
- D. The failure to comply with any requirement of this Section constitutes a violation subject to enforcement under this Chapter.

Commented [17]: All neighbors know who the local contact is, etc. No need to bombard them with too much information.

10. Criminal Enforcement.

- A. Any person who engages or attempts to engage in any commercial cannabis activity without the required County permits, owns the property upon which a commercial cannabis activity is conducted without the required County permits, or otherwise violates or attempts to violate any of the provisions of the County's commercial cannabis activities ordinances can be charged with a misdemeanor or infraction at the discretion of the District Attorney.
- B. If charged as a misdemeanor, the violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment in the County jail for a term not exceeding six months or by both such fine and imprisonment. If charged as an infraction, the violation shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100.00 for the first violation, \$250.00 for the second violation within one year, and \$500.00 for each additional violation within one year. Each and every day, or portion of a day, that a violation exists may be charged as a separate offense.

11. Administrative Enforcement and Abatement.

- A. In addition to criminal enforcement and potential revocation of a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit, a violation of this Section, violation of any County or State rule, regulation, or law governing the particular commercial cannabis activity, or violation of a condition in a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit shall be deemed a public nuisance and shall be subject to enforcement as provided herein and the provisions of Chapter 9.02 (Code Enforcement). Pursuant to Section 9.02.020(B), the higher fines of this Section shall control in any administrative enforcement action.
- B. A notice to correct or notice to abate issued under Chapter 9.02 shall provide 72 hours for the responsible person to correct or abate the violation and shall identify the administrative fines of this Section if the violation is not corrected or abated within 72 hours.
- C. Fines for Persons Operating with a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit:

- a. For any violation by a person who has been issued a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit and who does not correct the violation within the 72-hour notice to correct, an administrative fine of \$1,000.00 per day, per violation will accrue for each and every day, or portion of a day, that a violation exists.
 - b. Once a notice to abate is issued and the time to abate provided in the notice has expired or a decision of a Hearing Officer requires abatement and the time to abate provided in the decision has expired, the fine shall increase to \$2,500.00 per day, per violation for each and every day, or portion of a day, that a violation exists.
 - c. For a second violation within the 12-month period commencing from the date of a prior administrative citation by the same person or on the same premises if the property owner remains the same, the administrative fine shall be \$5,000 per day, per violation for each and every day, or portion of a day, that a violation exists.
 - d. For a third violation within the 12-month period commencing from the date of the first administrative citation by the same person or on the same premises if the property owner remains the same, the administrative fine shall be \$10,000.00 per day, per violation for each and every day, or portion of a day, that a violation exists.
- D. Fines for Persons Operating a Commercial Cannabis Activity Without a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit:
- a. For any violation by a person who has not been issued a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit and who does not correct the violation within the 72-hour notice to correct, an administrative fine of \$5,000.00 per day, per violation will accrue for each and every day, or portion of a day, that a violation exists.
 - b. Once a notice to abate is issued and the time to abate provided in the notice has expired or a decision of a Hearing Officer requires abatement and the time to abate provided in the decision has expired, the fine shall increase to \$10,000.00 per day, per violation for each and every day, or portion of a day, that a violation exists.
 - c. For a second violation within the 12-month period commencing from the date of a prior administrative citation by the same person or on the same premises if the property owner remains the same, the administrative fine shall be \$25,000.00 per day, per violation for each and every day, or portion of a day, that a violation exists.
 - d. For a third violation within the 12-month period commencing from the date of the first administrative citation by the same person or on the same premises if the property owner remains the same, the administrative fine shall be \$50,000.00 per day, per violation for each and every day, or portion of a day, that a violation exists.
 - e. If the violation is for operating without a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit, the fine shall be tolled from the date the application is submitted until the permit is granted or denied by the County provided that all fines accrued prior to the date the permit is submitted are paid with the permit. If the violation is for failure to comply with the regulations of the County Code for the particular commercial cannabis activity, the fines shall not be tolled during the period that an application for a commercial cannabis activity permit is under review.
- E. Each plant cultivated outside of the square footage provided for in the Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit shall be deemed a separate violation. The

Commented [LT18]: instead of sheriff enforcing, suggest we allow code enforcement to do their job as this becomes a net cash income via code enforcement instead of a net cash loss by having the sheriff roll vehicles and personnel

determination of the plants outside of the permitted square footage shall be made with reference to the cultivation site plan submitted with an application. Each retail sale or attempted retail sale of cannabis shall be deemed a separate violation.

- F. Notwithstanding Section 9.02.390, a request for an administrative hearing under Chapter 9.02 must be made within three days of service of the notice to correct, administrative citation, or notice to abate and the hearing shall be held within five days of the request for a hearing.
- G. The decision of the Hearing Officer under Section 9.02.440 shall be issued within five days of completion of the hearing.
- H. A notice to abate or decision of a Hearing Officer requiring abatement shall provide that, if any plants cultivated under this Section are removed as part of the abatement action because they are in excess of the allowable square footage, the responsible person may decide which plants will remain so long as the remaining plants are in compliance with the Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit. The notice to abate shall require the responsible person to identify the plants to remain within the 72-hours provided in the notice to abate or the time provided for in the decision by the Hearing Officer. If the responsible person does not identify the plants to remain in writing within the time provided, the enforcement official shall determine, in his or her sole discretion, which plants will remain.
- I. Unless a notice is personally served, any notice provided under this Section shall be mailed under Section 9.02.120 and posted conspicuously on or in front of the business or cultivation site, or other place reasonably anticipated to provide notice to the responsible person.
- J. The remedies provided herein are cumulative to all other administrative, civil, and criminal remedies now or hereafter available to abate or otherwise regulate or prevent public nuisances or criminal activity.
- K. All County officers with authority to enforce this Code shall also have the authority to enforce this Section.

12. No Authorization, Defense, or Immunity. The issuance of a permit under this Chapter shall not confer on any person the right to maintain a public or private nuisance or to authorize or facilitate any violation of State. ~~Except for enforcement actions arising out of this Chapter, no provision of this Chapter shall be deemed a defense or immunity to any action brought against any person by the District Attorney, the State of California, the United States, or any other person. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to authorize or facilitate a commercial cannabis activity that is otherwise illegal under State or Federal law.~~

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13. No Duty to Enforce. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as imposing on the Sheriff, the District Attorney, or the County any duty to abate any unlawful commercial cannabis activity, to prosecute a violation of County Code, or to take any other action with regard to any unlawful commercial cannabis activity. Furthermore, the Sheriff, District Attorney, County, and any of their officers or employees shall not be held liable for failure to abate any unlawful commercial cannabis activity, to prosecute a violation of this Section, or to take any other action with regard to any unlawful commercial cannabis activity.

14. Ordinance Declarative of Existing Law. Article 2, Chapter 130.20 of the El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance provides that only uses specifically enumerated are permitted and, unless an

exemption applies, any unenumerated use is not allowed within the County. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to legalize any existing commercial cannabis activity currently operating in the County, whether it is operating with or without a business license.

15. Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Chapter or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this Chapter or any part thereof. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Chapter irrespective of whether one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases is held invalid or ineffective.

16. Implementation. The Planning and Building Department shall have applications available to the public no later than September 30, 2019. The Board of Supervisors may grant an extension of the time to have permits available or any other aspect of implementation based on a finding of unforeseen circumstances, changes in State or Federal law, lack of sufficient funding, or other reason necessitating an extension. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 25125, the amendments to the ordinance from which this Section is derived shall become effective 30 days from the date of final passage.

(Ord. No. 5109, § 1, 9-10-2019; Ord. No. 5123, § 1, 6-9-2020)

Sec. 130.41.200 - Outdoor and Mixed-Light Cultivation of Commercial Cannabis.

1. Applicability.
 - a. The purpose of this Section is to permit certain specified commercial cannabis activities and uses in the unincorporated areas of the County, subject to the regulation and control of the Board of Supervisors. While the ordinance from which this Section was derived was originally enacted by voters, the Board of Supervisors retains discretion to regulate such uses, including without limitation the density, intensity, number, proximity, location, and environmental standards of such uses without further voter approval.
 - b. Cannabis is not an agricultural crop or product with respect to the "right to farm" ordinance in Article 4, Section 130.40.290 (Right to Farm), the establishments of Agricultural Preserves under Section 130.40.290, or any other provision in this Code that defines or allows cultivation of crops or agricultural products and nothing in Chapter 130.41 shall be construed to the contrary.
 - c. This Section applies regardless of whether commercial cannabis is cultivated for medicinal or recreational adult use.
2. Definitions. The terms and phrases in this Section shall have the meaning ascribed to them in Section 130.41.100(2), unless the context in which they are used clearly suggests otherwise.
3. Indoor, Outdoor and Mixed-Light Commercial Cannabis Cultivation.
 - a. **Permitted Zones.** Outdoor or mixed-light commercial cannabis cultivation may only be permitted in the Rural Lands (RL), Planned Agricultural (PA), Limited Agricultural (LA), and Agricultural Grazing (AG) zoned districts subject to a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100. This Section allows outdoor or mixed-light commercial cannabis cultivation as a new use authorized by this Section only.
 - b. **Minimum Site Area.** Outdoor or mixed-light cultivation of commercial cannabis is limited to sites that meet the minimum premises area of ten acres. The County may require a premises greater than ten acres to maintain consistency with other laws, surrounding residential uses, and neighborhood compatibility.
 - c. **Canopy Coverage.** Outdoor or mixed-light commercial cannabis cultivation is subject to the following limits on maximum canopy based on zone district. The County may place additional and further restrictions on canopy size to maintain consistency with other laws, agricultural uses, and neighborhood compatibility. A cannabis cultivation operation shall not exceed the canopy size threshold established by State law.
 - i. Lots zoned RL with a minimum premises of ten acres: Up to 1.5 percent of the size of the premises with a maximum of one outdoor or mixed-light cultivation operation per premises, but not to exceed 10,000 square feet of total canopy coverage for that premises, including any designated nursery area with mature plants and excluding any designated nursery area with only immature plants.
 - ii. Lots zoned AG, LA, and PA with a premises between ten and 14.9 acres in area: Up to 1.5 percent of the size of the premises per outdoor or mixed-light cultivation operation with a maximum of two outdoor or mixed-light

Commented [20]: Cannabis is an agricultural crop and the finding of the Ag Commission on the Williamson Act re: existing contracts. However, the Ag Commission finding gives them approval power over applications with Williamson Act contracts. The Planning Commission should be the only entity with approval power.

Deleted: <#>Limit on the Number of Commercial Cannabis Operations. The maximum number of commercial cannabis cultivation operations in the unincorporated portions of the County shall be limited to 150. A minimum of 75 of the total 150 cannabis cultivation operations are reserved for outdoor or mixed-light cultivation operations that are less than 10,000 square feet in total canopy area, with 40 of the 75 reserved for operations limited to cultivation canopy of 3,000 square feet or less and cannabis that is grown exclusively with natural light and meets organic certification standards or the substantial equivalent. This Section sets the maximum possible permits only and nothing in this Section shall be construed to require the County to issue a minimum or the maximum number of permits.†

- cultivation operations, but not to exceed 0.45 acres of total canopy coverage for that premises, excluding any nursery area.
- iii. Lots zoned AG, LA, and PA with a premises between 15 and 25 acres in area: Up to two percent of the size of the premises per outdoor or mixed-light cultivation operation with a maximum of four outdoor or mixed-light cultivation operations, but not to exceed 1.5 acres of total canopy coverage for that premises, excluding any nursery area.
 - iv. Lots zoned AG, LA, and PA with a premises greater than 25 acres: Up to five percent of the size of the premises per outdoor or mixed-light cultivation operation with a maximum of six outdoor or mixed-light cultivation operations, but not to exceed two acres of total canopy coverage for that premises, excluding any nursery area.
- d. Retail sale. Retail sale of cannabis shall not occur on any premises where cultivation occurs unless authorized pursuant to state law and regulations.
4. Cultivation Standards.
- a. In addition to any State requirements by any governing State agency and any site specific requirements in a permit, outdoor or mixed-light cultivation of commercial cannabis shall comply with the following requirements. Any violation of State regulations, site specific requirements in a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit, or these requirements is subject to enforcement, abatement, and revocation of a County permit under Section 130.41.100 (Commercial Cannabis Activities Permitting and Enforcement) and Section 130.54.090 (Revocation or County Mandated Modification of a Permit).
 - b. Location. Outdoor or mixed-light commercial cannabis cultivation shall not be located within 1,500 feet from any school, ~~place of worship, park, public library.~~ Distance shall be measured from the nearest point of the property line of the premises that contains the commercial cultivation to the nearest point of the property line of the enumerated use using a direct straight-line measurement. A new adjacent use does not affect the continuation of an existing use that was permitted and legally established under the standards of this Chapter.
 - c. Setbacks. Outdoor or mixed-light cultivation of commercial cannabis shall be setback a minimum of 800 feet from the property line of the site or public right-of-way and shall be located at least 300 feet from the upland extent of the riparian vegetation of any watercourse.
 - d. Odor. The cultivating, drying, curing, processing, and storing of cannabis shall not adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of property of persons residing near the property on which cannabis is cultivated or processed due to odor that is disturbing to people of normal sensitivity. Any cannabis odor shall not be equal or greater than a seven dilution threshold ("DT") when measured by the County with a field olfactometer at the property line on which the cannabis is cultivated or processed for a minimum of two olfactometer observations not less than 15 minutes apart within a one hour period ("seven DT one hour"). If the odor from cannabis cultivating, drying, curing, processing, or storing violates this subsection, the permittee must reduce the odor below the seven DT one hour at property line threshold within the time required by the County. Users of field olfactometer equipment shall be certified by independent third parties entities that certify

Commented [22]: This needs to be re-addressed, ii and iii can and should be removed. On iv, state law does not limit grow size operations and neither should the county.

Commented [23]: State laws are constantly changing so we should mimic what the state allows.

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Deleted: playground child care center, youth-oriented facility, pre-school,

Commented [24]: Too restrictive and kids are not going to go into a cannabis field over 1/4 mile away

Deleted: , licensed drug or alcohol recovery facility, or licensed sober living facility.

Commented [25]: In this county with the landscape (mountainous), it is nearly impossible to meet these setbacks. Suggest this be changed to 200' (Can tie it to Odor Analysis/Mitigation). The other setbacks re schools/businesses is currently set at 1500 feet which further disallows cannabis business to be started.

regulators as having average olfactory senses. Notwithstanding the prior issuance of a permit, the County may require installation of one or more odor control options, which may include but are not limited to the use of a greenhouse or hoop house that includes activated carbon filtration or equivalent odor abatement control equipment on the air exhaust, a vapor-phase odor control system, increasing the required setback, growing fewer plants, or growing only low odor cannabis strains. Installation of certain odor control options may require a permit. Any such notice requiring the use of one or more odor control options will provide a deadline for completion and the dilution threshold will be retested upon expiration of that deadline. The continued odor in excess of seven DT one hour upon retesting will constitute a violation of this Section subject to enforcement, abatement, and revocation of a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100 and Article 5, Section 130.54.090 (Revocation or County Mandated Modification of a Permit).

Commented [26]: Objective

- e. **Water Source.** Commercial cannabis cultivation may only be permitted if sufficient evidence submitted to the County demonstrates: (1) there is adequate water supply in the watershed and water rights to serve the cultivation site; and (2) all required State permits from the State Water Resources Control Board and any other State agency with jurisdiction. Cultivation of cannabis shall not utilize water that has been or is illegally diverted from any spring, wetland, stream, creek, river, lake, unpermitted well, or body of water. The premises where the cultivation of cannabis takes place shall either be connected to a public water supply or have a County inspected and approved private water source. The activities associated with the cultivation of cannabis shall not create erosion or result in contaminated runoff into any spring, wetland, stream, creek, river, lake, or body of water.
- f. **Water Conservation Measures.** Cannabis cultivation operations shall include adequate measures that minimize the use of water for cultivation at the site. Water conservation measures, including but not limited to underground drip irrigation, soil moisture monitoring, water capture systems, grey water systems, or other equally effective water conservation measures, shall be incorporated into the cultivation operations in order to minimize the use of water where feasible.
- g. **Screening.** Cannabis shall be screened from public view so that no part of a plant can be seen from an adjacent street or adjacent parcel. Screening shall be accomplished by enclosure within a greenhouse or hoop house or by use of fencing or vegetation. All greenhouses, hoop houses, and fences shall comply with all building and zoning codes and any other applicable law or regulation. Greenhouses and hoop houses are the preferred means of screening.
- h. **Security and Wildlife Exclusionary Fencing.** Areas where cannabis is cultivated, the premises on which cannabis is cultivated, or a portion thereof that includes the cultivation area shall be secured by a minimum six-foot high solid wood or chain link wildlife exclusionary fence, such as cyclone or field game fencing, with locked gates built in compliance with building and zoning codes. All gates shall be lockable and remain locked at all times except to provide immediate entry and exit. A chain link fence is not sufficient for screening. Fencing may not be covered with plastic or cloth except that neutral-colored shade cloth may be used on the inside of the fence.

- i. Renewable Energy. Electrical power for outdoor or mixed-light cultivation operations, including but not limited to illumination, heating, cooling, water supply, and ventilation, shall be provided by on-grid power with a 100 percent renewable source, on-site zero net energy renewable source, or with the purchase of carbon offsets of any portion of power not from renewable sources. Generators may be used as a secondary back-up power source pursuant to a valid permit from the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District. Impacts from generator use will also be considered in the environmental analysis and site specific restrictions and conditions may be imposed to mitigate those impacts, including conditions to minimize noise.
 - j. Lighting. All lights used for mixed-light cultivation shall be fully contained within structures or otherwise shielded to fully contain any light or glare involved in the cultivation process. Artificial lighting for mixed-light cultivation is limited to a rate of ~~twenty five watts per square foot or less. For outdoor and mixed-light commercial cannabis cultivation, security lighting shall be motion activated and all outdoor lighting shall comply with Article 3, Chapter 130.34 (Outdoor Lighting).~~
 - k. Pesticide Usage. Preference shall be given to applicants that maintain organic certification standards or the substantial equivalent, provided that maintaining organic certification standards or the substantial equivalent is a condition of the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit. Until the California Department of Food and Agriculture adopts a organic certification standards, the County Agricultural Commissioner shall determine whether a particular operation satisfies substantially equivalent organic criteria. Documentation of all pesticides used shall be presented each year as part of the Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit. All pesticides and fertilizers shall be properly labeled and stored and disposed of to avoid contamination through erosion, leakage, or inadvertent damages from rodents, pests, and wildlife and to prevent harm to persons, the environment, and wildlife.
 - l. Disposal of Waste Material. Cannabis waste material shall be disposed of in accordance with existing State and local laws and regulations at the time of disposal. Burning of cannabis waste material is prohibited.
 - m. Public Sewer or Sewage Disposal System. The premises where the cultivation of cannabis takes place shall either be connected to a public sewer system, have a County inspected and approved sewage disposal system, porta-pottie or have restroom facilities deemed appropriate by the Director of the Environmental Management Department, or his or her authorized designee(s).
 - n. Recommendation of the Agricultural Commission. An application for a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit for outdoor or mixed-light cultivation must be reviewed by the Agricultural Commission and the recommendation of the Agricultural Commission, including any suggested conditions or restrictions, shall be forwarded to and considered by the Planning Commission.
5. Commercial Cannabis Nurseries.
- a. A Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit for a commercial cannabis nursery shall be subject to all of the restrictions and requirements in this Section 130.41.200 for any activities of the nursery that will be conducted outdoors or in mixed-light and all of the restrictions and requirements

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in Section 130.41.300(4) and (5) for all activities of the nursery that will be conducted indoors.

- b. A Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit for a commercial cannabis nursery shall state the maximum square footage allowed for designated nursery areas with only immature plants, designated nursery areas for seed propagation that may contain mature plants, and designated research and development areas that may contain mature plants if the permittee will be conducting research and development activities that require a plant to flower. Notwithstanding this section, indoor and outdoor cultivators may propagate immature plants from seeds or clones for use only within their cultivation operations without nursery permit. The County may place restrictions on such square footage to maintain consistency with other laws, surrounding commercial uses, and neighborhood compatibility.
 - c. Nursery activities may not be permitted in a residential dwelling or accessory structure connected to a residential dwelling.
6. Commercial Cannabis Processors.
- a. A Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit for a commercial cannabis processor shall be subject to all of the restrictions and requirements in this Section 130.41.200 for any activities of the processor that will be conducted outdoors or in mixed-light and all of the restrictions and requirements in Section 130.41.300(4) and (5)(A) for all activities of the processor that will be conducted indoors.
 - b. The County may place restrictions on square footage for commercial cannabis processing activities to maintain consistency with other laws, surrounding commercial uses, and neighborhood compatibility. Commercial cannabis processing activities may not be permitted in a residential dwelling or accessory structure connected to a residential dwelling.
7. Ordinance Declarative of Existing Law. Article 2, Chapter 130.20 of the El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance provides that only uses specifically enumerated are permitted and, unless an exemption applies, any unenumerated use is not allowed within the County. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to legalize any existing commercial cannabis activity currently operating in the County, whether it is operating with or without a business license.
8. Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Chapter or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this Chapter or any part thereof. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Chapter irrespective of whether one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases is held invalid or ineffective.
9. Effective Date. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 25123, the amendments to the ordinance from which this Section is derived shall become effective 30 days from the date of final passage. If the general tax passed by the voters of El Dorado County in the November 2018 election, now codified at Chapter 3.22, is challenged or invalidated for any reason, no new Commercial Cannabis Use Permits or Commercial Cannabis Annual

Commented [28]: Language added to allow for on premises propagation without a special nursery license.

Operating Permits may be issued for commercial cannabis activities authorized under this Section unless and until the challenge concludes and the tax is upheld as valid or a new tax of greater or equal amount is enacted. If any general tax for commercial cannabis activities is repealed or invalidated for any reason, this Section shall automatically expire and be repealed unless and until a new tax of greater or equal amount is enacted.

- (Ord. No. 5110, § 2, 9-10-2019)

- **Sec. 130.41.300 - Retail Sale, Distribution, Indoor Cultivation, Laboratory Testing, and Manufacturing of Commercial Cannabis.**

1. Applicability.

- a. The purpose of this Section is to permit certain specified commercial cannabis activities and uses in the unincorporated areas of the County, subject to the regulation and control of the Board of Supervisors. While the ordinance from which this Section is derived was originally enacted by voters, the Board of Supervisors retains discretion to regulate such uses, including without limitation the density, intensity, number, proximity, location, and environmental standards of such uses without further voter approval.
- b. Cannabis is not an agricultural crop or product with respect to the "right to farm" ordinance in Article 4, Section 130.40.290 (Right to Farm), the establishments of agricultural preserves under Section 130.40.290, or any other provision in this Code that defines or allows cultivation of crops or agricultural products and nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to the contrary.

This Section applies regardless of whether commercial cannabis is cultivated for medicinal or recreational adult use.

2. Definitions. The terms and phrases in this Section shall have the meaning ascribed to them in Section 130.41.100(2), unless the context in which they are used clearly suggests otherwise.

3. Limit on the Number of Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Operations. The maximum number of commercial cannabis cultivation operations in the unincorporated portions of the County shall be limited to 150. This Section sets the maximum possible permits only and nothing in this Section shall be construed to require the County to issue a minimum or the maximum number of permits.

4. General Requirements.

- a. In addition to any State requirements, the requirements in this Section are applicable to all commercial cannabis activities authorized under this Section 130.41.300. Any violation of State regulations, site specific requirements in a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit, or the requirements in this Section 130.41.300 is subject to enforcement, abatement, and revocation of a County permit under Section 130.41.100 and Article 5, Section 130.54.090 (Revocation or County Mandated Modification of a Permit).
- b. Odor. Commercial cannabis activities, including but not limited to cultivating, drying, curing, processing, manufacturing, testing, and storing of cannabis, shall not

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adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of property of persons residing near the property on which the commercial cannabis activity occurs due to odor that is disturbing to people of normal sensitivity. Any cannabis odor shall not be equal or greater than a seven dilution threshold ("DT") when measured by the County with a field olfactometer at the property line on which the commercial cannabis activity occurs for a minimum of two olfactometer observations not less than 15 minutes apart within a one hour period ("seven DT one hour"). If the odor from a commercial cannabis activity violates this subsection, the permittee must reduce the odor below the seven DT one hour at property line threshold within the time required by the County. Notwithstanding the prior issuance of a permit, the County may require installation of one or more odor control options, which may include but are not limited to the use of activated carbon filtration or equivalent odor abatement control equipment on air exhaust, a vapor-phase odor control system, increasing the required setback, growing fewer plants, or growing only low odor cannabis strains. Installation of certain odor control options may require a permit. Any such notice requiring the use of one or more odor control options will provide a deadline for completion and the dilution threshold will be retested upon expiration of that deadline. The continued odor in excess of seven DT one hour upon retesting will constitute a violation of this Section subject to enforcement, abatement, and revocation of the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100 and Article 5, Section 130.54.090 (Revocation or County Mandated Modification of a Permit).

- c. Location. A commercial cannabis activity authorized under this Section shall not be located within 1,500 feet from any school, school bus stop, place of worship, park, playground child care center, youth-oriented facility, pre-school, public library, licensed drug or alcohol recovery facility, or licensed sober living facility. With the exception of the Meyers Community Center (MAP-1) zoning district, a commercial cannabis activity authorized under this Section shall not be established on any parcel containing a dwelling unit used as a residence or within 500 feet of a residential zoning district. Distance shall be measured from the nearest point of the property line of the premises that contains the commercial cannabis activity to the nearest point of the property line of the enumerated use using a direct straight-line measurement. For the Meyers Community Center (MAP-1) zoning district, proximity to a residence shall be evaluated to determine compatibility of the proposed use. A new adjacent use does not affect the continuation of an existing use that was permitted and legally established under the standards of this Chapter.
- d. Screening. Commercial cannabis activities authorized under this Section shall be screened from public view so that no part of a plant can be seen from an adjacent street or adjacent parcel. Coverings on any windows may not be made of tarps, canvas, tinfoil, or other fabrics affixed directly to the wall or window.
- e. Lighting. Security lighting for any building utilized for commercial cannabis activities authorized under this Section shall be motion activated and all outdoor lighting shall comply with Article 3, Chapter 130.34 (Outdoor Lighting).
- f. Disposal of Waste Material. Cannabis waste material shall be disposed of in accordance with existing state and local laws and regulations at the time of disposal. Burning of cannabis waste material is prohibited.

Commented [29]: Same comments as above in Outdoor. Must be a objective, certified test

Commented [30]: Same changes as above from Outdoor

- g. Public Sewer or Sewage Disposal System. The premises where commercial cannabis activities authorized under this Section take place shall either be connected to a public sewer system or have a County inspected and approved sewage disposal system.
- h. Transportation Vehicles. Cannabis may only be transported within the unincorporated areas of the County inside a commercial vehicle or trailer with sufficient security features and GPS tracking. Cannabis or cannabis signage or symbols may not be visible or identifiable from outside of the commercial vehicle or trailer. Transportation by means of aircraft, watercraft, drones, rail, human powered vehicles, and unmanned vehicles is prohibited.
- i. ~~Review by Fire Code Official. Prior to approval of any Commercial Cannabis Use Permit for any commercial cannabis activity authorized in this Section, the application must be reviewed by the local fire code official and any recommendations of the local fire code official shall be incorporated as a condition of the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or a written response to the local fire code official shall explain why a recommendation is not being incorporated.~~
- j. Retail Sale. Retail sale of cannabis shall not occur on any premises permitted under this Section except for section 7(A).

Deleted: <#>Notification to Sheriff's Office. As a condition of any Commercial Cannabis Use Permit for an activity authorized under this Section, the County may require the permittee to notify the Sheriff's Office before transporting cannabis within the unincorporated areas of the County.†

5. Indoor Cultivation of Commercial Cannabis.

- a. Limitation on Use. Indoor cultivation of commercial cannabis may be permitted in the General Commercial (GC), Industrial High (IH), Industrial Low (IL), Research and Development (R&D), ~~RL, PA, LA and AG if building criteria of site is met by below building standards and Meyers Industrial (MAP-2) zone districts subject to a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100.~~
- b. The County may place restrictions on canopy size to maintain consistency with other laws, surrounding commercial uses, and neighborhood compatibility.
- c. Renewable Energy Source. Electrical power for indoor commercial cultivation operations, including but not limited to illumination, heating, cooling, and ventilation, shall be provided by on-grid power with 100 percent renewable source, on-site zero net energy renewable source, or with the purchase of carbon offsets of any portion of power not from renewable sources. The use of generators for indoor cultivation is prohibited, except for temporary use in emergencies only.
- d. All lights used for indoor commercial cannabis cultivation shall be fully contained within structures or otherwise shielded to fully contain any light or glare involved in the cultivation process.
- e. Water Source. Indoor cultivation of commercial cannabis may only be permitted if sufficient evidence submitted to the County demonstrates: (1) there is adequate water supply in the watershed and water rights to serve the cultivation site; and (2) all required state permits from the State Water Resources Control Board and any other state agency with jurisdiction. The premises where the cultivation of cannabis takes place shall either be connected to a public water supply or have a County inspected and approved private water source. Cultivation of cannabis shall not utilize water that has been or is illegally diverted from any spring, wetland, stream, creek, river, lake, underground well, or body of water.

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Commented [32]: This is a safety prevention issue. Transporting cannabis from one location to another for processing, only to return the product to the orientation is a potential for crime. To allow these processes to be completed on the grow site will lessen the potential for criminal activity.

- f. Water Conservation Measures. Cannabis cultivation operations shall include adequate measures that minimize the use of water for cultivation at the site. Water conservation measures, water capture systems, grey water systems, or other equally effective water conservation measures shall be incorporated into the cultivation operations in order to minimize the use of water where feasible.

6. Commercial Cannabis Distribution Facilities.

- a. Limitation on Use. Distribution facilities for commercial cannabis may only be permitted in the General Commercial (CG), Industrial High (IH), Industrial Low (IL), Research and Development (R&D), Meyers Community Center (MAP-1), RL, PA, LA and AG if building criteria of site is met by below building standards and Meyers Industrial (MAP-2) zone districts subject to a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100.
- b. A County permit for distribution may be limited to transportation only so long as the Bureau of Cannabis Control allows for a Distributor-Transport only license or the substantial equivalent. If a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit is sought for transportation only to transport cannabis, cannabis seeds or plants, or other cannabis products grown or manufactured by the same applicant, then the transport only use is not subject to the zone restrictions in Subsection 6(A) provided that the applicant is only transporting cannabis, cannabis seeds or plants, or other cannabis products grown or manufactured on the parcel for which the other commercial cannabis activity is authorized.
- c. If a distributor is located outside of the unincorporated areas of the County, the distributor must comply with Section 130.41.100(6).

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7. Commercial Cannabis Retail Sale and Delivery Facilities.

- a. Limitation on Use for Storefront Retail. Retail sale storefront facilities open to the public for the sale of commercial cannabis may only be permitted in the Community Commercial (CC), Regional Commercial (CR), General Commercial (CG), Industrial Low (IL), and Meyers Community Center (MAP-1), zone districts subject to a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100.
- b. Limitation on Use for Non-storefront Retail (Delivery Only). Retail non-storefront delivery facilities of commercial cannabis may only be permitted in the General Commercial (CG), Industrial High (IH), Industrial Low (IL), Research and Development (R&D), and Meyers Industrial (MAP-2) zone districts subject to a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100.
- c. If a retail delivery service is located outside of the unincorporated areas of the County, the retailer must comply with Section 130.41.100(6).
- d. With the exception of a non-storefront retail facility providing only delivery service, no more than seven cannabis retail storefront facilities that are open to the public shall be permitted at any one time. One additional cannabis retail storefront facility may be permitted in the Meyers Community Center (MAP-1) zoning district for a total of eight potential cannabis retail storefront facilities in the County. Concentration of commercial cannabis facilities and proximity to an existing or proposed cannabis retail facility shall be considered in determining whether to grant a permit. Provided that the application for a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit is

Commented [34]: This may need to be revisited if the state allows for retail sales directly at the cultivation site (think winery tasting room)

received within 45 days of the availability of applications for retail sale, the County shall first review and take action on the application of any retail facility that was issued a valid temporary license from the Bureau of Cannabis Control by July 17, 2018 and continuation within a zone inconsistent with those authorized under this Section may be permitted for those retail facilities as part of the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit as a legal non-conforming use under Article 6, Chapter 130.61 (Nonconforming Uses, Structures, and Lots).

- e. Hours of operation for retail sale and delivery are limited to commencing at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. Any delivery must be initiated by a customer by 7:00 p.m. These restricted hours apply regardless of whether the sale originates within or outside of the County.
- f. A retail facility shall provide adequate security on the premises, including lighting and alarms, to insure the safety of persons and to protect the premises from theft. Security lighting shall be motion activated and all outdoor lighting shall comply with Chapter 130.34.

8. Commercial Cannabis Testing Laboratories.

- a. Limitation on Use. Commercial cannabis testing laboratories may only be permitted in the General Commercial (CG), Industrial High (IH), Industrial Low (IL), Research and Development (R&D), RL, PA, LA and AG if building criteria of site is met by below building standards and Meyers Industrial (MAP-2) zone districts subject to a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100.
- b. The Director of the Environmental Management Department, or his or her authorized designee(s), may impose any additional restrictions or requirements for the laboratory testing of commercial cannabis to protect public health and safety and may inspect any portion of the commercial cannabis testing laboratory facility at any time during normal business hours to ensure compliance.

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9. Commercial Cannabis Manufacturing Facilities.

- a. Limitation on Use. The following manufacturing license types, as defined in the most recent regulations promulgated by the California Department of Public Health's Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch, may only be permitted in the following zone districts:
 - i. Type 7 license may be permitted in the Industrial High (IH), Industrial Low (IL), and Meyers Industrial (MAP-2) zone districts subject to a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100.
 - ii. Type 6 license may be permitted in the General Commercial (CG), Industrial High (IH), Industrial Low (IL), Research and Development (R&D), RL, PA, LA and AG if building criteria of site is met by below building standards and Meyers Industrial (MAP-2) zone districts subject to a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100.
 - iii. Type N and Type P licenses may be permitted in the Community Commercial (CC), Regional Commercial (CR), General Commercial (CG), Industrial High (IH), Industrial Low (IL), Research and Development (R&D), Planned Agricultural (PA), Limited Agricultural (LA), Agricultural Grazing

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(AG), Meyers Community Center (MAP-1), and Meyers Industrial (MAP-2) zone districts subject to a Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit under Section 130.41.100, Permits in Planned Agricultural (PA), Limited Agricultural (LA), and Agricultural Grazing (AG) zone districts shall be limited to sites that meet the minimum premises area of ten acres, and the County may require a premises greater than ten acres to maintain consistency with other laws, surrounding residential uses, and neighborhood compatibility.

- iv. A registered shared-use facility (Type S license) may be issued in a particular zone district only if the manufacturing activity or activities to be performed in the shared-use facility (Type 7, Type 6, Type N, or Type P license) is or are authorized in that particular zone district.
 - v. The Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit must specify the manufacturing activities authorized and those activities must be consistent with the specific license types issued by the California Department of Public Health's Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch at the time of issuance of the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit or Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit.
 - vi. No manufacturing of commercial cannabis may be permitted in a residential dwelling or accessory structure connected to a residential dwelling.
- b. Shared-Use Facility (Type S License). A single person shall be identified as the primary permittee for a shared-use facility. For any violation at a shared-use facility, the primary permittee and the permittee authorized to use the shared-use facility during the time of the violation may be held jointly and severally liable for the violation regardless of any agreement between the permittees. The occupancy schedule and designated area for a Type S license shall be included in the application for the Commercial Cannabis Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit and may not be changed without prior written notification and prior written approval from the Building and Planning Department and any such change shall be memorialized in the Commercial Cannabis Annual Operating Permit.
- c. The Director of the Environmental Management Department, or his or her authorized designee(s), may impose any additional restrictions or requirements for the manufacturing of commercial cannabis to protect public health and safety and may inspect any portion of the commercial cannabis manufacturing facility at any time during normal business hours to ensure compliance.
- (Ord. No. 5111, § 2, 9-10-2019; Ord. No. 5124, § 2, 5-12-2020)

PC 6/8/2023
Item #2
2 pages

Fw: PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION

Aurora M. Osbual <Aurora.Osbual@edcgov.us>

Wed 6/7/2023 7:36 AM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

📎 1 attachments (461 KB)

PLANNING COMMISSION.pdf;

Sincerely,

Aurora Osbual

Clerk of the Planning Commission

Planning Division

County of El Dorado

Planning and Building Department

2850 Fairlane Court

Placerville, CA 95667

Direct Line: (530) 621-5351

Main Line: (530)-621-5355

aurora.osbual@edcgov.us

From: Andy Nevis <Andy.Nevis@edcgov.us>

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 7:25 AM

To: Aurora M. Osbual <Aurora.Osbual@edcgov.us>

Subject: Fw: PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION

Public comment for tomorrow. Thanks!

From: David Harde <davidharde123@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 6:51 AM

To: Andy Nevis <Andy.Nevis@edcgov.us>

Subject: PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION

> Hi Andy,

> Please substitute this corrected letter as the first included a typo.

Thanks again,

Best, David

23-1032 Public Comment
PC Rcvd 06-07-23

TO : PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA OF JUNE 8, 2023

FROM: DAVID HARDE, APPLICANT CCUP21-0002

RE: PUBLIC STUDY SESSION LEGISTAR NO. : 23-1032

CLARIFICATION AND ADDITIONS TO THE PLANNING STAFF MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED PROVIDING INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND FOR THIS PUBLIC STUDY SESSION.

1. STATE CANNABIS LAWS AND REGULATIONS, PROPOSITION 215, PASSED IN 1996, PROPOSITION 420, PASSED IN 2003, MCRSA PASSED AND ADOPTED IN 2015, PROP 64 CALIFORNIA VOTER INITIATIVE PASSED IN 2015 and SB 94, 2018 FORM THE FOUNDATION OF CALIFORNIA CANNABIS LAW AND REGULATION.
2. EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DID NOT ADOPT AND REGULATE STATE CANNABIS LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN 1996, 2003 THROUGH 2017. IN 2018, AS A RESULT OF THE INSISTENCE OF PUBLIC AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLACED FIVE (5) BALLOT MEASURES ON THE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER 2018 ELECTION. THE MEASURES PASSED CREATING THE BASIS FOR THE COUNTY CANNABIS CULTIVATION REGULATIONS.
3. AS OF TODAY, JUNE 8, 2023, ONLY ONE CANNABIS CULTIVATION LICENSE HAS BEEN ISSUED, ALLOWING THE FIRST AND ONLY EL DORADO COUNTY CANNABIS SITE TO OPERATE.
4. AS A RESULT OF EL DORADO COUNTY'S FAILURE TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT PROP 215, PROP 420, PROP 64 AND SB 94, THE COUNTY CANNABIS COMMUNITY HAS SUFFERED FROM 'THE COUNTY WAR ON DRUGS': FINANCIAL, PHYSICAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA ARE THE RESULT OF EL DORADO COUNTY POLICY.
5. THE 2018 EL DORADO COUNTY CANNABIS REGULATIONS ARE OBSOLETE, ARCHAIC. AFTER 5 YEARS OF INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE AND EL DORADO COUNTY'S DEFACTO CANNABIS PROHIBITION, A COMPLETE, THOROUGH EXAMINATION AND RESULTANT REVISED EL DORADO CANNABIS ORDENANCE IS IMPARATIVE.

PC 6/8/2023
Item #2
3 pages

RE: Item #23-0603 - Planning Commission Meeting 4/27/2023

kevinwmccarty@pm.me <kevinwmccarty@pm.me>

Wed 6/7/2023 12:12 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

Cc: Jon X. Vegna <JVegna@edcgov.us>; Kris X. Payne <KPayne@edcgov.us>; Lexi Boeger <Lexi.Boeger@edcgov.us>; Andy Nevis <Andy.Nevis@edcgov.us>; Daniel Harkin <Daniel.Harkin@edcgov.us>; **PL-Ombudsman** <ombudsman@edcgov.us>

📎 1 attachments (3 MB)

Archon Farms Inc - Public Comment - Planning Commission Agenda Item 23-1032 - 06.07.2023 - Signed.pdf;

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kevinwmccarty@pm.me. [Learn why this is important](#)

ATTN: El Dorado County, Planning Commission Staff:

Attached is a letter submitted as a public comment on Agenda Item #2, file #23-1032, regarding the cannabis ordinance workshop to consider recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Please ensure this public comment is added to the record and included for consideration during the Planning Commission meeting set for tomorrow, June 8th, 2023.

Regards,

Kevin McCarty
CEO / Managing Member



t: (775) 240-3055
e: kevinwmccarty@pm.me
a: Archon Holdings LLC,
701 12th Street,
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.archon.holdings



Archon Farms, Inc.
701 12th St, Ste 202
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 7, 2023

El Dorado County
Planning Commission
2850 Fairlane Court, Building C
Placerville, CA 95667

ATTN: El Dorado County, Planning Commissioners:

My name is Kevin McCarty, I am a landowner in El Dorado County as well as President / CEO of Archon Farms Inc. This message is regarding Agenda Item #23-1032 related to the Planning Commission workshop to consider the County's cannabis ordinance and recommend improvements to the Board of Supervisors.

We strongly support the ordinance revisions identified in the redline document provided by Mr. Tannenbaum in his public comment on this item submitted June 1st, 2023, and we agree that adoption of the proposed revisions contained therein is urgently needed in order to address the substantial deficiencies and unreasonable standards ingrained in the current County cannabis ordinance.

The people of El Dorado County approved commercial cannabis legalization via referendum in 2018 and the Board of Supervisors codified this change by enacting Ordinance 5109 over three and a half years ago. The permitting data provided by Mr. Tannenbaum makes clear that our county's cannabis permitting regime is dysfunctional and lags far behind every other County in the State of California.

To illustrate, the Board of Supervisors enacted Ordinance 5109 regulating commercial cannabis on September 10th, 2019. Calaveras County enacted their own cannabis ordinance six weeks later, on October 22nd, 2019. I personally got the first Calaveras cultivation license approved, serving as a compliance consultant for the applicant in 2020. Calaveras currently has 174 approved cultivation licenses. El Dorado has two, with one approved within the last 30 days and only one currently operating in any capacity.

Our company submitted a full and complete application for a commercial cannabis cultivation permit in November 2021, with minimal follow-up from Planning Department staff since that time. A recent meeting with the newly assigned planner Evan Mattes revealed that our CEQA study not only remained unfinished, but the task order to initiate the study had not even been prepared. Essentially, zero progress has been made over the course of a year and a half time period of 'réview' by the Planning department.

We raised money from friends and family to pay the tens of thousands of dollars associated with the environmental studies required by the current ordinance, with tens of thousands more yet to be invoiced by the CEQA consultant who will merely review and compile the reports we have already provided. Extensive background checks by the Sheriff's office are complete, costing thousands of dollars more, with

approval recommendation letters in-hand. And on top of this burden, likely insurmountable for many would-be cultivators, we are promptly ignored by Planning staff for eighteen months – with still no progress to report as of today. To claim the current system is dysfunctional is a major understatement.

I have lived in the Lake Tahoe area since 1991 and have been a resident of El Dorado County since 2018. In my primary occupation as a business consultant, I have facilitated the approval and ongoing compliant operations of licensed cannabis operators across the State, and I can state with certainty that El Dorado County's cannabis program is broken, and in dire need of immediate remediation.

The redlined ordinance text provided by Mr. Tannenbaum contains revisions spanning from “no brainer” easy fixes to align the County's ordinance with State regulations provided by the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC), to the simple and plain “good idea” amendments which would go a long way in helping to remediate the El Dorado cannabis program. None of the proposed revisions are radical in any way nor would compromise the County's priorities regarding children's safety, public nuisance, or oversaturation.

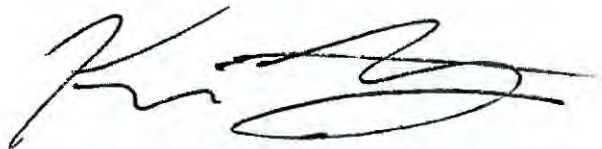
The only revisions proposed which warrant additional consideration involve the inclusion of cannabis as an “agricultural crop” subject to protections under the “right to farm” ordinance, and the implementation of a County-wide environmental impact report (EIR) which would eliminate the need for each applicant to spend tens of thousands of dollars to prove CEQA compliance. Both revisions are great ideas and should be suggested to the Board of Supervisors, pending input from the Agricultural Commission.

One hundred years ago during the prohibition era, wine was an illegal controlled substance. Today the vineyards and wineries of El Dorado County are world-renowned for quality, and a boon to our community in terms of employment, tourism, and economic activity, with all the associated tax revenue. The people of California and El Dorado County have already come to their senses regarding recreational cannabis, and there is no reason to treat cultivation of cannabis any different from that of wine grapes.

Even as an agricultural crop, with an EIR in place, cannabis would and should remain a discretionary use subject to a reasonable permitting process, and review by the Commission, to ensure that each individual project is duly balanced against the needs and priorities of the surrounding community. We urge the Commission to adopt these reforms, saving the cannabis program and retaining its own purview authority.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin W. McCarty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin W. McCarty
CEO / President, Archon Farms, Inc.
Member, El Dorado County Growers Alliance
kevinwmccarty@pm.me
(775) 240-3055