



PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 9, 2016

PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: CITY OF PALM SPRINGS FOR A ZONE TEXT AMENDMENT TO AMEND THE PALM SPRINGS ZONING CODE (PZSC) REGARDING THE LOCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS FACILITIES IN THE E-I ZONING DISTRICT; TO ADD THE MEDICAL CANNABIS MANUFACTURING FACILITY AND MEDICAL CANNABIS TESTING FACILITY USES TO THE C-M, M-1-P, M-1, M-2 AND E-I ZONING DISTRICTS; AND TO ADD THE MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY USE TO THE C-2, H-C, M-1-P, M-1, M-2 AND A ZONING DISTRICTS.

FROM: Department of Planning Services

SUMMARY:

At the City Council meeting on October 19, 2016, the City Council directed staff to prepare a Zoning Text Amendment to modify the City's existing standards for medical cannabis facilities, based on the recommendations of the Council's Subcommittee on Medical Cannabis. The proposed modifications are intended to assist in the implementation of the standards adopted under the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act, which was adopted by the State last year. The proposed modifications are as follows:

- Establish use categories and allowable zoning districts for the testing and manufacturing of cannabis products;
- Establish the Medical Cannabis Dispensary use and zoning districts where the use may be permitted;
- Revise the standards in the E-I (Energy Industrial) zone to allow for cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, and testing facilities;
- Amend the zoning standards for cannabis-related uses in Palm Springs Zoning Code (PSZC) Section 93.23.15 to include the Medical Cannabis Dispensary, Medical Cannabis Manufacturing Facility, and Medical Cannabis Testing Facility uses.

As the proposed changes require an amendment to the zoning code, the Planning Commission must review the proposed changes in a public hearing and forward a recommendation to the City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

Open the public hearing and forward recommendations to the City Council.

ANALYSIS:

The City currently regulates medical cannabis cooperatives or collectives through zoning and locational requirements of the City’s zoning code and the operational requirements provided in Chapter 5.35 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code. Medical cannabis cultivation under the City’s current code provisions is only allowed to be performed by City-permitted medical cannabis collectives or cooperatives. The Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA), adopted by the State last year, will allow the City to approve various medical cannabis facilities that will not be restricted to non-profit collective or cooperative operators. The City Council subcommittee is reviewing various options and approaches for the implementation of MCRSA in the City, including an expansion of cultivation opportunities within the E-1 and M-2 zones. The subcommittee has recommended amendments to the City’s zoning code necessary to accommodate these opportunities, and the City Council initiated this proposed ordinance and referred it to the Planning Commission for its review.

This proposed ordinance would add Medical Cannabis Dispensary, Medical Cannabis Manufacturing Facility, and Medical Cannabis Testing Facility to the list of permissible uses. The table below identifies the districts where the new uses would be permitted, in addition to the zoning districts where the existing cannabis use categories (Medical Cannabis Cooperative or Collectives and Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facility) are currently allowed:

Facility Type	C-2	HC	C-M	M-1-P	M-1	M-2	E-1	A
Medical Cannabis Cooperative or Collectives <i>(Existing)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		P
Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facility <i>(Existing)</i>			P	P	P	P	P	P
Medical Cannabis Dispensary <i>(New)</i>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>		<u>P</u>
Medical Cannabis Manufacturing Facility <i>(New)</i>			<u>LUP</u>	<u>LUP</u>	<u>LUP</u>	<u>LUP</u>	<u>LUP</u>	
Medical Cannabis Testing Facility <i>(New)</i>			<u>LUP</u>	<u>LUP</u>	<u>LUP</u>	<u>LUP</u>	<u>LUP</u>	

P = Permitted; LUP = Land Use Permit; underlined text identifies a proposed addition to the zoning district.

A map has been prepared showing the location of these districts, and has been

included as an attachment to this staff report.

In establishing three new cannabis-related uses, the specific zoning standards in Chapter 93.23.15 (Medical Cannabis Cooperative or Collective and Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facility Special Standards) need to be amended to include the new uses. No other changes are proposed to this chapter of the zoning code; approval requirements, separation standards, and parking requirements will remain as currently adopted.

Another proposed change involves a modification to the development standards of the E-I (Energy Industrial) zone to accommodate cannabis-related uses. The lot coverage requirement in the E-I zone is limited to 15% for permitted uses, with the exception of energy uses. In order to allow adequate developable area for buildings to house cultivation and manufacturing facilities, it is proposed that the lot coverage be increased to 60% for permitted uses, similar to the M-1 (Service/Manufacturing) Zone and the M-2 (Manufacturing) Zone standards. All other development standards, such as height limits and setback requirements, shall remain as currently adopted.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the proposed Zone Text Amendment has been deemed a "project." Staff has determined that the proposed Zone Text Amendment (Case 5.1218-E) may be deemed Categorically Exempt from the provisions of CEQA under Section 15305 (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations) of the Guidelines. The proposed Zone Text Amendment only proposes insignificant changes to land use regulations.

NOTIFICATION:

A public hearing notice was published in accordance with the requirements of State law and local ordinance. As of the writing of this report, staff has received one comment letter relative to the proposed ordinance.



Finn Fagg, AICP
Director of Planning Services

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment A – Strikeout/Underline Version

Planning Commission Staff Report
5.1218-E – Medical Cannabis
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2. Draft Ordinance
3. Public Comment Letter
4. Map – Zoning Districts

Attachment A
Proposed Modifications – Palm Springs Zoning Code
Medical Cannabis Facilities

Allow Medical Cannabis Manufacturing Facility and Medical Cannabis Testing Facility uses upon approval of a Land Use Permit in the following zones:

- C-M (Commercial Manufacturing) Zone
- M-1-P (Planned Research and Development Park) Zone
- M-1 (Service/Manufacturing) Zone
- M-2 (Manufacturing) Zone
- E-I (Energy Industrial) Zone

Allow the Medical Cannabis Dispensary use in the following zones:

- C-2 (General Commercial) Zone
- HC (Highway Commercial) Zone
- C-M (Commercial Manufacturing) Zone
- M-1-P (Planned Research and Development Park) Zone
- M-1 (Service/Manufacturing) Zone
- M-2 (Manufacturing) Zone
- A (Airport) Zone

Modify the following sections of the zoning code:

92.17.2.00 “E-I” energy industrial zone.

The “E-I” energy industrial zone is intended to provide areas for alternative energy development and limited industrial and cultivation uses in those areas which by virtue of strong prevailing winds are ideally suited for large-scale development of wind energy. Alternative energy development is intended as the principal land use, ~~with the permitted industrial uses serviced directly, and primarily, by alternative energy for electrical needs.~~ The retention of open space is encouraged. No industrial use shall be permitted which, by the nature of its development or operation, will in any way adversely affect the resort environment of the city.

92.17.2.03(F)

~~The site developed for permitted uses, other than energy uses (Section 92.17.2.00(D)(4)),~~ Where a site is developed or approved for wind energy or other alternative energy purposes, any industrial use thereon shall not occupy an area greater than fifteen (15) percent of any lot or planned development. Where a site is not so developed or approved, coverage shall not exceed sixty (60) percent of any lot or planned development.

~~**93.23.15 Medical Cannabis Cooperative or Collective and Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facility Special Standards**~~ **Special Standards for Specified Medical Cannabis Facilities.**

A. No land use entitlement, permit (including building permit) approval, site plan, certificate of occupancy, zoning clearance, or other land use authorization for a ~~MCCC or~~ Medical Cannabis Dispensary (MCD), Medical Cannabis Manufacturing Facility (MCMF), Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facility (MCCF), or Medical Cannabis Testing Facility (MCTF) (collectively "Medical Cannabis Facilities") shall be granted or permitted except in conformance with this Section.

B. ~~MCCC and MCCF establishments~~ Medical Cannabis Facilities shall be permitted only upon application and approval of a regulatory permit in accordance with the criteria and process set forth in Chapter 5.35 or 5.45 of this Code. Prior to initiating operations and as a continuing requisite to conducting operations, the legal representative of the persons wishing to operate a ~~MCCC or MCCF~~ Medical Cannabis Facility shall obtain a regulatory permit from the City Manager under the terms and conditions set forth in Chapter 5.35 or Chapter 5.45 of this Code and shall otherwise fully comply with the provisions of this Section.

C. No ~~MCCC, MDC, MCMF, or MCTF~~ shall be established, developed, or operated within two-hundred fifty (250) feet of Palm Canyon Drive or any residential zone property; within five hundred (500) feet of a school, public playground or park, child care or day care facility, youth center, or church. All distances shall be measured in a straight line, without regard to intervening structures, from the nearest property line of the property on which the ~~MCCC, MCD, MCMF, MCTF~~ is, or will be located, and to the nearest property line of those uses described in this Subsection. Administrative modifications for this standard may be granted by the City Council pursuant to Section 94.06.01.B. Any MCMF in excess of ten thousand (10,000) square feet shall operate only within the E-I or M-2 Zones.

D. A ~~MCCC or MCCF~~ Medical Cannabis Facility is not and shall not be approved as an accessory use to any other use permitted by this Zoning Code. ~~MCCC and MCCF~~ facilities may be located on the same parcel or on the same premises as otherwise permitted by this Zoning Code.

E. ~~A MCCC or MCCF~~ Except within the E-I Zone, where M-2 standards shall apply, a Medical Cannabis Facility shall be parked at a rate of one (1) space for every two hundred fifty (250) gross square feet of office space, and one (1) space for every eight hundred (800) feet of warehouse/cultivation space. Administrative modifications for this standard may be granted by the City Council pursuant to Section 94.06.01.B.

Note: ~~Strikeout~~ identifies text that is proposed for deletion; underlined identifies text that is proposed to be added.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTIONS 93.23.15, 92.17.2.00, AND SUBSECTION F OF SECTION 92.17.2.03 OF THE PALM SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE (PSMC) RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS FACILITIES; AMENDING SECTIONS 92.15.01.C, 92.16.01.C, 92.17.01.C, 92.17.1.02, 92.17.2.00, AND 92.17.2.01.C RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS MANUFACTURING AND MEDICAL CANNABIS TESTING FACILITIES IN THE C-M, M-1-P, M-1, M-2, AND E-1 ZONES OF THE CITY; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 92.14.01.A, 92.14.1.01.A, 92.15.01.A, 92.16.01.A, 92.17.01.A, 92.17.1.01.A, AND 92.18.01.A RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY FACILITIES IN THE C-2, H-C, C-M, M-1-P, M-1, M-2, AND A ZONES OF THE CITY.

City Attorney Summary

This Ordinance amends provisions of the City's Zoning Code to establish additional zoning regulations for certain medical facilities that could be permitted under the implementation of the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act. This Ordinance will only go into effect upon the Council's adoption of an

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Sections 92.15.01.C (C-M Zone), 92.16.01.C (M-1-P Zone), 92.17.01.C (M-1 Zone), 92.17.1.02.C (M-2 Zone), and 92.17.2.01.C (E-I Zone) are amended to add Medical Cannabis Manufacturing Facility and Medical Cannabis Testing Facility as uses permitted by Land Use Permit in such zones.

SECTION 2. Sections 92.14.01.A (C-2 Zone), 92.14.1.01.A (Highway Commercial Zone), 92.15.01.A (C-M Zone), 92.16.01.A (M-1-P Zone), 92.17.01.A (M-1 Zone), 92.17.1.01.A (M-2 Zone), and 92.18.01.A (Airport Zone) are amended to add Medical Cannabis Dispensary use as a permitted use in such zones.

SECTION 3. Section 92.17.2.00 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code is amended to read:

92.17/2/00 "E-I" Energy Industrial Zone.

The "E-I" energy industrial zone is intended to provide areas for alternative energy development and limited industrial and cultivation uses in those areas which by virtue of strong prevailing winds are ideally suited for large-scale development of wind energy. Alternative energy development is intended as the principal land use. The

retention of open space is encouraged. No industrial use shall be permitted which, by the nature of its development or operation, will in any way adversely affect the resort environment of the City.

SECTION 4. Subsection F of Section 92.17.2.03 of the Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance is amended to read:

F. Coverage.

Where a site is developed or approved for wind energy or other alternative energy purposes, any industrial use thereon shall not occupy an area greater than fifteen (15) percent of any lot or planned development. Where a site is not so developed or approved, coverage shall not exceed sixty (60) percent of any lot or planned development.

SECTION 5. Section 93.23.15 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code is amended to read:

93.23.15 Special Standards for Specified Medical Cannabis Facilities.

A. No land use entitlement, permit (including building permit) approval, site plan, certificate of occupancy, zoning clearance, or other land use authorization for a MCCC, Medical Cannabis Dispensary (MCD), Medical Cannabis Manufacturing Facility (MCMF), Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facility (MCCF), or Medical Cannabis Testing Facility (MCTF) (collectively "Medical Cannabis Facilities") shall be granted or permitted except in conformance with this Section.

B. Medical Cannabis Facilities shall be permitted only upon application and approval of a regulatory permit in accordance with the criteria and process set forth in Chapter 5.35 or 5.45 of this Code. Prior to initiating operations and as a continuing requisite to conducting operations, the legal representative of the persons wishing to operate a Medical Cannabis Facility shall obtain a regulatory permit from the City Manager under the terms and conditions set forth in Chapter 5.35 or Chapter 5.45 of this Code and shall otherwise fully comply with the provisions of this Section.

C. No MCCC, MCD, MCMF, or MCTF shall be established, developed, or operated within two-hundred fifty (250) feet of Palm Canyon Drive or any residential zone property; within five hundred (500) feet of a school, public playground or park, child care or day care facility, youth center, or church. All distances shall be measured in a straight line, without regard to intervening structures, from the nearest property line of the property on which the MCCC, MCD, MCMF, MCTF is, or will be located, and to the nearest property line of those uses described in this Subsection. Administrative modifications for this standard may be granted by the City Council pursuant to Section 94.06.01.B. Any MCMF in excess of ten thousand (10,000) square feet shall operate only within the E-1 and the M-2 Zones.

D. A Medical Cannabis Facility is not and shall not be approved as an accessory use to any other use permitted by this Zoning Code. MCCC and MCCF facilities may be

located on the same parcel or on the same premises as otherwise permitted by this Zoning Code.

E. Except within the E-I Zone, where M-2 standards shall apply, a Medical Cannabis Facility shall be parked at a rate of one (1) space for every two hundred fifty (250) gross square feet of office space, and one (1) space for every eight hundred (800) feet of warehouse/cultivation space. Administrative modifications for this standard may be granted by the City Council pursuant to Section 94.06.01.B.

SECTION 6. The Mayor shall sign and the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause the same, or the summary thereof, to be published and posted pursuant to the provisions of law and this Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2016.

ROBERT MOON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JAMES THOMPSON, CITY CLERK

Ordinance No. _____

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CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS)

I, JAMES THOMPSON, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, California, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. _____ is a full, true, and correct copy, and was introduced at a regular meeting of the Palm Springs City Council on _____ and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on _____ by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

JAMES THOMPSON, CITY CLERK
City of Palm Springs, California

Cindy Berardi

From: LA County RAM Workgroup <lacountyram@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2016 2:26 PM
To: LA County RAM
Subject: Time-Sensitive Communication RE: Marijuana Policy.

Dear City Clerk,

Rethinking Access to Marijuana (RAM) is a collection of public health agencies funded by the LA County Department of Public Health and is engaged in a Community Partnership with the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

We ask that you distribute this document to all policymakers in your city: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5rHO4JDkeMGdm51azFFYWhHY2M/view?usp=sharing>

As public health advocates, we are concerned by the harm associated with marijuana use, particularly as it relates to youth. Youth are vulnerable to marijuana's societal and physiological impacts; the data show it can dramatically impact cognitive development and academic performance.

Comprehensive regulation is a crucial strategy to mitigate the negative impacts of marijuana on youth. The RAM Policy Menu provides important information for local legislators concerned with enacting smart marijuana regulation. New medical marijuana laws were established in January 2016, but many areas of regulation are still under development. Local jurisdictions still hold the right and responsibility to define the presence of medical marijuana in their communities. With the additional possibility that legal recreational marijuana use will become a reality in the near future, officials must act now to enact policies that minimize youth exposure.

RAM is not for or against the legalization of marijuana for recreational use. We are advocating for solutions that protect youth.

For more information about RAM, visit our website at www.lacountyram.org.

Best,

The Members of Rethinking Access to Marijuana

Link to Policy Menu: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5rHO4JDkeMGdm51azFFYWhHY2M/view?usp=sharing>

Re: Marijuana



Marijuana Regulation and Enforcement Priorities for Cities

Changes in marijuana policy are gaining momentum throughout Los Angeles County. Yet, little is known about the impact these shifts will have on health systems, prevention and treatment of substance abuse, social outcomes such as education and professional achievement, and other disease prevalence. Proliferation of marijuana outlets, whether recreational or medical, has the potential for a serious negative impact on the health and safety of communities, and youth in particular.

As public health advocates, we are concerned with preventing health harm associated with marijuana use. The chief priority for protecting the health of LA County residents is preventing use of marijuana during the important developmental periods of childhood and adolescence. Marijuana is particularly risky for young people to use because it can interfere with brain development¹ and has been shown to cause long-term deficits in cognitive function when use begins in adolescence².

Comprehensive regulation is a crucial strategy for city leaders to prevent negative impacts from marijuana on youth. As of January 2016, California has new medical marijuana regulations, yet many areas of regulation are still under development. There is also the possibility that legal recreational marijuana use will become a reality in the near future. How can city residents and officials act now to ensure that local policies protect youth and preserve the character of our communities?

This document reviews proven strategies to limit youth access to marijuana by regulating medical marijuana dispensaries, personal use cultivation, commercial cultivation, and delivery services; it also outlines the potential impact of various policy options. The following matrix includes important information for local legislators concerned with enacting smart marijuana regulation that adequately protects youth in our communities.

Key Domains for Regulation

Storefront Marijuana Businesses

Restricting and carefully monitoring licenses and licensees: Licensing provisions that are actively enforced through regular random compliance checks in which violators, such as those that sell to minors, are subject to meaningful penalties (including license suspension and revocation) create a culture of compliance among marijuana licensees.

Restricting density of marijuana outlets: Decades of research on alcohol and tobacco use demonstrate the need for strong controls on the density of businesses, and research shows the physical availability of medical marijuana dispensaries is similarly related to the prevalence and frequency of marijuana use (Ammerman et al., 2015). Density restrictions on the number of businesses that can locate in a given area can prevent uneven clustering of marijuana outlets in our neighborhoods.

Restricting where marijuana storefronts can be located: Marijuana-related businesses should not be located near areas youth frequent such as schools, parks, and playgrounds. Similarly, locating marijuana businesses in mainstream shopping districts can increase perceptions among youth that marijuana is normal and socially acceptable, which has been shown to have strong associations with underage marijuana use (Ashbridge et al., 2016).



Personal Use Cultivation

Requiring licensing and inspections for cultivation: Current state laws regulating personal use cultivation lack basic requirements for security and preventing youth access. Ideally, property proposed as a site for personal use marijuana cultivation should be subject to an inspection and approval process, taking into account ways children may be exposed to the crop and other concerns, such as security from theft, visibility, water/electricity usage, the potential for nuisance from drifting odors, and the rights of property owners.

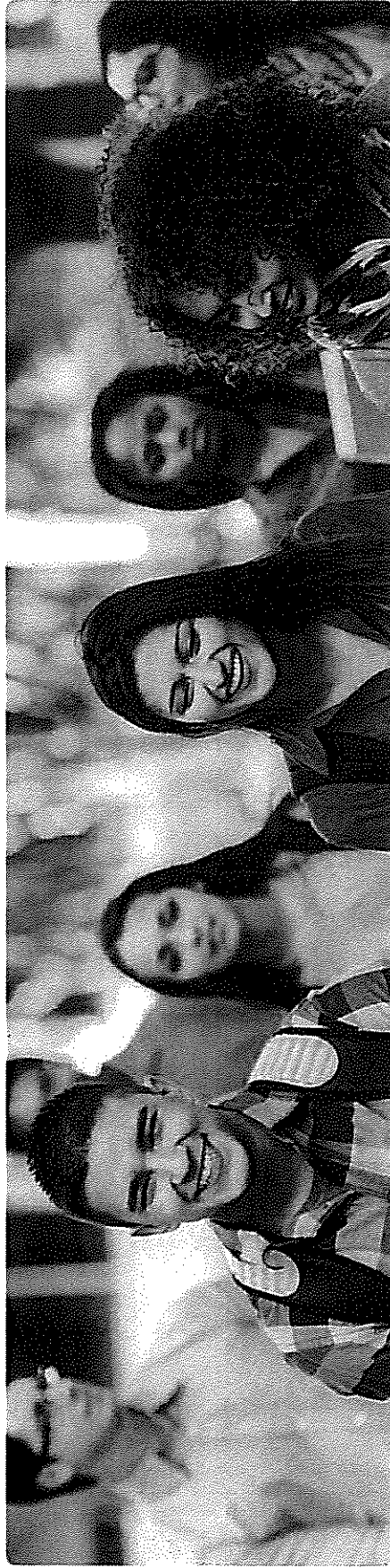
Commercial Cultivation

Restricting where marijuana storefronts can be located: The current State law is more comprehensive in regulations on commercial cultivation. However, it falls to city leaders to minimize the impacts of commercial cultivation on youth by restricting grow operations to non-residential zones and enforcing state regulations intended to prevent diversion of marijuana products to the black market.

1 = (Volkow et al., 2014)

2 = (Meier et al., 2015)

Medical Marijuana Policy Decision Matrix: Best Regulatory Practices for Minimizing Youth Harms



POLICY DECISION

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

WHAT THE DATA SHOW

BEST PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE YOUTH IMPACTS

HOW TO ENFORCE



- Youth exposure
- Visibility
- Resource Use
- Nuisance complaints
- Burglary

ALLOW

DON'T ALLOW

- State law allows every medical marijuana patient to grow up to 100 square feet of plants (and up to 500 square feet if they are a personal caregiver) (CA Health and Safety Code 11362.769).
- State regulations don't include any requirements to keep personal use cultivation indoors or secured from kids or non-patients.
- Marijuana is a water and energy-intensive crop (Bauer et al., 2015; Mills, 2012).

- A 2016 ballot measure to legalize recreational marijuana use would rescind the right of cities and counties to enact full bans on personal use cultivation (Prop 64 website).

- Comprehensiveness
- Enforceability

- Dedicate local enforcement resources to site inspections for permit approvals and on-going annual inspections.
- Establish a procedure to address nuisance complaints and disputes between neighbors.
- Require written approval from building owner prior to granting permits for cultivation in rental units, to minimize landlord/tenant disputes.
- Educate residents and local law enforcement about the local policy on personal use cultivation.
- Establish a procedure for residents to report un-permitted cultivation sites.



- Visibility to Youth
- Environmental Impact
- Resource Use (Water/Energy Demand)
- Indoor versus Outdoor Cultivation
- Zoning Restrictions

ALLOW

DON'T ALLOW

- Marijuana is a water and energy-intensive crop (Bauer et al., 2015; Mills, 2012).
- Pesticides used in marijuana cultivation represent a health risk for youth and families (Carah et al., 2015).
- Data is limited, but outdoor grows have a greater potential for burglary/other crimes (CA Narcotics Officers Association, 2016).
- Legislators may need to revisit bans as state regulations on commercial cultivation develop.

- Look to the CDFA. The Department of Food and Agriculture is developing regulations and licensing requirements for cultivators.
- Seek grant funding. The BMCN will establish a grant program for local jurisdictions to assist with regulation and enforcement (CA Business and Professions Code 19351).
- Establish a procedure for residents to report suspected commercial cultivation sites or any violation of the law.
- Educate local law enforcement and residents on local/state policy for commercial cultivation.

- Enforceability



- Restrict to dispensaries licensed in your jurisdiction.
- Or,
- Restrict to registered collectives delivering to handicapped customers.
- Enforceability

ALLOW

DON'T ALLOW

- Marijuana delivery services have been found to circumvent community efforts to regulate marijuana (Freisthler & Gruenwald, 2014).
- Bans on marijuana delivery within city limits may be challenging to enforce.

- Establish a procedure for residents to report violations of age restrictions or limits on quantity.
- Use a Minor Decey Program to evaluate delivery services' compliance with age restrictions or limits on quantity.
- Enact traffic stops for suspected deliveries within city limits.
- Issue citations for verified deliveries to addresses within city limits.

- Implement regulations that prohibit sales to minors or restrict quantities (may be nearly impossible to enforce for delivery services).

Delivery Services

Banning or limiting delivery services: Marijuana delivery services have been found to circumvent community efforts to regulate marijuana (Freisthler & Gruenewald, 2014) and present serious concerns for monitoring and enforcement of laws intended to prevent youth access and diversion to the black market.



Accountability

The current State law is unclear about what enforcement resources will be made available to local jurisdictions to monitor and enforce medical marijuana regulations. As such, it falls to cities to define how they will monitor and enforce compliance on a local level.

High Visibility Enforcement

Highly visible enforcement is a deterrent to future violations of medical marijuana regulations. Enforcement techniques could include drugged driving checkpoints and publicizing use of a Minor Decoy Program that evaluates compliance with age restrictions.

Community Involvement

To date, many local jurisdictions have relied heavily on reports and inquiries from residents to identify non-compliant or unlicensed marijuana businesses.

Training

Local law enforcement can be trained on local and state regulations regarding medical marijuana, on how to recognize and police drugged driving, and on how to evaluate security standards at commercial cultivation sites and medical marijuana storefronts.

About Rethinking Access to Marijuana

Rethinking Access to Marijuana (RAM) is a collaboration of public health professionals seeking to prevent marijuana-related harms by limiting youth access to marijuana in the County of Los Angeles.

This group was established with the vision of educating communities about the potential harms of marijuana use; implementing and evaluating environmental strategies formulated to limit youth access to marijuana; and influencing policy actions that support flourishing youth and communities free from marijuana-related harms. RAM neither supports nor opposes any specific legislation.

References

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Contact RAM

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