

October 31, 2017

Matt Johnston
Environmental Coordinator
County of Santa Cruz Planning Department
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Email: Matt.Johnston@santacruzcounty.us

Re: Comments on Commercial Cannabis Cultivation and Manufacturing Regulations and Licensing Program

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Thank you for providing the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (Air District) with the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced document. The Air District has reviewed the document and has the following comments:

Section 3.3.6.1:

- **MM AQ-1.1 – Siting for Odor Abatement:** The Air District recommends requiring cultivation, processing and manufacturing of cannabis to be conducted **indoors only** so that nuisance odors, dust and pesticides are more effectively controlled. While growing cannabis indoors may increase the use of energy and GHG emissions, it would significantly reduce odor and dust impacts on the local community. Please model Santa Cruz County’s cannabis rules after Monterey County’s by requiring that all cultivation, processing and manufacturing of cannabis be done indoors.
- **MM AQ-1.2 – Greenhouse Odors:** The Air District supports the requirement that odor abatement measures, including commercial air scrubbing and filtration systems, are required for cannabis cultivation, processing and manufacturing. An Air District Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate is required for odor control devices, fume hoods, and engine generator sets. Please contact the Air District’s Engineering Division at (831) 647-9411 if you have questions about permitting.
- **MM AQ-1.3 - Prohibit Cannabis Material Burning:** In an ongoing effort to reduce PM2.5 emissions and reduce the potential for public nuisance, the Air District appreciates and supports the proposed prohibition of open burning of cannabis material.
- **MM AQ-1.4 - Consistency of Pesticide Use Setbacks:** The Air District concurs that the SCCC Chapter 7.128 should be consistent with the foreseeable state regulation of 0.25 mile setback from schools and residences. The Air District would also recommend evaluation of a larger setback depending on prevailing winds and topography.
- **MM AQ-1.5:** As stated above, the Air District cannot support outdoor cultivation, processing or manufacturing of cannabis.
- **Impact AQ-2.1 - Implement TDM Measures:** In addition to the suggested measures, the Air District encourages the use of electric vehicles in lieu of those powered by fossil fuels and therefore, recommends the inclusion of an electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in your TDM Measures by requiring the installation of publically available EV charge stations at cannabis facility parking lots.

As emissions from increased vehicle and energy use are estimated to cause significant and unavoidable impacts for NOx, VOC and GHG emissions, the Air District requests that the County cooperate with the Air District to develop an offset program to mitigate excessive emissions. Please contact David Frisbey, Planning and Air Monitoring Manager, at the Air District office at (831) 647-9411 or dfrisbey@mbard.org for assistance in developing an offset program.

- **Impact AQ-3.1 - Direct Cultivation/Manufacturing:** The long-term operation-related emissions from cannabis manufacturing are not addressed. Emissions from cannabis manufacturing include PM emissions from the leaf mulching processes (mulching required for extraction process), VOC emissions from the solvent (propane, butane, ethanol, others) based extraction processes and hash oil processing (distillation and winterization) processes. The Air District has already permitted cannabis manufacturing facilities which have the potential to exceed the 137 pounds of VOC per day CEQA threshold. Best Available Control Technology (BACT), may be required such as closed loop extraction systems which minimize VOC emissions. However, these processes still have the potential to exceed the 137 pounds of VOC per day limit even with BACT installed. Please address these potential emissions sources and control systems in the final EIR.
- **Impact AQ-3.2 -** The Air District suggests that, when feasible, cleaner construction equipment be used for construction projects. This includes equipment that conforms to ARB's Tier 3 or Tier 4 emission standards. We further recommend that, whenever feasible, construction equipment use alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, electricity or biodiesel.

Section 3.7.6.1: Green-House Gas Emissions and Climate Change – Program Impacts

- **MM GHG-1.1- Alternative Energy Sources:** As emissions from increased vehicle and energy use are estimated to cause significant and unavoidable impacts for GHG emissions, the Air District requests that the County cooperate with the Air District to develop an offset program to mitigate the excessive GHG emissions. See comment on AQ-2.1 above.

General:

- Please note that the Air District's name has been changed from Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District to Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD). For consistency purposes and to prevent confusion please update where appropriate.

Best Regards,



Christine Duymich
Air Quality Planner II

cc: David Frisbey