

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF COUNTY OF VENTURA
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VENTURA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE TO
REGULATE CULTIVATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP AND CROSS-REFERENCE
THOSE REGULATIONS IN THE COUNTY COASTAL AND NON-COASTAL ZONING
ORDINANCES (CASE NO. PL20-0102)**

A public hearing, as provided by law, was held by the VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, County Government Center, Hall of Administration, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California 93009.

APPLICANT: County of Ventura

PROJECT LOCATION: The Hemp Regulations apply to agricultural land located in the unincorporated area of Ventura County.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE: The ordinance adds chapter 6, sections 9600 et seq., to division 9 of the Ventura County Ordinance Code (“VCOC”), regulating cultivation of industrial hemp in the unincorporated area of Ventura County, and amends VCOC sections 8105-4, 8105-5 and 8174-5, adding references to those regulations to the use matrices in the County of Ventura Non-Coastal and Coastal Zoning Ordinances.

The ordinance includes the provisions summarized below:

1. Hemp may not be grown within 1,200 feet of any sensitive site. Flowering hemp may not be grown within one-quarter mile of any sensitive site or within the Tierra Rejada Valley growing area as defined. “Sensitive site” is defined as property with a certificate of occupancy that is within a residential zone within a city, within certain residential areas in the unincorporated county, an elementary or high school, a licensed daycare center, a college or university building except for a stadium, or a hospital or medical facility. The ordinance exempts research plots of five acres or less, hemp determined to be a low odor variety as specified in the ordinance, hemp grown within odor-controlled greenhouses, and hemp grown with the permission of the owners or operators of all sensitive sites within one-quarter mile.
2. Flowering hemp with one mile of a sensitive site must be harvested within 30 days of the first laboratory test required under state law, and all hemp debris removed or tilled under within 15 days of harvest, except that the Agricultural Commissioner may allow additional days to the extent adverse weather delays harvesting activities. Ancillary activities to hemp cultivation must be completed within 45 days of the first laboratory test.
3. Male hemp plants may only be grown by a seed breeder and within a greenhouse or more than three miles from any hemp cultivation site or with the permission of other hemp growers located within three miles.

4. Signs as specified must be posted at hemp cultivation sites indicating the crop is industrial hemp and prohibiting trespassing. The signs are exempt from regulation under County zoning ordinances.
5. The Agricultural Commissioner may impose fees on hemp growers for costs of administering and enforcing the ordinance and state hemp regulations that are not reimbursed by the state.
6. Violations of the ordinance may be subject to civil and criminal penalties and other remedies. Hemp grown in violation of the ordinance is a public nuisance subject to abatement by the Agricultural Commissioner. Odor from a hemp cultivation site operated in compliance with the ordinance and state industrial hemp regulations is not a nuisance.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: The ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308.

The ordinance was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Huber, LaVere, Long

NOES: Parks

ABSENT: Zaragoza

The adopted ordinance may be obtained for review from the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors located in the Hall of Administration at 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA. **Because the Hall of Administration is currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact the Clerk of the Board by e-mail at Clerkoftheboard@ventura.org or phone at (805) 654-2251 to obtain the ordinance.** The ordinance is also available online in the Board of Supervisors hearing archives at: <http://bosagenda.countyofventura.org/sirepub/agdocs.aspx?doctype=agenda&itemid=112877>

Prepared by County Counsel