

**MENDOCINO COUNTY CODE**

**Looseleaf Supplement**

This Supplement contains all ordinances deemed advisable to be included at this time through:

**Ordinance No. 4408, adopted April 28, 2018.**

See the Code Comparative Table and Disposition List for further information

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Insert and maintain this instruction sheet in front of this publication. File removed pages for reference.



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## PREFACE

The Mendocino County Code, has been kept current by regular supplementation by Municipal Code Corporation, its successor in interest.

The code is organized by subject matter under an expandable three-factor decimal numbering system which is designed to facilitate supplementation without disturbing the numbering of existing provisions. Each section number designates, in sequence, the numbers of the Title, chapter, and section. Thus, Section 2.12.040 is Section .040, located in Chapter 2.12 of Title 2. In most instances, sections are numbered by tens (.010, .020, .030, etc.), leaving nine vacant positions between original sections to accommodate future provisions. Similarly, chapters and titles are numbered to provide for internal expansion.

In parentheses following each section is a legislative history identifying the specific sources for the provisions of that section. This legislative history is complemented by an ordinance disposition table, following the text of the code, listing by number all ordinances, their subjects, and where they appear in the codification; and beginning with Supplement No. 22, legislation can be tracked using the "Code Comparative Table and Disposition List."

A subject-matter index, with complete cross-referencing, locates specific code provisions by individual section numbers.

**This supplement brings the Code up to date through Ordinance No. 4409, passed April 24, 2018.**

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<b>Ord. No.</b>	<b>Date Adopted</b>	<b>Included/Omitted</b>	<b>Supp. No.</b>
4376	1-10-2017	Included	47
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4408	4-28-2018	Included	52
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**Title 9**

**HEALTH AND SANITATION**

**Chapter 9.05 Emergency and Pre-Hospital Medical Service System**

**Division One General**

**Division Two Authorizations**

**Division Three Funding**

**Division Four Effective**

**Chapter 9.08 Restaurants**

**Chapter 9.12 Regulation of Sewage and Septage Pumpers**

**Chapter 9.16 Fees Pertaining to Health or Sanitation**

**Chapter 9.20 Smoking in County Buildings**

**Chapter 9.24 Mendocino County Water Haulers' Ordinance**

**Chapter 9.28 Regulation of Hazardous Substances Stored in Underground Storage Tanks**

**Chapter 9.30 Reserved**

**Chapter 9.31 Medical Marijuana Cultivation Regulation**

**Chapter 9.32 Smoking Pollution Control and Health Protection Ordinance**

**Chapter 9.33 Outdoor Burning**

**Chapter 9.34 FIRST 5 Mendocino County Ordinance**

**Chapter 9.35 IHSS Public Authority Ordinance**

**Chapter 9.36 Reserved**

**Chapter 9.37 The Repeal of (Measure G) Mendocino County Code Chapter 9.36 Cannabis Personal Use Ordinance for Mendocino County/and Adoption of New Guidelines for Maintenance and Possession of Medical Marijuana That Do Not Exceed the Minimum State Limits**

**Chapter 9.40 Disease Prevention Demonstration Project**

**Chapter 9.41 Single-use Carryout Bags by Retail Establishments**

**Chapter 9.42 Disposable Food Ware**





of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, it being herein expressly declared that this Ordinance and each section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase thereof would have been adopted irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, paragraphs, clauses or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional. (Ord. No. 3477, adopted 1983.)

## CHAPTER 9.30

### RESERVED\*

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\***Editor's note**—Ord. No. 4408, § 22, adopted April 28, 2018, repealed ch. 9.30, §§ 9.30.010—9.30.100, in its entirety. Former ch. 9.30 pertained to "Adult Use Marijuana Cultivation Regulation," and was derived from Ord. No. 4383, § 1, adopted May 2, 2017.

**CHAPTER 9.31**  
**MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION**  
**REGULATION\***

**Sec. 9.31.010 Purpose and intent.**

It is the purpose and intent of this Chapter to immediately regulate medical marijuana in a manner that is consistent with State law and which is necessary to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and businesses within the unincorporated territory of the County of Mendocino by balancing: (1) the needs of medical patients and their caregivers for enhanced access to medical marijuana; (2) the needs of neighbors and communities to be protected from public safety and nuisance impacts; and (3) the need to limit harmful environmental impacts that are sometimes associated with marijuana cultivation. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to: (1) allow persons to engage in conduct that endangers others or causes a public nuisance as defined herein; (2) allow the use or diversion of marijuana for nonmedical purposes; or (3) allow any activity relating to the cultivation, distribution or consumption of marijuana that is otherwise illegal under California State law.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to exempt the cultivation of medical marijuana, as defined herein, from any and all applicable local and state construction, grading, electrical, plumbing, land use, water rights, waste water discharge, streambed alteration, or any other environmental, building or land use standards or permitting requirements.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, as allowing cultivation of medical marijuana in the areas governed by the Inland Zoning Code of Mendocino County without a permit as required by section 10A.17.030(A) or by

\***Editor's note**—Ord. No. 4383, § 2, adopted May 2, 2017, repealed ch. 9.31, §§ 9.31.010—9.31.190, in its entirety; and enacted a new ch. 9.31 to read as set out herein. Former ch. 9.31 pertained to similar subject matter, and was derived from Ord. No. 4356, adopted May 17, 2016 and Ord. No. 4375, § 1, adopted January 10, 2017.

any qualified patient or primary caregiver in excess of the limits provided by section 10A.17.030(B) of this Code.  
(Ord. No. 4383, § 2, 5-2-2017)

**Sec. 9.31.020 Confidential Nature of Medical Marijuana Information Legislative Intent.**

To the fullest extent authorized by State and Federal law, all use information received by and/or generated by the operation of this Chapter or prior or other iterations of cannabis cultivation ordinances of the County has always been intended to be treated and held by the County as confidential information. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information provided to the county may be released as required by law, judicial order, or subpoena, and could be used in criminal prosecution.  
(Ord. No. 4383, § 2, 5-2-2017)

**Sec. 9.31.030 Findings.**

(A) The voters of the State of California approved Proposition 215 (codified as Health and Safety Code section 11362.5 and entitled "The Compassionate Use Act of 1996").

(B) The intent of Proposition 215 was to ensure that seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes where that medical use is deemed appropriate and has been recommended by a physician, and to ensure that patients and their primary caregivers who obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes upon the recommendation of a physician are not thereby subject to criminal prosecution or sanction. The Act further provides that "nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede legislation prohibiting persons from engaging in conduct that endangers others, or to condone the diversion of marijuana for non-medical purposes."

(C) The State enacted SB 420 in 2004, known as the Medical Marijuana Program Act (codified as Health and Safety Code section 11362.7 et seq.) to clarify the scope of The Compassionate Use Act of 1996, facilitate the prompt identification of



**Title 10A**

**AGRICULTURE**

- Chapter 10A.04 Aerial Application of Phenoxy  
Herbicides Prohibited**
- Chapter 10A.08 Protection Against Plant Pests**
- Chapter 10A.12 Agricultural Pest Control Advisors**
- Chapter 10A.13 Agricultural Nuisances and Consumer  
Disclosures**
- Chapter 10A.14 Prevention of Grapeleaf Infestation**
- Chapter 10A.15 Prohibition on the Propagation,  
Cultivation, Raising and Growing of  
Genetically Modified Organisms in  
Mendocino County**
- Chapter 10A.16 Device Registration and Inspection Fees**
  - Division A. Inspection and Testing of Weighing and  
Measuring Devices**
  - Division B. Penalties for Violations of Registration  
Provisions**
- Chapter 10A.17 Mendocino Cannabis Cultivation  
Ordinance**



inal fee and late fee charge. A subsequent violation will be treated as a second offense, punishable as set forth in subsection (b)(2) of this Section.

(2) Any subsequent offense shall be charged as a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or any other penalty imposed by a court, or both.

(c) Payment of any fine or other penalty imposed by a court shall not relieve a person from the responsibility of registering a weighing or measuring device and paying the applicable registration fee, as required by this Chapter.

(d) In addition to all other remedies provided by this Chapter or state law, the department may seek injunctive relief to restrain continuing violations of the provisions of this Chapter. Nothing in this Chapter shall preclude the Sealer from seeking civil penalties pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 12015.3 or pursuing any other remedy available to the Sealer under Division 5 of the Business and Professions Code.

(Ord. No. 4228, 9-1-2009)

**Sec. 10A.16.060 Severability.**

It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors by adopting the ordinance codified in this Chapter to exercise its statutory authority to impose a fee as permitted by law. If any provision of this Chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and to this end the provisions of this Chapter are severable.

(Ord. No. 4228, 9-1-2009)

**CHAPTER 10A.17**

**MENDOCINO CANNABIS CULTIVATION  
ORDINANCE\***

**Sec. 10A.17.010 Title, Purpose and Intent.**

This Chapter is known and may be cited as the Mendocino Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance ("MCCO"). Chapter 20.242 of the Mendocino County Code, titled Cannabis Cultivation Sites, is complementary to this Chapter and together the chapters may be cited as the Mendocino Cannabis Cultivation Regulation ("MCCR").

It is the purpose and intent of this Chapter, together with complementary regulations found in Chapter 20.242 of the Mendocino County Zoning Code, to regulate the cultivation of cannabis within the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County in a manner that is consistent with State law and which promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and businesses within those areas by balancing the needs of medical patients and their caregivers for enhanced access to medical cannabis, the needs of neighbors and communities to be protected from public safety and nuisance impacts, and the need to limit harmful environmental impacts that are sometimes associated with cannabis cultivation.

Adoption of this Chapter will protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the County of Mendocino by adopting regulations regarding the cultivation of cannabis by individuals consistent with the provisions of State law and a local permitting structure that will operate in conformance with State licensing requirements for the commercial cultivation of cannabis, as state licenses become available.

All cultivation of cannabis within the County of Mendocino, except for cultivation allowed pursuant to Chapter 9.31, shall comply with the provisions of the MCCR, as well as all applicable

\*Editor's note—Ord. No. 4408, § 1, adopted April 28, 2018, amended the title of ch. 10A.17, to read as set out herein. Previously ch. 10A.17 was titled "Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance."

state and local laws, regardless of whether the cultivation site existed or occurred prior to the adoption of the MCCR.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to:

- 1) Allow persons to engage in conduct that endangers others or causes a public nuisance, or
- 2) Allow any activity relating to the cultivation, distribution or consumption of cannabis that is otherwise illegal under California State law.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to exempt the cultivation of cannabis from compliance with all other applicable Mendocino County zoning and land use regulations, as well as other applicable provisions of the County Code, or compliance with any applicable state laws.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to confer the right to create or maintain a public nuisance in the course of cultivating cannabis plants.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to exempt the cultivation of cannabis, as defined herein, from any and all applicable local and state construction, grading, electrical, plumbing, land use, water rights, waste water discharge, streambed alteration, or any other environmental, building or land use standards or permitting requirements.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to preclude a landlord or property owner from limiting or prohibiting the cultivation of cannabis.

All persons operating facilities and conducting activities associated with the cultivation of cannabis, as defined in this Chapter, are subject to possible federal prosecution, regardless of the protections provided by state or local law.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 2, 4-28-2018)

**Sec. 10A.17.020 Definitions.**

As used herein the following definitions shall apply:

"A-license" means a state license issued under the State of California Medicinal and Adult-Use



Cannabis Regulatory Safety Act (MAUCRSA), or subsequent legislation, for cannabis or cannabis products that are intended for adults twenty-one (21) years of age and over and who do not possess physician's recommendations.

"A-licensee" means any person holding a license under the MAUCRSA, or subsequent legislation, for cannabis or cannabis products that are intended for adults twenty-one (21) years of age and over and who do not possess physician's recommendations.

"Agricultural Commissioner" or "Agricultural Commissioner's Office" or the "Department of Agriculture" means the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture or the authorized representatives thereof, or such other department, division or representative as designated by the Board of Supervisors.

"Attorney General's Guidelines" means the document titled "Guidelines for the Security and Non-diversion of Marijuana Grown for Medical Use issued by the California State Attorney General in August 2008.

"Baseline date" means August 26, 2016, which is the date the Initial Study under the California Environmental Quality Act for the MCCR was initiated.

"Cannabis" means all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa*, *Cannabis indica*, or *Cannabis ruderalis*, or any other strain or varietal of the genus *Cannabis* that may hereafter be discovered or developed that has psychoactive or medicinal properties, whether growing or not, including the seeds thereof. "Cannabis" also means marijuana as defined by Section 11018 of the State of California Health and Safety Code as enacted by Chapter 1407 of the Statutes of 1972. For the purpose of this section, "cannabis" does not mean "industrial hemp" as defined by Section 81000 of the State of California Food and Agricultural Code or Section 11018.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

"Cannabis product" has the same meaning as in Health and Safety Code section 11018.1.

"Church" means a structure or leased portion of a structure, which is used primarily for religious worship and related religious activities.

"Clone" means a portion of a stem that is cut from a parent plant and induced to form roots by chemical, mechanical, or environmental manipulation.

"Collective" means a medical marijuana collective, as defined below.

"Cultivation cycle" means each individual cycle where cannabis plants are grown to maturity from seeds, clones or nursery starts.

"Cultivation of cannabis" means the planting, growing, harvesting, drying or processing at a cultivation site of cannabis plants or any part thereof.

"Cultivation site" means one (1) or more locations or facilities on one (1) legal parcel (or one (1) or more legal parcels if specifically allowed for by this Chapter 10A.17) subject to a single approved Permit where cannabis is planted, grown, harvested, dried, cured, graded, trimmed, processed or packaged for transport, or that does all or any combination of those activities. One (1) or more areas of cannabis cultivation may exist on the legal parcel used for that purpose.

"Disturbance" means areas of land where natural plant growth has been removed whether by physical, animal, or chemical means, or natural grade has been modified for any purpose. Land disturbance includes all activities whatsoever associated with developing or modifying land for cannabis cultivation related activities or access. Land disturbance activities include, but are not limited to, construction of roads, buildings, or water storage areas; excavation; grading; and site clearing. Disturbed land includes cultivation areas and storage areas where soil or soil amendments (e.g., potting soil, compost, or biosolids) are located. Areas where plant material has been removed for the purpose of wildfire suppression are not considered disturbed.

"Dwelling unit" means a legal residential structure providing complete, independent living facil-

ities for one (1) or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation, and having only one (1) kitchen.

"Expansion" means an increase in the size of Plant Canopy above the area cultivated as of the Baseline Date.

"Flowering" means that a cannabis plant has formed a mass of pistils measuring greater than one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) inch wide at its widest point.

"Greenhouse" means a completely enclosed structure whose structural members are made of pre-formed, rigid construction materials. The walls, roof, and ends are typically covered using a transparent material, often glass, that is fixed in place, and which allows solar radiation to penetrate the surface and affect the growing environment of the plants inside.

"Hoop House" means a structure with structural members are made of flexible and somewhat rigid construction materials, typically PVC pipe or similar material. The ends may be covered or left open and the material covering the structural members is readily removable and is typically removed and re-affixed frequently.

"Identification card" shall have the same definition as California Health and Safety Code section 11362.5 et seq., and as may be amended.

"Immature plant" or "immature" means a cannabis plant that is not flowering.

"Indoors" means within a fully enclosed and secure structure that complies with the California Building Code, as adopted by the County of Mendocino, that has a complete roof enclosure supported by connecting walls extending from the ground to the roof, and a foundation, slab, or equivalent base to which the floor is securely attached. The structure must be secure against unauthorized entry, accessible only through one (1) or more lockable doors, and constructed of solid materials that cannot easily be broken through, such as two (2) inches by four (4) inches or thicker studs overlain with three-eighths ( $\frac{3}{8}$ ) inches or thicker plywood or equivalent materials. Plastic sheeting, regardless of gauge, or similar products do not satisfy this requirement.

"Legal parcel" or "Parcel" means a lot of real property which was created pursuant to the Subdivision Map Act prior to January 1, 2016, or for which a certificate of compliance was recognized and recorded prior to January 1, 2016; provided, however, for real property within Industrial zoning districts, subdivisions or certificates of compliance may be recognized and recorded after January 1, 2016.

"License" means a state license issued under the MAUCRSA, or subsequent legislation, and includes both an A-license and an M-license.

"Licensee" means a person issued a state license under the MAUCRSA, or subsequent legislation, to engage in commercial cannabis activity, regardless of whether the license held is an A-license or an M-license.

"M-license" means a state license issued under the MAUCRSA, or subsequent legislation, for commercial cannabis activity involving medicinal cannabis.

"M-licensee" means any person holding a license under the MAUCRSA, or subsequent legislation, for commercial cannabis activity involving medicinal cannabis.

"Mature plant" means a cannabis plant that is flowering.

"Medical marijuana collective" means qualified patients, persons with valid identification cards, and the designated primary caregivers of qualified patients who associate by written agreement, or form a cooperative in accordance with Section 12300 of the California Corporations Code within the unincorporated area of the County in order to collectively or cooperatively cultivate, store, and/or dispense cannabis for medical purposes, as provided in California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.775. The term collective shall include "cooperative" unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Mixed light" means the use of both natural and artificial or supplemental lighting sources during the growing cycle to cultivate cannabis. Included in this definition is the process of solely manipulating natural light to cultivate cannabis.

"Nursery producer" means a Permittee that produces vegetative immature cannabis plants, through cloning, seed germination, or tissue culture, intended for sale, trade, barter, etc. A nursery producer may also apply to be a "seed producer" as defined herein.

"Outdoors" means any cultivation site that uses no artificial or supplemental lighting to cultivate cannabis. Use of supplemental lighting to maintain vegetative starts or immature plants prior to transplanting outdoors shall be considered consistent with this definition.

"Park" means an area of land used for community recreation owned or operated by a public entity or a private area of land recognized as a neighborhood park utilized by youth. State or Federal designated parks and forestlands as recognized within the Mendocino County General Plan are not included within this definition.

"Permit" means a permit to cultivate cannabis in Mendocino County pursuant to this Chapter.

"Permittee" means a Person issued a permit to cultivate cannabis in Mendocino County pursuant to this Chapter.

"Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, limited liability company, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, syndicate, or any other group or combination acting as a unit and includes the plural as well as the singular number.

"Person with an identification card" means an individual who is a qualified patient who has applied for and obtained a valid identification card pursuant to Article 2.5 of Chapter 6 of Division 10 of the California Health and Safety Code (Section 11362.7 et seq.).

"Plant canopy" or "square footage" or "total square footage of plant canopy" or "cultivation area" means the cumulative total of square footage occupied by growing cannabis plants as calculated by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office but does not include aisles or other open areas outside the canopy area of growing cannabis plants.

"Primary caregiver" means the individual, designated by a qualified patient or by a person with

an identification card, who has consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, health, or safety of that patient or person, as defined in Health and Safety Code section 11362.7(d).

"Private residence" means a house, an apartment unit, a mobile home, or other similar dwelling, for purposes of this Chapter.

"Processing" means to harvest, dry, cure, grade, trim, or package for transport cannabis.

"Publically traveled private road" means a private roadway easement or access easement which serves, or has the potential to serve, more than four (4) lots or parcels. Such easement shall be considered a street as defined in Mendocino County Code section 20.008.052(26).

"Qualified patient" or "Patient" means a person who is entitled to the protections of section 11362.5 of the Health and Safety Code, but who does not have an identification card issued pursuant to Article 2.5 of Chapter 6 of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code (Section 11362.7 et seq.).

"Residential treatment facility" means a State licensed residential facility that provides treatment for drug and/or alcohol dependency.

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

"Seed producer" means a permitted nursery producer that has applied for and been approved to grow cannabis plants for the expressed purpose of producing specific breeds or varieties of cannabis seeds or to develop unique strains or varieties.

"Sheriff" or "Sheriff's Office" means the Sheriff's Office of the County of Mendocino or the authorized representatives thereof.

"Track and Trace" means a monitoring system providing traceability throughout the production and distribution lifecycle of permitted cannabis utilizing a unique identifier pursuant to section 11362.777 of the Health and Safety Code to assist government with enforcing regulations and preventing the illegal diversion of cannabis.

"Unique identifier" or "Unique ID" means individual, non-repeating identification issued to a permittee and attached to the base of each cannabis plant permitted at a cultivation site during the cultivation period or otherwise utilized in connection with an approved Track and Trace system.

"Wildlife exclusionary fence" means fencing that is designed to prevent the access of wild animals to the cultivation area by incorporating exclusionary measures designed to prevent the surface digging of wild animals under the upright portion of the fencing, the scaling of the fencing itself, and intrusion over the fencing. A number of methods are available to develop such fencing, including but not limited to: use of "no climb" wire fencing, addition of electrified "hot" wire(s) to the exterior of a solid fence, height extensions to a standard fence (where permissible) using hot wire or barbed wire strung between the extensions, etc.

"Youth-oriented facility" means an elementary school, middle school, high school, public park, or any establishment that advertises in a manner that identifies the establishment as catering to or providing services primarily intended for minors, or the individuals who regularly patronize, congregate or assemble at the establishment are predominantly minors. Youth-oriented facility shall include "day care center," as defined in Section 1596.76 of the California Health and Safety Code, as that section may be modified or superseded, and shall include "youth center" as defined in Section 11353.1 of the Health and Safety Code, as that section may be modified or superseded.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 1, 8-29-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 3, 4-28-2018)

**Sec. 10A.17.030 Cultivation Permit Required; Exemptions.**

(A) Except as provided for by this Section, cultivation of cannabis shall be allowed only following the issuance of a Permit pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter, and the review of a permit pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 20.242 of the Mendocino County Zoning Code. Chapter 20.242 authorizes the cultivation of cannabis only in specifically enumerated zoning districts, as determined by permit type, subject either to a zoning clearance, administrative permit or minor use permit.

(B) Qualified patients, persons with an identification card or primary caregivers cultivating cannabis are exempt from the permit requirements of paragraph (A) of this Section, subject to the following requirements:

(1) Intentionally Omitted.

(2) Compliance with the provisions of Section 10A.17.040.

(3) Any and all cannabis cultivated by a qualified patient or person with an identification card shall be for the sole and exclusive use by the patient only; such cannabis may not be provided, donated, sold or distributed to any other person. A maximum of one hundred (100) square feet of medical cannabis may be cultivated on a legal parcel by a qualified patient or patients.

(4) Any and all cannabis cultivated by a primary caregiver shall be for the sole and exclusive use of up to a maximum of two (2) patients which have provided written designation to the primary caregiver to provide those services; the primary caregiver may not receive remuneration for these activities except for compensation in full compliance with subdivision (c) of Health and Safety Code section 11362.765. A maximum of one hundred (100) square feet of cultivation area of medical cannabis may be cultivated by a primary caregiver for each patient they are cultivating for. A maximum total of two hundred (200) square feet may be cultivated on a legal parcel by a primary caregiver or caregivers. Primary caregivers culti-



vating more than one hundred (100) square feet shall be required to register with the Agriculture Department on an annual basis.

(5) Persons eligible to cultivate cannabis under this paragraph (B) may also cultivate cannabis for adult use, but any such cannabis plants must be contained within the square footage allowed in this paragraph (B).

(C) Individuals desiring to cultivate cannabis for adult use are exempt from the permit requirements of paragraph (A) of this section, subject to compliance with the following requirements:

(1) Compliance with the provisions of Section 10A.17.040.

(2) Cultivation of cannabis must occur in or on the grounds of a private residence or accessory structure, may be within one (1) or more cultivation sites, and contain no more than six (6) cannabis plants with a total plant canopy not to exceed one hundred (100) square feet.

(3) Cultivation of adult use cannabis under this paragraph (C) on legal parcels where medical cannabis plants are being cultivated pursuant to Chapter 9.31 shall not be used to increase the total number of cannabis plants that may be cultivated on the legal parcel, but up to six (6) of the total allowed number of twenty-five (25) plants may be set aside as personal cultivation of adult use cannabis.

(4) Cultivation of adult use cannabis under this paragraph (C) on legal parcels where cannabis plants are being cultivated under a Permit issued pursuant to this Chapter 10A.17 is allowed, provided that the person or persons cultivating the adult use cannabis reside on the legal parcel, the adult use cannabis plants do not exceed one hundred (100) square feet of total plant canopy, and the adult use cannabis plants shall be identified on the site plan required pursuant to section 10A.17.090.

(5) Cultivation of adult use cannabis under this paragraph (C) on any legal parcel less than ten (10) acres in size shall only be allowed indoors. (Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 2, 8-29-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 3, 4-28-2018)

### **Sec. 10A.17.040 General Limitations on Cultivation of Cannabis.**

The following limitations shall apply to all cultivation of cannabis in Mendocino County, including but not limited to cultivation pursuant to a Permit issued under this Chapter or an exemption provided for in Section 10A.17.030. Cultivation of cannabis shall also be subject to all applicable restrictions of Mendocino County Code Chapter 20.242.

(A) The cultivation of cannabis in Mendocino County, in any amount or quantity by any entity, shall not be allowed in the following areas:

(1) Within one thousand (1,000) feet of a youth-oriented facility, a school, a park, or any church or residential treatment facility as defined herein that is in existence at the time a Permit is initially applied for.

(2) Outdoors or using mixed light within one hundred (100) feet of any occupied legal residential structure located on a separate legal parcel; provided, however, that on January 1, 2020, this setback shall be increased to two hundred (200) feet for all Permit applications but shall not apply to renewals of Permits originally issued before that date.

(3) Outdoors or using mixed light in a mobile home park as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 18214.1 within one hundred (100) feet of an occupied mobile home that is under separate ownership.

(4) In any location where the cannabis plants are visible from the public right of way or publicly traveled private roads.

(5) Outdoors or using mixed light within fifty (50) feet from any adjoining legal parcel under separate ownership or access easement (whichever is most restrictive); provided, however, that on January 1, 2020, this setback shall be increased to one hundred (100) feet for all Permit applications but shall not apply to renewals of Permits originally issued before that date.

(6) Any indoor cultivation sites that comply with paragraph (A)(1) shall also be subject to the following:

(a) Indoor cultivation sites shall comply with the building property line setback established by the zoning district in which the cultivation site is located.

(b) The cultivation of cannabis within an accessory structure shall be allowed subject to the development requirements of the zoning district in which it is located and to requirements of Chapter 20.164 — Accessory Use Regulations except, notwithstanding Section 20.164.010: (a) the cultivation of cannabis in an accessory structure is not permitted prior to the construction of the legal dwelling unit on the parcel, if a legal dwelling unit is required by this Chapter, and (b) cultivation of cannabis shall only be allowed on the same parcel as the dwelling unit, if required.

(c) Indoor cultivation sites for individuals desiring to cultivate cannabis for adult use pursuant to section 10A.17.030(C) shall also be subject to the following limitation: cultivation sites located within a private residence that is a rental unit, as that term is defined by County Code section 20.008.050, shall not be located in any indoor space other than a garage or accessory structure.

(B) The distance between the listed uses in the above paragraph (A)(1) and cannabis that is being cultivated shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest point of the fence required in section 10A.17.040(H), or if the cannabis is cultivated indoors, from the nearest exterior wall of the building in which the cannabis is cultivated to the nearest point of the exterior wall of the facility, building, or structure, or portion of the facility, building, or structure in which the above-listed use occurs or to the nearest point of any fenced, maintained or improved area where the users of the facility are typically present during normal hours of operation, whichever is closest. The distance in paragraphs (A)(2) and (A)(3) to any residential structure shall be measured from the fence required in section 10A.17.040(H) to the nearest exterior wall of the residential structure. The dis-

tance in paragraph (A)(5) shall be measured from the fence required in section 10A.17.040(H) to the boundary line of a legal parcel or access easement. Applicants may seek a reduction in the setback described in paragraphs (A)(1) and (A)(5) upon issuance of an administrative permit pursuant to Chapter 20.242.

(C) The outdoor, indoor or mixed light cultivation of cannabis shall not propagate objectionable odors which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or that endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any of those persons or the public.

(D) The indoor or mixed-light cultivation of cannabis shall rely on the electrical grid or some form of alternative energy source. The indoor or mixed-light cultivation cannabis shall not rely on a generator as a primary source of power.

(E) All lights used for the indoor or mixed light cultivation of cannabis shall be fully contained within structures or otherwise shielded to fully contain any light or glare involved in the cultivation process. Security lighting shall be motion activated and all outdoor lighting shall be shielded and downcast or otherwise positioned in a manner that will not shine light or allow light glare to exceed the boundaries of the legal parcel upon which they are placed.

(F) All activities associated with the cultivation of cannabis shall not exceed the noise level standards as set forth in the County General Plan Policies DE100, 101 and 103.

(G) All cultivation of cannabis shall not utilize water that has been or is illegally diverted from any spring, wetland, stream, creek, or river. The activities associated with the cultivation of cannabis shall not create erosion or result in contaminated runoff into any stream, creek, river or body of water.

(H) All cannabis grown in Mendocino County (excluding indoor growing) must be within a secure, wildlife exclusionary fence of at least six (6) feet in height that fully encloses the immediate garden area. The fence must include a lockable

gate that is locked at all times when a qualified patient, caregiver or permittee (or their agent) is not in the immediate area. Said fence shall not violate any other ordinance, code section or provision of law regarding height and location restrictions and shall not be constructed or covered with plastic or cloth except shade cloth may be used on the inside of the fence.

(I) All buildings where cannabis is cultivated or stored shall be properly secured to prevent unauthorized entry.

(J) Persons cultivating cannabis pursuant to either section 10A.17.030, paragraphs (B) or (C) shall also comply with the provisions of section 10A.17.110, paragraphs (N) and (O).

(K) Prohibition on Tree Removal. Removal of any commercial tree species as defined by Title 14 California Code of Regulations section 895.1, Commercial Species for the Coast Forest District and Northern Forest District, and the removal of any true oak species (*Quercus* sp.) or Tan Oak (*Notholithocarpus* sp.) for the purpose of developing a cannabis cultivation site is prohibited. This prohibition shall not include the pruning of any such trees for maintenance, or the removal of such trees if necessary to address safety or disease concerns.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 3, 8-29-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 4, 4-28-2018)

**Editor's note**—Ord. No. 4408, § 4, adopted April 28, 2018, amended § 10A.17.040 to read as set out herein. Previously § 10A.17.040 was titled "General Limitations on Cultivation of Medical Cannabis."

### **Sec. 10A.17.050 Medical Marijuana Collectives.**

Until such time as State law provides otherwise, medical marijuana collectives operating pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11362.775 shall obtain any Permit or other approval required by the MCCR and shall also comply with the following:

(A) Operate on a non-profit basis as set forth in Section IV B.1. of the Attorney General's Guidelines.

(B) Employ only persons who are at least twenty one (21) years of age and comply with all applicable state and federal requirements relating

to the payment of payroll taxes including federal and state income taxes and/or contributions for unemployment insurance, state workers' compensation and liability laws.

(C) Follow the membership and verification guidelines as set forth in Section IV B.3. of the Attorney General's Guidelines, except that wherever "should" appears it shall be replaced with "shall".

(D) Require all prospective members to complete and sign a written membership application acknowledging and agreeing to abide by all the rules of the collective and all applicable requirements of this Section.

(E) Prohibit sales to non-members as set forth in Section IV B.5. of the Attorney General's Guidelines. Allow reimbursements and allocations of medical cannabis as set forth in Section IV B.6. of the Attorney General's Guidelines.

(F) Possess cannabis only in amounts consistent with the medical needs of the members of the collective; and only cultivate cannabis consistent with the limits set forth in this Ordinance.

(G) Exterior signage shall not indicate or advertise the presence or availability of medical cannabis.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 5, 4-28-2018)

### **Sec. 10A.17.060 Permit Types.**

The cultivation Permits that may be applied for under this Chapter are for the production of flowering cannabis plants and for nursery and seed production, as defined in section 10A.17.020. A Permittee producing flowering cannabis plants may maintain an area scaled appropriately for their operation where they may propagate their own immature plants (starts) through cloning, seed germination or tissue culture. Starts produced in this manner shall be for the exclusive and personal use of the permittee only and the sale, trade, barter, etc. of such starts is prohibited. The square footage of cultivation area dedicated to propagation of starts shall not be included in measuring

the cumulative total square footage allowed under a given Permit and must not constitute any new disturbance, as defined by this chapter.

The following cannabis cultivation Permit types may be applied for and granted provided the applicant and the legal parcel (or legal parcels, subject to section 10A.17.070(D)(3)) that contains the cultivation site are determined to be in compliance with all applicable conditions of this Chapter and Mendocino County Code Chapter 20.242; all Permit types shall be applied for stating whether the applicant will be applying for an A-License or an M-License, or a stated combination thereof.

(1) "Type C" for small outdoor cultivation using no artificial lighting not to exceed a maximum of two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet of total plant canopy.

(2) "Type C-A" for small indoor cultivation using exclusively artificial lighting not to exceed a maximum two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet of total plant canopy within a structure or structures.

(3) "Type C-B" for small mixed light cultivation (using a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting) not to exceed a maximum of two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet of total plant canopy, all or a portion of which may be within a structure or structures during a cultivation cycle.

(4) "Type 1" for medium outdoor cultivation using no artificial lighting of two thousand five hundred one (2,501) to a maximum of five thousand (5,000) square feet of total plant canopy on one legal parcel not less than five (5) acres in size.

(5) "Type 1A" for medium indoor cultivation using exclusively artificial lighting of two thousand five hundred one (2,501) to a maximum of five thousand (5,000) square feet of total plant canopy within a structure or structures.

(6) "Type 1B" for medium mixed light cultivation (using a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting) of two thousand five hundred one (2,501) to a maximum of five thousand (5,000) square feet of total plant canopy, all

or a portion of which may be within a structure or structures during a cultivation cycle, on one (1) legal parcel not less than five (5) acres in size.

(7) "Type 2" for large outdoor cultivation using no artificial lighting of five thousand one (5,001) to a maximum of 10,000 square feet of total plant canopy on one legal parcel not less than ten (10) acres in size.

(8) "Type 2A" for large indoor cultivation using exclusively artificial lighting of five thousand one (5,001) to ten thousand (10,000) square feet of total plant canopy on one legal parcel.

(9) "Type 2B" for mixed light cultivation (using a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting) of five thousand one (5,001) to a maximum of ten thousand (10,000) square feet of total plant canopy, all or a portion of which may be within a structure or structures during a cultivation cycle, on one (1) legal parcel not less than ten (10) acres in size.

(10) "Type 4" for the cultivation of cannabis nursery stock and/or seed production which shall not exceed a maximum of twenty-two thousand (22,000) square feet of total plant canopy on one (1) legal parcel, subject to the limitation of paragraph (C) below regarding seed production Nursery stock and/or seed production may only be sold to a Permittee, a qualified patient, person with an identification card or a primary caregiver. The nursery product may take the form of vegetative and non-flowering plant starts or may also be in the form of seeds, if the applicant also applies and is approved as a seed producer under this type of Permit. The legal parcel shall not be less than ten (10) acres in size, provided, however, that legal parcels in industrial zoning districts are not subject to this parcel size restriction. Additional requirements for Type 4 Permits are as follows:

(a) The Permittee shall produce only vegetative immature cannabis plants through cloning, seed termination or tissue culture starts for the planting, propagation and cultivation of cannabis, provided, however, with the approval of the Agricultural Commissioner, plants may be grown to maturity for the purpose of verifying genetic



expression. The Agricultural Commissioner's approval shall include a square footage limitation and the plants shall be included within the Track and Trace system. No consumable cannabis product of any kind shall be derived from the plants being cultivated.

(b) Intentionally Omitted.

(c) A maximum of five thousand (5,000) square feet of plant canopy may be dedicated to cannabis seed production if the Permittee applies and is approved as a seed producer. The square footage of plant canopy dedicated to seed production shall be counted towards the maximum square footage allowed under this type of permit and shall be entered into the approved Track and Trace system.

(d) Any on-site sales of nursery products which were produced on and occur on a parcel within the Timberland Production, Rangeland or Forestland zoning districts shall be limited to permitted cultivators only.

(e) At the time of sale, the nursery shall generate a manifest stating the date and time, nursery name, address, permit number (and license number, when applicable), buyers name, cultivation address, and permit number (and license number, when applicable). A copy of this manifest shall be retained by the purchaser and serve as a transport document for the purchaser to proceed directly from the nursery to the intended cultivation site. If the nursery is transporting nursery products to the cultivator's location, this manifest shall be filled-out and in possession of the nursery operator, their employee or their designated transporter during transport. Both the nursery and the buyer shall retain these records for a period of two (2) years.

(f) The permittee shall agree to abide by the Mendocino Cannabis Nursery and Seed Manual established by the Mendocino County Agricultural Commissioner.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 4, 8-29-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 6, 4-28-2018)

### **Sec. 10A.17.070 Requirements for All Permits.**

Unless specifically exempted, in addition to compliance with all other requirements of this Chapter, all Permits shall comply with the following requirements:

(A) Zoning Districts. Cultivation of cannabis shall only be permitted on legal parcels that comply with the applicable zoning districts and parcel sizes as provided in Chapter 20.242.

(B) Indoor Cultivation Permits. The use or conversion of habitable space (i.e., kitchen, bedrooms, bathrooms, living room or hallways) in any structure shall not be allowed for the indoor cultivation of cannabis.

(C) Cultivation of cannabis is not permitted within any required parking space.

(D) Permit Density. A Person may apply for and obtain a maximum of two (2) Permits listed in section 10A.17.060 at any given time. Permits shall be granted at a maximum density of one (1) Permit per legal parcel; provided, however, that

(1) A Person may obtain two (2) separate Permits of different Permit types on a single legal parcel if the total square footage of the two (2) Permits does not exceed the largest maximum square footage permitted on a parcel for the relevant zoning district. A Person who applies for and obtains a Type 4 Permit in combination with any other Permit, shall not exceed a total square footage of twenty-two thousand (22,000) square feet per legal parcel, of which not more than ten thousand (10,000) square feet may be grown to maturity and entered into the Track and Trace system for commercial use. Plants may be grown to maturity by a Type 4 Permit holder for seed production or genetic expression, where the mature flowers are destroyed, and not used for commercial purposes, shall not require a separate cultivation permit.

(2) A Person may apply for one (1) Permit of a single size (e.g. Type C, Type 1 or Type 2) that may include any combination of all three (3) cultivation types (e.g. indoor, outdoor, mixed-light), but if any cultivation would require the issuance of

a permit pursuant to Chapter 20.242, the entire Permit shall be subject to review under Chapter 20.242.

(3) A Person may obtain one (1) Permit for multiple legal parcels, so long as the parcels are contiguous and under the same ownership. Should the Person sell any of the parcels subject to the Permit, subsequent permits shall be required to modify the cultivation site to adhere to required setbacks.

(E) Dwelling Unit Requirement. Legal parcels with a cultivation site are also required to have a dwelling unit; provided, however, that this requirement shall not apply to legal parcels within the following zoning districts: Upland Residential (U-R), Agricultural (A-G), Rangeland (R-L), Forest Land (F-L), Timberland Production (TPZ), Limited Industrial (I-1), General Industrial (I-2) Pinoleville Industrial (P-I). In addition, legal conforming parcels in Rural Residential, lot size ten (10) acres (R-R:L-10), shall also be exempt from the dwelling unit requirement of this paragraph, upon issuance of an administrative permit pursuant to Chapter 20.242.

(F) Generators. The indoor or mixed-light cultivation of cannabis shall not rely on a generator as a primary source of power. If no grid power source is available and there is not an alternative power source supporting both any required legal dwelling unit and the indoor or mixed-light permit operations, a generator may be used only under the following conditions: (1) the permittee shall install an alternative power source that will meet at least one-half ( $1/2$ ) of the combined power requirements by the expiration of twelve (12) months from the date of initial application for a permit pursuant to this Chapter and (2) it will be a condition of the re-issuance of a permit that the cultivator commit, in writing, to expand their alternative power source to fully meet the combined needs of the cultivation operations and any required legal dwelling unit by the end of the second permitted year. See also section 10A.17.090 regarding application requirements related to generators.

(G) Permittees shall be required to enroll in and comply with all requirements of any Track and Trace system adopted and implemented by the County to track the production and distribution of cannabis. Permittees shall obtain and use unique identifies from an approved source, maintain them in a readable state, comply with all data entry requirements (including, but not limited to, harvest dates, harvest data, and distribution or other disposition information), and pay all required Track and Trace fees. Non-compliance with Track and Trace requirements shall constitute a violation of the terms of the Permit.

(H) Fees: An annual application fee shall be paid at the time an application is submitted to the Agricultural Commissioner for initial review and prior to any annual renewal of the application. An annual Permit fee shall be paid prior to issuance of any Permit. No Permit shall issue without payment of the initial application fee or renewal fee.

(1) Fees prescribed by this Chapter shall be set by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations and the County's Master Fee Policy. Any fee prescribed by this Chapter shall be paid to the County Treasurer/Tax Collector and is non-refundable. A receipt for payment of the required fee shall be provided to the Agricultural Commissioner prior to the initial review and issuance or annual renewal of any application, permit or other program described herein where a fee has been established, including for required inspections.

(I) Inspections by Agricultural Commissioner. All applicants shall be subject to and shall facilitate an initial on-site pre-permit inspection and all Permittees shall be subject to and facilitate at least one (1) annual on-site compliance inspection (Type 4 Permits shall be subject to two (2) on-site compliance inspections annually), with additional inspections as required by this Chapter or as deemed necessary by the Agricultural Commissioner. All inspections will be scheduled with at least twenty-four (24) hours advance notice to the applicant or Permittee, and shall be conducted during regular business hours. Cancellation of scheduled inspec-

tions without notice to the Agricultural Commissioner shall result in the Permittee being invoiced for the actual travel time and mileage incurred by the Agricultural Commissioner.

(I) All site inspections conducted prior to issuance of a Permit for any indoor or mixed-light cultivation Permit may include a representative from the Department of Planning and Building Services.

(J) Intentionally Omitted.

(K) Non-Transferability of Permits. All Permits are non-transferable to another person, except that the Permittee may transfer the Permit to a spouse/domestic partner, child, parent, or, for estate planning purposes, to a trust in which the permittee serves as a trustee, provided the trust existed on or before January 1, 2016, which transfer shall not be deemed a change in ownership for purposes of this Chapter.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 5, 8-29-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 7, 4-28-2018)

**Sec. 10A.17.080 Permit Phases and Requirements Specific to each Phase.**

Unless specifically exempted, in addition to compliance with all other requirements of this Chapter, all Permits shall comply with the following requirements:

(A) Permits under the MCCO will be issued in the following three phases:

(1) Phase One: Following the effective date of the MCCO, Permits will only be issued to applicants who provide to the Agricultural Commissioner pursuant to paragraph (B)(1) of this section proof of cultivation at a cultivation site prior to January 1, 2016 ("proof of prior cultivation"), and who comply with all other applicable conditions of this Chapter and Chapter 20.242. Applications for Permits during Phase One shall only be accepted until June 30, 2018; provided, however, that applications for Permits within the areas subject to the sunset provision of paragraph (B)(2)(b) of this section shall be accepted until December 31,

2018. Applicants able to provide proof of prior cultivation may apply for a Permit on a relocation site pursuant to paragraph (B)(3) of this section.

(2) Phase Two: Starting January 1, 2018, the Agricultural Commissioner will begin accepting applications for Type 1A and Type 2A Permits for indoor cultivation in the following zoning districts, subject to compliance with all other applicable conditions of this Chapter and Chapter 20.242: Limited Industrial (I-1), General Industrial (I-2), and Pinoleville Industrial (P-I). Proof of cultivation prior to January 1, 2016, is not required.

(3) Phase Three: Starting January 1, 2020, the Agricultural Commissioner will begin accepting Permit applications from any applicant in conformance with the conditions of this Chapter and Chapter 20.242. Proof of cultivation prior to January 1, 2016, is not required.

(B) Requirements specific to Phase One Permits.

(1) Proof of Prior Cultivation. Persons applying for a Permit during Phase One shall be required to provide to the Agricultural Commissioner evidence that they were cultivating cannabis on the cultivation site prior to January 1, 2016, which cultivation site shall have been, or could have been, in compliance with the setback requirements of paragraph (A) of section 10A.17.040. Evidence shall include:

(a) Photographs of any cultivation activities that existed on the legal parcel prior to January 1, 2016, including: (i) ground level views of the cultivation activities and (ii) aerial views from Google Earth, Bing Maps, Terraserver, or a comparable service showing: both the entire legal parcel and the cultivation site in more detail. The date these images were captured shall be noted.

(b) Photographs of any cultivation activities that currently exist on the legal parcel, including: (i) ground level views of the cultivation activities and (ii) aerial views from Google Earth, Bing Maps, Terraserver, or a comparable service show-

ing: both the entire legal parcel and the cultivation site in more detail. The date these images were captured shall be noted.

(c) At least one (1) additional document demonstrating cultivation on the legal parcel prior to January 1, 2016, which evidence may be used to substitute for evidence pursuant to clause (a). The Agricultural Commissioner shall prepare a list of the types of documentation that will be accepted to meet this requirement, and may accept other similarly reliable documentary evidence showing that cannabis was cultivated prior to January 1, 2016.

(d) Proof of prior cultivation shall be assigned to the applicant relative to their prior cultivation site.

(e) Persons who participated in a permit program pursuant to the County's Chapter 9.31 in previous years may present evidence of such participation and payment of all required fees in order to provide proof of prior cultivation.

(2) Zoning Districts; Exceptions. Existing cultivation sites not located in zoning districts where Chapter 20.242 specifically allows cultivation may be issued a Type C, Type C-A, or Type C-B Permit, subject to the following requirements, in addition to all other applicable requirements of this Chapter:

(a) The zoning district is one where a dwelling unit is a principally permitted use and a dwelling unit is present.

(b) Sunset Provision for Residential Districts. Cultivation sites on legal parcels located in the Single-Family Residential (R-1), Two-Family Residential (R-2), Multiple-Family Residential (R-3), Suburban Residential (S-R), Rural Community (R-C), and Rural Residential (lot sizes one (1) acre, two (2) acres and five (5) acres [legal non-conforming parcels to minimum zoning size][R-R:L-1, R-R:L-2, and R-R:L-5 {legal non-conforming to minimum zoning size}]), as well as cultivation sites in any other zoning district where a dwelling unit is a principally permitted use and the legal parcel is less than two (2) acres in size, are subject to the following requirements:

(i) There is an occupied dwelling unit on the legal parcel with the cultivation site.

(ii) A Permit may be renewed and valid only until three (3) years following the effective date of the ordinance adopting this Chapter and any permits issued shall be void not later than three (3) years following said effective date.

(c) Cultivation sites on legal parcels located in the Rural Residential zoning district, lot size five (5) acres (conforming parcels of five (5) acres or more only)(R-R:L-5), are subject to the following additional requirement that there is an occupied dwelling unit on the legal parcel with the cultivation site.

(d) If a Permit is granted pursuant to this paragraph (B)(2) in these zoning districts, any future revocation or lapse in renewal of such Permit shall extinguish the ability of any person to obtain a Permit for such cultivation site.

(3) Relocation. Persons able to show proof of prior cultivation pursuant to paragraph (B)(1) above may apply for a Permit not on the site previously cultivated (the "origin site") but on a different legal parcel (the "destination site"), subject to the following requirements:

(a) Persons may apply to relocate their cultivation site pursuant to this paragraph (B)(3) until three (3) years after the effective date of the ordinance adopting this Chapter, or until May 4, 2020.

(b) The location and operation of the proposed cultivation site on the destination parcel complies with all requirements and development standards that apply to a new cultivation site as of January 1, 2020, pursuant to this Chapter and Chapter 20.242; provided, however:

(i) An existing cultivation site shall not be transferred to a legal parcel located within the Forestland or Timber Production Zone zoning districts.

(ii) An origin site may relocate to a destination site in the Rangeland zoning district, so long as the destination site has an existing cultivation site and no new cultivation sites would be established.

(c) The origin site shall be restored. The application for a Permit on a destination site shall be accompanied by a restoration plan that is consis-



tent with the standard conditions and best management practices listed in the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. 2015-0023, and which shall include the following:

(i) Remove or repurpose buildings, greenhouses, fences, irrigation equipment, water intakes, pumps, storage tanks and other materials brought to the origin site for the purpose of cannabis cultivation;

(ii) Remove illegal dams, ponds or other in-stream water storage to restore natural stream flows, unless such features will continue in use;

(iii) Remove or compost agricultural wastes;

(iv) Remove trash and other debris; and

(v) Revegetate cleared areas with native plants typical of nearby natural areas, including groundcover, shrubs and trees.

(d) Unless the destination site is within the Agricultural zoning district, the application shall include either a water availability analysis pursuant to paragraph (C)(1)(b) below or a will serve letter pursuant to paragraph (C)(1)(c) below.

(e) Prior to the issuance of the Permit to cultivate cannabis at the destination parcel, the applicant shall provide the Agricultural Commissioner with an agreement, on a form approved by the Agricultural Commissioner and County Counsel, providing that the applicant releases any right to continue or resume cultivation of cannabis on the origin parcel.

(f) If a person is granted a Permit for a destination site, any claims of proof of prior cultivation on the origin site shall be effectively transferred to the destination site, and the ability to claim proof of prior cultivation at the origin site shall be extinguished.

(g) There shall be a two (2) acre minimum parcel size for all Type C, Type C-A or Type C-B Permits.

(4) Multiple Permits may be applied for and granted on a single legal parcel that is owned by multiple persons residing in separate habitable dwelling units on that legal parcel. Each owner may individually apply for a Permit to cultivate cannabis, provided that each owner must provide

proof of prior cultivation pursuant to paragraph (B)(1) above. Each owner shall be limited to a Type C, Type C-A or Type C-B Permit, unless that owner was previously enrolled in a permit program pursuant to the County's Chapter 9.31, or unless the cumulative total square footage of plant canopy applied for by all owners does not exceed the maximum square footage permitted on a parcel for the relevant zoning district.

(5) Persons eligible to apply for a Permit during Phase One may apply for a different and/or larger Permit type in subsequent years, subject to all requirements of this Chapter.

(6) If a Permit is granted pursuant to this paragraph (B), any future revocation or lapse in renewal of such Permit shall extinguish the ability of any person to obtain a Permit for such cultivation site, unless otherwise allowed by this Chapter 10A.17; provided, however, for Permits granted in the Rangeland (RL), Forestland (FL) or Timberland Protection (TPZ) zoning districts, not more than once in a five (5) year period, a Permittee may file with the Department of Agriculture, on a form prescribed by the Department, a Notice of Non-Cultivation instead of an application to renew the Permit, and the Permittee's ability to obtain a Permit for such cultivation site will not be extinguished.

(C) Requirements specific to Phase Three Permits.

(1) Watershed Assessment. All Permit applications, except for legal parcels located in the Agricultural (A-G) zoning district, shall demonstrate there is adequate water to serve the cultivation site.

(a) If surface water (or groundwater influenced by surface water) will be used, applicants may demonstrate that there is adequate water by providing (i) a watershed assessment that establishes there is sufficient watershed supply to serve the proposed cultivation site and existing uses within the watershed, and (ii) a water right exists to serve the cultivation site. A watershed assessment shall consist of an established "In Stream Flow Policy" as prepared by the State Water Re-

sources Control Board Division of Water Rights or an equivalent document approved by that agency.

(b) If groundwater not influenced by surface water will be used, the applicant may demonstrate that there is adequate water by providing a water availability analysis which will address the adequacy of the proposed water supply, the direct effects on adjacent and surrounding water users, and possible cumulative adverse impacts of the development on the water supply within the watershed and show there is a sustained yield to support the proposed level of use.

(c) If water will be provided by a mutual water company, municipal or private utility or similar community provider, the applicant may demonstrate that there is adequate water by providing a will serve letter from the proposed provider.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 6, 8-29-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 8, 4-28-2018)

#### **Sec. 10A.17.090 Cultivation Permit Application and Zoning Review.**

Any person or entity that wishes to engage in the cultivation of cannabis shall submit an application for a Permit to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Applications for Permits shall be made upon such forms and accompanied by such plans and documents as may be prescribed by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The application shall be reviewed by the Agricultural Commissioner's office and other agencies as described herein and renewed annually. Any referral to or consultation with an agency other than the County of Mendocino shall state that a response must be returned within thirty (30) days of the date of the referral.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office shall refer each application to the Department of Planning and Building Services for a determination pursuant to Chapter 20.242 as to what type of clearance or permit is required. No application for a Permit shall be approved without clearance or final permit approval as required by Chapter 20.242.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office shall consult with the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (MCAQMD) prior to the issuance of the Permit to determine if a permit or other approval by the MCAQMD is necessary. The applicant shall obtain all approvals and permits required by the MCAQMD pursuant to state and federal laws, MCAQMD regulations, adopted air quality plans, MCAQMD policies and other applicable statutes prior to the issuance of a Permit. The required consultation with MCAQMD may be eliminated if MCAQMD authorizes County to determine when a permit or other approval by the District is necessary based on an objective set of criteria developed by MCAQMD for such purposes.

Applicants for a Permit shall provide the following information on, or as an attachment to, the application:

(A) The name, business and residential address, and phone number(s) of the applicant.

(B) If the applicant is not the record title owner of the legal parcel, written consent from the owner allowing the cultivation of cannabis on their property by the applicant with original signature of the record title owner.

(C) Written evidence that each person applying for the permit and any other person who will be engaged in the cultivation of cannabis is at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

(D) Site plan showing the entire legal parcel configuration with Assessor's Parcel Number(s), acreage, site address, including the location of:

(1) easements (access and utility and all roadways public and private);

(2) streams, springs, ponds and other surface water features, including the location of any flood plain or floodways;

(3) the location and area of the cultivation site on the legal parcel, with dimensions of the area for cultivation of cannabis and showing that all setbacks required by section 10A.17.040 are being met;

(4) all areas of ground disturbance or surface water disturbance associated with cultivation of

cannabis activities, including: access roads, water diversions, culverts, ponds, dams, graded flats, and other related features;

(5) all structures, which shall be clearly labeled; and

(6) all septic systems, leach fields and water wells.

(E) Applications submitted for any Permit during Phase One shall include proof of prior cultivation pursuant to section 10A.17.080

(F) A cultivation and operations plan which includes elements that meet or exceed the minimum legal standards for the following: water storage, conservation and use; drainage, runoff and erosion control; watershed and habitat protection; and proper storage of fertilizers, pesticides and other regulated products to be used on the legal parcel. Any fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, or other substance toxic to wildlife, children, or pets, must be stored in a secured and locked structure or device. The plan will also provide a description of cultivation activities including, but not limited to, permit type, cultivation area, soil/media importation and management, the approximate date(s) of all cannabis cultivation activities that have been conducted on the legal parcel prior to the effective date of this ordinance, and schedule of activities during each month of the growing and harvesting season.

If a generator is proposed to support any aspect of the cultivation site or related operations, the cultivation and operations plan shall identify any containment structure and dimensions necessary to contain any leak or spill that may develop or occur as a result of relying on any generator for backup power generation. The plan shall also include a maintenance plan for the generator, detailing how spent oil, used oil filters, expired batteries and other hazardous wastes generated from the operation of the generator will be handled, including fuel storage and delivery systems.

(G) Copy of the statement of water diversion, or other permit, license or registration filed with California Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, if applicable.

(H) An irrigation plan and projected water usage for the proposed cultivation activities, as well as a description of legal water source, if not covered by item (G).

(I) Copy of Notice of Intent and Monitoring Self-Certification and any other documents filed with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) demonstrating enrollment in and compliance with (or proof of exemption from) Tier 1, 2 or 3, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. 2015-0023, or any substantially equivalent rule that may be subsequently adopted by the County of Mendocino or other responsible agency.

(J) If any on-site or off-site component of the cultivation facility, including access roads, water supply, grading or terracing impacts the bed or bank of any stream or other watercourse, show proof they have notified the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code and provide a copy of the Streambed Alteration Permit obtained from the Department of Fish & Wildlife.

(K) If the source of water is a well, a copy of the County well permit, if available; applicant shall provide documentation showing the approximate date of installation.

(L) A unique identifying number from a State of California Driver's License or Identification Card for each person applying for the permit and any other person who will be engaged in cultivation of cannabis.

(M) Evidence that the applicant or any individual engaged in the management of, or employed by, the cultivator has not been convicted of a violent felony as defined in Penal Code section 667.5(c) within the State of California, or a crime that would have constituted a violent felony as defined in Penal Code section 667.5(c) if committed in the State of California and is not currently on parole or felony probation. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere.

(N) A statement describing the proposed security measures for the facility that shall be sufficient to ensure the safety of members and employees and protect the premises from theft.

(O) If the applicant is organized as a non-profit corporation, the applicant shall set forth the name of the corporation exactly as shown in its Articles of Incorporation, and the names and residence addresses of each of the officers and/or directors. If the applicant is organized as a partnership, the application shall set forth the name and residence address of each of the partners, including the general partner and any limited partners. Copies of the Articles of Incorporation or a statement listing the members of the partnership shall be attached to the application.

(P) Intentionally Omitted.

(Q) A copy of a Board of Equalization Seller's Permit if applicant intends to sell directly to qualified patients or primary caregivers.

(R) Written consent for an onsite pre-permit inspection of the legal parcel pursuant to section 10A.17.070 by County officials or other appropriate agency representatives at a prearranged date and time in consultation with the applicant prior to the approval of a permit to cultivate cannabis, and at least once annually thereafter.

(S) For all indoor cultivation facilities, identify the source of electrical power and plan for compliance with applicable Building Codes. Also, provide documentation that addresses the handling of waste discharge from the grow location of items including, but not limited to nutrients, spent growing media, un-used containers and other associated hardware, supplies, and garbage.

(T) No application shall be approved which identifies or would require the removal of tree species listed in paragraph (I) of Section 10A.17.040 after May 4, 2017, for the purpose of developing a cultivation site. For applications where trees were removed prior to May 4, 2017, applicants shall provide evidence to the Department of Agriculture that no trees were unlawfully removed to develop a cultivation site; such evidence may include, but is not limited to, a less-than-three (3)-

acre conversion exemption or timberland conversion permit issued by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("CalFire") and trees were removed prior to May 4, 2017. If during review of an application County staff determine that trees were unlawfully removed to develop a cultivation site, the County shall deny the application. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for cultivation sites created prior to May 4, 2017, through prior unauthorized conversion of timberland as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526, a Permit may be approved if the applicant provides evidence that environmental impacts of the tree removal have been mitigated to the extent feasible or otherwise resolved, as required by the resource protection agencies including CalFire, the NCRWQCB and the CDFW. County staff shall defer to the resource protection agencies referenced herein for determinations as to the unlawful removal of trees or unauthorized conversion of timberland or the sufficiency of any required remediation to address the environmental impacts. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit or condition in any way the regulatory or enforcement authority of the resource agencies listed herein.

(U) If applicable, clearance from CalFire related to compliance with the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4290 and any implementing regulations.

(V) For activities that involve construction and other work in Waters of the United States, that are not otherwise exempt or excluded, including streams and wetlands, the application shall include a copy of a federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers and a CWA Section 401 water quality certification from the NCRWQCB.

(W) Projects that disturb one (1) or more acres of soil or projects that disturb less than one (1) acre but that are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated



with Construction Activity Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility.

(X) The results of a "Cortese List" database search for sites known to be contaminated with hazardous materials. If the site is listed on the "Cortese List", the application shall include sufficient information to demonstrate that the cultivation is in compliance with any cleanup and/or abatement order that is established for the site.

(Y) If water or sewer services to the cultivation site will be provided by a community provider, a will-serve letter from the provider indicating adequate capacity to serve the cultivation site. The Agricultural Commissioner is authorized to require in the permit application any other information reasonably related to the application including, but not limited to, any information necessary to discover the truth of the matters set forth in the application.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 7, 8-29-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 9, 4-28-2018)

#### **Sec. 10A.17.100 Permit Review and Issuance.**

(A) The Agricultural Commissioner's Office shall issue a Permit pursuant to this Chapter only:

(1) Following the referral to and clearance or permit approval pursuant to Chapter 20.242; and

(2) Following review by qualified County staff to review proposed permit locations and identify where habitat suitable for sensitive species may exist. The County shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") to evaluate if there is a possibility for presence or habitat suitable for sensitive species on the parcel with a proposed Permit location. Upon consultation, CDFW may recommend approval of the proposed development, ask to conduct a site inspection or request additional studies in order to make the determination that no impacts to sensitive species will occur. A cultivator that cannot

demonstrate that there will be a less than significant impact to sensitive species will not be issued a Permit. The County shall develop a policy in consultation with CDFW to define an objective set of criteria that applications can be checked against and when during Phases 1 and 2 a formal referral to CDFW is required to avoid impacts to sensitive species and natural communities. Following the development of the policy referred to in the previous sentence, consultation with CDFW shall not be required but be performed pursuant to the policy. During Phase 3 all applications will be referred to CDFW; and

(3) After the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, and other County and State agency staff, as appropriate, have reviewed the application and performed a pre-permit site inspection to confirm adherence to the requirements established in the MCCO; and

(4) Following receipt of evidence of payment of the required permit fee, pursuant to Section 10A.17.070.

(B) As a condition of approval for any cultivation permit, the owner or permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the County of Mendocino 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 commercial cultivation of cannabis and for any claims brought by any person for problems, injuries, damages, or liabilities of any kind that may arise out of the commercial cultivation of cannabis.

(C) Discovery of any violation(s) of the Mendocino County Code during the Permit application process will be treated in a similar manner to violation(s) that are self-reported during an active amnesty program. That is, the discovered violation(s) will still need to be corrected, but any investigative and/or penalty fees associated with an after-the-fact County permit will be waived.

(1) If the discovered violation(s) are directly related to a Phase One Permit application, and/or if it is discovered that the Permit would authorize a particular use for which a separate County per-

mit is required but has not yet been obtained, the applicant shall be required to agree in writing to a compliance plan prior to issuance of the Permit. Failure by applicant to agree in writing to a required compliance plan shall be grounds for denial of the Permit.

(a) The compliance plan will identify the violation(s) and may suggest corresponding remedial action(s) that may be taken to correct the violation(s), will identify the required permit(s) based on the uses identified in the Permit application, and will include timelines for achieving code compliance for all violations and/or for submitting completed applications for each required permit.

(b) In no event will more time be given to correct all violations, and/or submit a complete application for each required permit, than one (1) year after the date of issuance of the Permit.

(c) After the applicant has signed the compliance plan, as presented by the Agricultural Department in coordination with the appropriate County department(s), the Agricultural Department may issue a Permit restricted as indicated in the compliance plan, so long as no other barrier(s) to such issuance exists. Failure to abide by the compliance plan shall be grounds for Permit termination, or non-renewal, pursuant to section 10A.17.140.

(d) The compliance plan will be the primary mechanism to obtain code compliance from Permit applicants with respect to violations directly related to Phase One Permits applications. However, nothing in this section is intended to limit the use of any other applicable code enforcement provision or the ability of any County department with the appropriate authority from enforcing the Mendocino County Code.

(2) If the discovered violation(s) are not directly related to a Phase One Permit application, such violation(s) will not affect the processing of the Phase One Permit application. However, any County department with appropriate enforcement authority with respect to such violation(s) may make use of any applicable code enforcement

mechanism as if the violation(s) were discovered as a result of self-reporting during an active amnesty program.

(D) Track & Trace unique identifiers will only be made available following the issuance of a Permit by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The Permittee will have seventy-two (72) hours to register with the County Track & Trace system. Upon Track & Trace system registration, the system will provide unique identifiers. The unique identifiers shall be affixed to the individual plants within seventy-two (72) hours of being provided to the Permittee.

(E) Permits shall remain valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance, subject to any enforcement action or other action that may result in earlier suspension or revocation.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 8, 8-29-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 10, 4-28-2018)

#### **Sec. 10A.17.110 Performance Standards.**

All Cultivation Permits issued by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office shall obligate the permittee to comply with the following performance standards:

(A) Cultivation shall be located as shown on the approved application site plan and in compliance with all provisions of this Chapter and any permit issued pursuant to Chapter 20.242.

(B) Once they become available, possession of a current, valid required license, or licenses, issued by any agency of the State of California in accordance with the MAUCRSA, and regulations promulgated thereunder covering a similar cannabis activity.

(C) A unique identifier for compliance with the County's Track & Trace system shall be affixed to each permitted cannabis plant cultivated in Mendocino County. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to ensure complete and accurate entry of information into the Track & Trace system within seventy-two (72) hours of the reportable activity occurring.

(D) Compliance with all statutes, regulations and requirements of the California State Water

Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, including obtaining and complying with any applicable and approved permit, license or registration or the annual filing of a statement of diversion and use of surface water from a stream, river, underground stream, or other watercourse required by Water Code Section 5101.

(E) If a generator is used to support any aspect of the permitted cultivation operations, (excluding the conditions set forth in section 10A.17.070(F)), it shall be as a secondary or back-up power source. The use of the generator is only allowed when the primary alternative power source is unable to provide its normal output and generate sufficient power to meet the needs of the cultivation operation and the legal dwelling unit. The Owner's Manual and/or Operation Manual (or operational fact sheet) providing the operational characteristics and maintenance schedule for the generator shall be on-site and available for review.

If a generator is being used pursuant to the conditions set forth in section 10A.17.070(F), the Permit shall be conditioned on the conducting of an analysis of the noise levels produced by the generator at full operational speed, performed by an accredited acoustical engineer, and such analysis shall show compliance with Mendocino County General Plan Policies DE100, 101 and 103. All generators shall be, at a minimum, equipped with the manufacturer's specified muffler; if compliance with Policies DE100, 101 and 103 requires additional measures, the generator shall be equipped with such measures, which may include a hospital-grade muffler and/or a structure to enclose the generator designed for sound suppression.

Any electrical wiring associated with the generator shall be of sufficient capacity and installed in such a way as to provide for the minimum installation and safety standards for the electrical service provided by that generator.

(F) Establish and maintain enrollment in Tier 1, 2 or 3 with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQB) Order No.

2015-0023, if applicable, or any substantially equivalent rule that may be subsequently adopted by the County of Mendocino or other responsible agency.

(G) For cultivation areas for which no enrollment pursuant to NCRWQB Order No. 2015-0023 is required, the site shall comply with the standard conditions set forth in that Order, as well as the applicable "Best Management Practices for Discharges of Waste Resulting from Cannabis Cultivation and Associated Activities or Operations with Similar Environmental Effects" as presented in Appendix B of the Water Board Order.

(H) Maintain the applicable "Defensible Space" protocols and distances, as established by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection around structures located on the legal parcel.

(I) Comply with the terms of any applicable Streambed Alteration Permit obtained from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

(J) All weighing and measuring devices shall be type approved by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Measurement Standards and issued either a California Type Evaluation Program (CTEP) Certificate of Approval (COA) or a National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) Certificate of Conformance (CC) before commercial use. All weighing and measuring devices shall be registered and inspected by the Agricultural Commissioner in accordance with Mendocino County Code Chapter 10A.16.

(K) Consent to at least one (1) annual on-site compliance inspection by the Agricultural Commissioner's office, as more specifically provided for in section 10A.17.070.

(L) Any guard dog(s) or guard animals kept at the cultivation site shall be restrained to a fixed point or contained in some manner to facilitate the inspections performed by any entity necessitating inspect as required by this Chapter. Animals considered family pets will be kept on a leash at all times and under control when any entity is performing a required inspection.

(M) All buildings, including greenhouses, used for the cultivation of cannabis pursuant to an "artificial light" permit (generally Type C-A, Type 1-A, Type 2-A and Nursery as applicable), shall be equipped with filtered ventilation systems, permitted by the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (MCAQMD) which rely on Activated Carbon Filtration, Negative Ion Generation, Ozone Generation or other odor control mechanism demonstrated to be effective in reducing cannabis odors.

(N) Any use of pesticide products shall be consistent with State law and regulations enforced by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. All agricultural use pesticides and concentrated fertilizers, amendments, and similar materials shall be stored in a locked, hard-faced enclosure to prevent unauthorized entry by humans, to exclude large animals that may be attracted by odors, and to ensure that they will not enter or be released into surface or ground waters.

(O) Fuel shall be stored and handled in compliance with applicable state and local laws and regulations and in such a way that no spillage occurs.

(P) The square footage of cultivation area dedicated to propagation of starts must not constitute any new disturbance, as defined by this chapter.

(Q) Comply with any conditions that may apply as a result of an administrative or conditional use permit approved pursuant to Chapter 20.242, or with a written remediation plan required by Section 10A.17.080(B)(3). (Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 9, 8-29-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 11, 4-28-2018)

#### **Sec. 10A.17.120 Certifications.**

Permittees who demonstrate compliance with all of the requirements set forth in this Chapter and the additional guidelines to be established by the Agricultural Commissioner in a Mendocino Sustainably Farmed Operations Manual will be issued a "Certified Mendocino County Grown"

certificate through the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Cannabis labeled with this certification shall be produced following production standards used in the production of crops labeled as organic according to United States Department of Agriculture, National Organic Program. This certification shall be valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance and shall be renewed annually thereafter following annual inspection(s) of the registered cultivation site and continued compliance with all requirements. An annual fee shall be paid for participation in this certification program, pursuant to the provisions set forth in Section 10A.17.070(H)(1).

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017)

#### **Sec. 10A.17.130 Reserved.**

**Editor's note**— Ord. No. 4392, § 10, adopted August 29, 2017, repealed § 10A.17.130, in its entirety. Former § 10A.17.130 pertained to "Third Party Inspectors," and was derived from Ord. No. 4381, § 1, adopted April 4, 2017.

#### **Sec. 10A.17.140 Violations and penalties respecting permitted cultivation.**

(A) If at any time the Department of Agriculture determines that a law related to a Permit is being violated, the Department of Agriculture may issue a notice of violation or an administrative citation(s) pursuant to Mendocino County Code Chapter 1.08 and notify other interested public agencies or County departments of such violations. After the violation(s) have been cured, the correction must be confirmed. Failure by the Permittee to schedule a re-inspection with the Department of Agriculture to confirm the correction will result in an unscheduled compliance inspection.

(B) Inspection Fees. After initial substantiation of a violation related to any law related to a Permit, inspection fees shall be charged to the Permittee for any additional compliance inspection undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, beyond those regularly scheduled and enumerated in section 10A.17.070, for the purpose of determining if the cited violations have been cured. All additional inspection fees shall consist of the



hourly rate for an inspector from the Department of Agriculture for the travel and inspection time plus the standard IRS mileage rate for travel distance. The fees shall be paid pursuant to the provisions set forth in section 10A.17.070(H)(1).

(C) Notice to Terminate Permit. The Department of Agriculture may issue a Notice to Terminate Permit by personal service or by first class mail, postage prepaid and return receipt requested. If by mail, service will be deemed complete five (5) days after mailing. A Notice of Terminate Permit may be issued after:

(1) The Department of Agriculture discovers that the Permittee would not have otherwise qualified to obtain a permit but for false or misleading information contained in either the Permittee's application or subsequent submittals to the County pertaining to the Permittee's Permit application; or

(2) The Permittee has engaged in activity related to the Permit that creates an immediate threat to health or safety, or has allowed such activity to be carried out by one (1) or more of its employees or agents; or

(3) The Permittee has engaged in activity that is specified in a separate provision of the Mendocino County Code as grounds for Permit termination, including but not limited to section 10A.17.100; or

(4) The Department of Agriculture determines that the Permittee is in violation of one (1) or more laws related to the Permit, and that the Permittee is unlikely or unable to correct such violation(s). The Department of Agriculture may make a determination that a Permittee is unlikely to correct a violation if:

(a) The Permittee has failed to correct any single code violation within ten (10) days of the initial notice, or such other time period otherwise specified in the pertinent notice of violation, administrative citation, or related writing; or

(b) The Permittee has received three (3) or more notices of violation or administrative citations, on separate occasions, within a twelve (12)

month period, which may or may not pertain to the same violation, recurring violation, or different violation; or

(c) The extent of, severity of, or conditions surrounding one (1) or more violations make it clear that the Permittee was not acting in good faith to abide by the laws related to the Permit.

(D) Termination of Permit. After issuance of a Notice to Terminate Permit, the Permit shall be terminated upon a final determination after the hearing on the order to show cause affirming the determination to terminate the permit in question pursuant to section 10A.17.150. The County shall notify any state license authority, as defined by the MCRSA, whenever a Permit has been terminated.

(E) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the applicability of any other code enforcement provision or the ability of any other agency or department from enforcing the Mendocino County Code.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4392, § 11, 8-29-2017)

**Editor's note**— Ord. No. 4392, § 11, adopted August 29, 2017, amended § 10A.17.140, in its entirety. Previously § 10A.17.140 was titled "Cultivation Site Inspections: Violations and Penalties."

### **Sec. 10A.17.150 Administrative Order to Show Cause.**

(A) Issuance of Order to Show Cause. At the same time as issuance of a Notice to Terminate Permit, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office shall also issue a notice and order to show cause why the permit in question should not be terminated. Issuance may be completed by personal delivery, or by first class mail, postage prepaid, sent to the mailing address associated with the Permit and return receipt requested. The notice and order to show cause shall:

(1) Identify the permittee and the permit in question;

(2) Contain a statement describing the violations that caused the issuance of a Notice to Terminate Permit;

(3) Contain a description of the actions required to abate the violations;

(4) Notify the permittee that unless the owner or occupant abates the conditions, a hearing will be held to determine whether there is any good cause why the permit in question should not be terminated, which will be heard before a Hearing Officer, the Agricultural Commissioner, or the Commissioner's authorized designee within the Agricultural Commissioner's Office who did not also issue the Notice to Terminate Permit;

(5) Specify the date, time and location of the hearing to be held, or state that the date, time and location of the hearing will be specified in a subsequent notice, which will not be set for a date earlier than five (5) days after personal delivery, or ten (10) days after mailing, of the notice specifying the date, time and location of the hearing;

(6) State that the permittee will be given an opportunity at the hearing to present and elicit testimony and other evidence regarding whether there is any good cause why the permit in question should not be terminated;

(7) Contain a statement that, unless the permittee abates the conditions causing the violations, or shows good cause why the conditions should not be abated, the permit in question shall be terminated.

(B) Use of Hearing Officers. Whenever the Agricultural Commissioner issues an order to show cause why a permit issued pursuant to this Chapter should not be terminated, the Agricultural Commissioner is authorized to use the services of a Hearing Officer pursuant to Mendocino County Code Chapter 2.76. Such use of a Hearing Officer shall be made whenever a Hearing Officer is available, and the Agricultural Commissioner shall coordinate with County Counsel to appoint and maintain at least one (1) Hearing Officer to the extent possible. In the event that a Hearing Officer is unavailable, the duty to hear the appeal shall remain with the Agricultural Commissioner.

(C) Hearing Procedure.

(1) The Hearing Officer shall hold an administrative hearing to determine whether the violations identified in the Notice to Terminate Permit created a sufficient basis on which to terminate the

permit in question. The hearing shall be held at the date, time and location indicated on the notice to permittee, which shall be no less than five (5) calendar days after personal service, or no less than ten (10) calendar days after mailing of all the notices required by this section.

(2) Parties may choose to be represented by an attorney; however, formal rules of evidence or procedure shall not apply. Any relevant evidence may be admitted if it is the sort of evidence on which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs. Nonetheless, any failure to make a timely objection to offered evidence constitutes a waiver of the objection. The Hearing Officer has discretion to exclude evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the probability that its admission will necessitate undue consumption of time.

(3) The hearing shall be conducted in the English language. The proponent of any testimony by a witness who does not proficiently speak the English language shall provide an interpreter who has been certified as an interpreter by either the State of California or the County of Mendocino.

(4) The person who issued the Notice to Terminate Permit shall first describe the acts or conditions constituting the violations identifying in the Notice to Terminate Permit and present evidence to demonstrate how the identified violations form a basis for terminating the permit in question. Thereafter, the permittee shall be given an opportunity at the hearing to present and elicit testimony and other evidence to show good cause why the permit should not be terminated.

(5) In the event that the permittee does not appear and present evidence at the hearing, the Hearing Officer may base his or her decision solely upon the evidence submitted by the person issuing the Notice to Terminate Permit.

(D) Determination after Hearing. The Hearing Officer shall consider the evidence presented by the parties, and shall issue a signed, written decision and order that either affirms or reverses the determination to terminate the permit in ques-

tion. Such decision shall be delivered to the permittee by personal delivery or by first class mail, postage prepaid, sent to the mailing address associated with the Permit and return receipt requested. The decision shall become effective either on the day the decision is personally delivered to the permittee, or five (5) days after the decision is mailed to the permittee.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 12, 4-28-2018)

**Sec. 10A.17.160 Enforcement and Declaration of Public Nuisance.**

(A) All of the remedies provided for in this Chapter, or elsewhere in the law, shall be cumulative and not exclusive for violations of this Chapter. Violations of this Chapter include, but are not limited to failure to obtain and maintain in good standing any permit required by this Chapter, compliance with any required element on which a permit was issued pursuant to this Chapter, or any violation of the provisions of this Chapter where a permit is not required, such as a violation of section 10A.17.040 when a person is otherwise exempt pursuant to section 10A.17.030. The County may enforce this Chapter by using any applicable state or county law, including, but not limited to Mendocino County Code Chapters 1.08, 8.75 or 8.76, and may use either the administrative process to achieve code compliance or available civil remedies, such as injunctive relief.

(B) The cultivation of cannabis with a valid permit pursuant to this Chapter shall not be declared a public nuisance under County Code Chapter 8.75 or 8.76. Any cultivation of cannabis in the absence of a permit issued pursuant to this Chapter is a public nuisance and may be abated by the County as a public nuisance in accordance with the provisions of either County Code Chapter 8.75 or 8.76 unless such cultivation either: (1) is exempt pursuant to County Code section 10A.17.030; (2) is otherwise in compliance with State Proposition 64 and all regulations adopted by the County related to cannabis for adult use pursuant to Proposition 64; or (3) is being culti-

vated by an entity whose application for a Phase One Permit pursuant to this Chapter has been submitted, accepted and is currently pending, and who has also submitted a sworn affidavit to the Agricultural Commissioner on a form prepared by the Agricultural Commissioner that includes, but is not limited to, an affirmation that they have met the requirements to obtain a permit or are actively in the process of fulfilling the requirements.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 13, 4-28-2018)

**Sec. 10A.17.170 Attorneys' Fees.**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 25845(c), in any action, administrative proceeding, or matter commenced by the County to abate a nuisance, or to collect the cost of abatement or any penalty or fee related thereto, the prevailing party shall recover its attorneys' fees. The recovery of attorneys' fees under this Section is limited to those actions, administrative proceedings, or matters in which the County chooses at the initiation of the action, administrative proceeding, or matter to seek the recovery of its own attorneys' fees. In no event shall an award of attorneys' fees under this Section exceed the reasonable amount of attorneys' fees incurred by the County in the action or proceeding.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017)

**Sec. 10A.17.180 Confidential nature of cannabis information — legislative intent.**

To the fullest extent authorized by State and Federal law, all use information received by and/or generated by the operation of this Chapter or prior iterations of cannabis cultivation ordinances of the County has always been intended to be treated and held by the County as confidential information. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information provided to the county may be released as required by law, judicial order, or subpoena, and could be used in criminal prosecution.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 14, 4-28-2018)

**Editor's note**—Ord. No. 4408, § 14, adopted April 28, 2018, amended the title of § 10A.17.180 to read as set out herein. Previously § 10A.17.180 was titled "Confidential nature of medical cannabis information — legislative intent."

**Sec. 10A.17.190 Severability.**

If any provision of this Chapter, or the application thereof, is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of this Chapter that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application; and to this end, the provisions or application of this Section are severable.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 1, 4-4-2017)



## CHAPTER 18.23

### REGULATIONS FOR LIMITED DENSITY RURAL DWELLINGS

#### Sec. 18.23.010 Authority.

This Chapter is adopted in accordance with the provisions of Health and Safety Code Section 17958.2. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

#### Sec. 18.23.020 Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide minimum requirements for the protection of life, limb, health, property, safety, and welfare of the general public and the owners and occupants of limited density rural dwellings and appurtenant structures. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

#### Sec. 18.23.030 Intent and Application.

The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to the construction, enlargement, conversion, alteration, repair, use, maintenance, and occupancy of limited density owner-built rural dwellings and appurtenant structures. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

It is the intent of this Chapter that the requirements contained herein shall apply to seasonally or permanently occupied dwellings, hunting shelters, guest cottages, vacation homes, recreational shelters and detached bedrooms located in rural areas. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

#### Sec. 18.23.033 Definition of Owner-Built.

(A) "Owner-Built" shall mean constructed by any person or family who acts as the general contractor for or the provider of, part or all of the labor necessary to build housing to be occupied as the principal residence of that person or family, and not intended for sale, lease, or rent or employee occupancy. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

(B) For the purposes of this article, the sale, lease, renting or employee occupancy of owner-built structures within one year of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy shall be presumptive evidence that the structure was erected for the

purpose of sale, lease or renting. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

(C) "Owner-Built" shall also mean constructed by a licensed contractor for occupancy by the person or persons owning the property at the time construction is commenced. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

#### Sec. 18.23.040 Application to Buildings Existing on or after January 1, 1980.

(Repealed by Ord. No. 3491, adopted 1984.)

#### Sec. 18.23.050 Abatement of Substandard Buildings.

All structures or portions thereof which are determined by the enforcing agency to constitute a substandard building shall be declared to be a public nuisance and shall be abated by repair, rehabilitation, or removal in accordance with Health and Safety Code Sections 17980 through 17995. In cases of extreme hardship to owner-occupants of the dwellings, the appropriate local body should provide for deferral of the effective date of orders of abatement. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

#### Sec. 18.23.060 Recording.

Each time a permit is issued pursuant to this Chapter, the Building Department shall record with the County Recorder a notice that a permit has been issued pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

#### Sec. 18.23.070 Violations.

The critical concern in the promulgation of this Chapter is to provide for health and safety while maintaining respect for the law and voluntary compliance with the provisions of this Chapter, and therefore, in the event that an order to correct a substandard condition is ignored, it is the intent of this section that civil abatement procedures should be the first remedy pursued by the enforcement agency. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.080 Permits.**

Permits shall be required for the construction of rural dwellings and appurtenant structures. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.090 Issuance.**

The application, plans, and other data filed by an applicant for a permit shall be reviewed by the appropriate enforcement agency to verify compliance with the provisions of this Chapter. Where the enforcement agency determines that the permit application and other data indicate that the structure(s) will comply with the provisions of this Chapter, the agency shall issue a permit therefore to the applicant. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.100 Application.**

To obtain a permit, the applicant shall first file an application therefore with the designated enforcement agency. Permit applications shall contain the following information:

- (1) name and mailing address of the applicant;
- (2) address and location of the proposed structures;
- (3) a general description of the structure(s) which shall include mechanical installations with all clearances and venting procedures detailed, electrical installations, foundation, structural, and construction details;
- (4) a plot plan indicating the location of the dwelling in relation to property lines, other structures, sanitation and bathing facilities, water resources, and water ways;
- (5) approval for the installation of a private sewage disposal system or alternate waste disposal means from the local health enforcement agency;
- (6) the signature of the owner or authorized agent;
- (7) the use or occupancy for which the work is intended;
- (8) and any other data or information as may be required by statute or regulation;
- (9) a stipulation by the applicant that the building or structure is to be owner-built, or built

for the occupancy of the owner by a licensed contractor. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.110 Plans.**

Plans shall consist of a general description of the structure(s), including all necessary information to facilitate a reasonable judgment of conformance by the enforcing agency. This may include a simplified diagram of the floor plan and site elevation in order to determine the appropriate dimensions of structural members. Architectural drawings and structural analyses shall not be required except for structures of complex design or unusual conditions for which the enforcement agency cannot make a reasonable judgment of conformance to this Chapter based upon the general description and simplified plan(s). (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.120 Waiver of Plans.**

The enforcement agency may waive the submission of any plans if the agency finds that the nature of the work applied for is such that the reviewing of plans is not necessary to obtain compliance with this Chapter. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.130 Modifications.**

Modifications to the design, materials, and methods of construction are permitted, provided that the structural integrity of the building or structure is maintained, the building continues to conform to the provisions of this Chapter, and the enforcement agency is notified in writing of the intended modification. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.140 Permit Validity.**

Permits shall be valid for a period of three (3) years. The building official is authorized to grant extensions of time pursuant to the same standards as for extensions of a building permit pursuant to Chapter 18.04. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981; Ord. No. 3828 (part), adopted 1992.) (Ord. No. 4404, § 1, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.150 Inspections.**

All construction or work for which a permit is required shall be subject to inspection by the designated enforcement agency. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)  
(Ord. No. 4404, § 2, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.160 Issuance of Inspections.**

A minimum of three (3) inspections shall be required for all new buildings or structures at the following stages of construction:

- (1) Foundation (prior to placing concrete).
- (2) Rough in (prior to closing walls, in order to inspect electrical, mechanical, plumbing and framing).
- (3) Final inspection (after the structure(s) is completed and ready for occupancy, in order to determine compliance with the provisions of this Chapter). (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)  
(Ord. No. 4404, § 3, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.170 Special Inspections.**

Additional inspections may be conducted under the following circumstances:

An inspection may be conducted where there is a reasonable expectation that the footing will be subjected to serious vertical or lateral movement due to unstable soil conditions. If soils conditions constitute a potential structural problem, foundation and structure shall have engineering provided by a California licensed civil or structural engineer.

Additionally, inspections may be conducted where the application indicates that interior wall coverings or construction elements will conceal underlying construction, electrical or mechanical systems; or where an unconventional construction method is indicated which would preclude examination at a single inspection. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981; Ord. No. 3828 (part), adopted 1992.)

**Sec. 18.23.180 Inspection Waivers.**

Inspections may be waived by the enforcement agency for structures which do not contain electrical or mechanical installations or for alterations,

additions, modifications, or repairs that do not involve electrical or mechanical installations; or where the applicant stipulates in writing that the work has been conducted in compliance with the permit application and the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.190 Inspection Requests and Notice.**

It shall be the duty of the applicant to notify the enforcement agency that the construction is ready for inspection and to provide access to the premises. Inspections shall be requested by the applicant at least (48) hours in advance of the intended inspection. It shall be the duty of the enforcement agency to notify or inform the applicant of the day during which the inspection is to be conducted. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.200 Certificate of Occupancy.**

After the structure(s) is completed for occupancy and all inspections which have been required by the enforcing agency have been conducted, and work approved, the enforcement agency shall issue a Certificate of Occupancy for such dwelling(s) and appurtenant structure(s) which comply with the provisions of this Chapter. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)  
(Ord. No. 4404, § 4, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.210 Temporary Occupancy.**

The use and occupancy of a portion or portions of a dwelling or appurtenant structure prior to the completion of the entire structure shall be allowed, provided that approved sanitary facilities are available at the site and that the work completed does not create any condition to an extent that endangers life, health, or safety of the public or occupants. The occupants of any such uncompleted structure shall assume sole responsibility for the occupancy of the structure or portion thereof. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.220 Fees**

Inspection fees shall be established by resolution of the Board of Supervisors to reflect the

actual inspection and administrative costs resulting from the administration of this Chapter. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.230 Detached Bedroom.**

A "detached bedroom" is a separate accessory structure without kitchen or sanitation facilities, designed for and intended to be used as a sleeping or living facility for one family, to be employed in conjunction with a main structure(s) which include kitchen and sanitation facilities. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.240 Greywater.**

"Greywater" shall include all domestic waste water obtained from the drainage of showers, bathtubs, kitchen sinks, laboratories, and laundry facilities, exclusive of water utilized for the transport and disposal of body eliminations. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.250 Limited Density Rural Dwelling.**

A "limited density rural dwelling" is any structure consisting of one (1) or more habitable rooms, intended or designed to be occupied by one (1) family with facilities for living and sleeping, with use restricted to rural areas that fulfills the requirements of this chapter, and is both of the following:

(1) Not exceeding two and one-half (2 1/2) stories; and

(2) Not exceeding two thousand (2,000) square feet of conditioned habitable space. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

(Ord. No. 4404, § 5, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.260 Rural.**

For the purposes of this chapter only, "rural" shall mean those unincorporated areas of the County designated and zoned for one (1) acre minimums or larger acre minimums. In addition, for a legal parcel to qualify as "rural," the parcel shall be no less than one (1) acre in size. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

(Ord. No. 4404, § 6, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.270 Sound Structural Condition.**

A structure shall be considered to be in sound structural condition when it is constructed and maintained in substantial conformance with accepted construction principles, technical codes, or performance criteria which provide minimum standards for the stressing of structural members; footing sizes when related to major load-bearing points; proper support of load-bearing members; nailing schedules where essential to general structural integrity; and provisions for adequate egress, ventilation, sanitation, and fire safety. Conditions which would not render a structure unsound are the minor deflections or elasticity of structural members, ceiling heights; size or arrangement of rooms; heating, plumbing, and electrification requirements; alternative materials, appliances or facilities; or methods of construction. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.280 Substandard Building.**

A substandard building is a structure or portion thereof in which there exists any condition to an extent that endangers the life, limb, health, or safety of the occupants. Except as amended by the provisions of this chapter, the California Building Code, Part 2, Title 24, California Code of Regulations, shall be the determining criteria for compliance with the standards of this Chapter and the defining of a substandard building. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

(Ord. No. 4404, § 7, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.290 General Requirements.**

Each structure shall be constructed and maintained in a sound structural condition to be safe, sanitary, and to shelter the occupants from the elements. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.300 Intent of General Requirements.**

It shall be the purpose and intent of this Chapter to permit the use of ingenuity and preferences of the builder, and to allow and facilitate the use of alternatives to the specifications prescribed by the uniform technical codes to the extent that a rea-

sonable degree of health and safety is provided by such alternatives, and that the materials, methods of construction, and structural integrity of the structure shall perform in application for the purpose intended. To provide for the application of this Chapter, it shall be necessary for the enforcement agency to exercise reasonable judgment in determining the compliance of appropriate structures with the general and specific requirements of this chapter. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.310 Technical Codes to be a Basis of Approval.**

Except as otherwise required by this chapter, dwellings and appurtenant structures constructed pursuant to this part need not conform with the construction requirements prescribed by the latest applicable editions of the codes that make up the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations, or other applicable technical codes; however, it is not the intent of this section to disregard nationally accepted technical and scientific principles relating to design, materials, methods of construction, and structural requirements for the erection and construction of dwelling and appurtenant structures as are contained in the uniform technical codes. Such codes shall be a basis for approval.

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph and any section of this Chapter to the contrary, if application is made for a permit pursuant to this Chapter for a building constructed prior to the application date without any building permits, the building may be reviewed pursuant to the building codes (as the basis for approval) applicable at the time of the construction of the building, if the applicant is able to substantiate the date of construction to the satisfaction of the Department of Planning and Building Services. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)  
(Ord. No. 4404, § 8, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.320 Structural Requirements.**

Buildings or structures constructed pursuant to this chapter may be of any type of construction

which will provide for a sound structural condition. Structural hazards which result in an unsound condition and which may constitute a substandard building are delineated by section 17920.3 of the Health and Safety Code. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)  
(Ord. No. 4404, § 9, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.330 Foundations.**

Pier Foundations, stone masonry footings and foundations, pressure treated lumber, poles, or equivalent foundation materials or designs may be used, provided that the bearing is sufficient for the purpose intended. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.340 Materials.**

Owner-produced or used materials and appliances may be utilized unless found not to be of sufficient strength or durability to perform the intended function; owner-produced or used lumber or shakes and shingles may be utilized unless found to contain dry rot, excessive splitting, or other defects obviously rendering the material unfit in strength or durability for the intended purpose. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.345 Fire Safety Requirements.**

All new structures shall comply with the "Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure" requirements found in Chapter 7A of the California Building Code, or with such other successor chapter of the latest adopted version of the California Building Code.

For purposes of this chapter, residential fire sprinklers shall not be required in limited density rural dwellings.  
(Ord. No. 4404, § 10, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.350 Mechanical Requirements.**

Fireplaces, heating and cooking appliances, and gas piping installed in buildings constructed pursuant to this chapter shall be installed and vented in accordance with the requirements of the current applicable code of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Reg-



ulations. Alternate materials and methods of venting shall be permitted if substantially equivalent in safety and durability. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

(Ord. No. 4404, § 11, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.360 Heating Capacity.**

A heating facility or appliance shall be installed in each dwelling subject to the provisions of this chapter, however, there shall be no specified requirement for heating capacity or temperature maintenance. The use of solid fuel or solar heating devices shall be deemed as complying with the requirements of this section. If non-renewable fuel is used in these dwellings, rooms so heated shall meet current insulation standards. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.370 Electrical Requirements.**

No dwelling or appurtenant structure constructed pursuant to this chapter shall be required to be connected to a source of electrical power, or wired, or otherwise fitted for electrification, except as set forth in Section 18.23.380. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.380 Installation Requirements.**

Where electrical wiring or appliances are installed, the installation shall be in accordance with the applicable requirements contained in the California Electrical Code, Part 3, Title 24, California Code of Regulations for single family dwellings.

Exceptions to Installation Requirements. In structures where electrical usage is confined to one (1) or more rooms of a structure, the remainder of the structure shall not be required to be wired or otherwise fitted for electrification unless the enforcement agency determines that electrical demands are expected to exceed the confinement and capacity of that room(s). In such instances, the enforcement agency may require further electrification of the structure.

It is the intent of this subsection to apply to buildings in which there exists a workshop, kitchen, or other single room which may require electrifi-

cation, and where there is no expectation of further electrical demand. The enforcement agency shall, at the time of a permit application or other appropriate point, advise the applicant of the potential hazards of violating this section. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

(Ord. No. 4404, § 12, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.390 Room Requirements.**

There shall be no requirements for room dimensions provided that there is adequate light and ventilation and adequate means of egress. In single family dwellings not exceeding two stories in height where, due to the location or to the surrounding terrain, emergency rescue from the exterior is not feasible, egress windows from sleeping spaces may be omitted when an additional doorway or an approved exit escape hatch is provided for egress from such rooms. The doorways provided shall open directly to the exterior of the building or shall open onto corridors or passageways which lead to individual exterior exits. The corridors or passageways provided shall not cross nor shall they follow the same route in whole or in part to the building exterior. Approved exit escape hatches shall be installed in accordance with the terms of their approval. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.400 Sanitation Requirements.**

Sanitation facilities, including the type, design, and number of facilities, as required and approved by the local health official, shall be provided to the dwelling sites. It shall not be required that such facilities be located within the dwelling. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.410 Plumbing Specifications.**

Where conventional plumbing, in all or in part, is installed within the structure, it shall be installed in accordance with the California Plumbing Code, Part 5, Title 24, California Code of Regulations. Alternative materials and methods shall be permitted provided that the design complies with the intent of the Code, and that such

alternatives shall perform to protect health and safety for the intended purpose. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)  
(Ord. No. 4404, § 13, 3-13-2018)

**Sec. 18.23.420 Sanitation Facilities.**

A water closet shall not be required when an alternate system is provided and has been approved by the local health official. Where an alternative to the water closet is installed, a system for the disposal or treatment of greywater shall be provided to the dwelling. Greywater systems shall be designed according to water availability, use and discharge. The design, use, and maintenance standards of such systems shall be the prerogative of the local health official and shall comply with the requirements of the Mendocino County Code.

A bathtub or shower and a lavatory, or alternate bathing and washing facility approved by the local health official, shall be provided to the dwelling site. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.430 Water Supply.**

Potable water shall be available to the dwelling site, although such water need not be pressurized. Where water is not piped from a well, spring, cistern, or other source, there shall be a minimum reserve of 200 gallons of potable water available. Where water delivery is pressurized, piping shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of this article. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.433 Connection to Water and Sewer.**

"Limited Density Rural Dwellings" which are instructed within an area for which public water or public sewer is provided, shall be connected to the public water system and/or the public sewer system which is available. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

**Sec. 18.23.440 Findings in Support of Adoption of Regulations for Limited Density Rural Dwellings (as adopted 1981).**

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17958.2, the Board of Supervisors has made the

express finding that the adoption of the regulations for limited density rural dwellings and the modification of these regulations to apply to dwellings built by contractors for occupancy by owners of the property as well as owner-built dwellings is reasonably necessary because of local conditions based upon the following:

(1) The citizens of Mendocino County have, through their elected Board of Supervisors, expressed a desire to legalize the construction of limited density rural dwellings complying with the standards set forth in this Chapter.

(2) Mendocino County is a rural coastal County located between approximately 39 degrees and 40 degrees north latitude. It has a moderate climate. It is not usually subject to severe snowstorms, windstorms or blizzards. Its mountainous terrain and lack of developed roads creates some degree of isolation for many parts of the County and some difficulty in the transportation of building materials and in obtaining skilled and expert assistance for the construction or rehabilitation of rural dwellings.

(3) It has been determined that the adoption of regulations for limited density rural dwellings will not constitute a danger to the health and safety of the citizens of Mendocino County as long as standards for electrical, mechanical and sanitation facilities are maintained.

(4) Mendocino County has a severe housing shortage. Low cost housing is especially hard to find in the County and the adoption of regulations for limited density rural dwellings will encourage the further construction of such dwellings.

(5) State law mandates the County of Mendocino to adopt a General Plan which makes adequate provisions for housing its citizens. The adoption of regulations for limited density rural dwellings is an attempt by the County to achieve an acceptable housing inventory for its General Plan. State law further requires the County of Mendocino to provide shelter for those residents qualifying for general relief. The general welfare of

the County requires the adoption of regulations for limited density rural dwellings so that all County residents may be housed.

(6) The Uniform Building Codes are complex and may be beyond the understanding of many owner-builders and home owners. Yet they allow the Building Department a great degree of flexibility in applying them giving rise to charges of lack of uniform application and that in fact virtually all structures in the County are in some degree in violation of the law. The geographical and topographical conditions of the County creates such isolation that it is difficult to conduct the necessary inspections to verify or refute this charge. Because the Uniform Building Codes are of such complexity that they are difficult to enforce under the geographical, topographical and climatic conditions of the County, common sense dictates that these codes be replaced by the regulations for limited density rural dwellings which provide a performance standard of evaluation.

(7) The amendment of these regulations to apply to homes built by a contractor for an owner will enable owner-builders to obtain the skilled help of licensed contractors to the benefit of themselves and the community.

(8) Based upon the above stated local conditions, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors determines that the adoption of regulations for limited density rural dwellings and the amendment of these regulations to apply to dwellings built by contractors for occupancy by the property owners as well as owner-built dwellings is necessary so that County residents may be provided housing at a cost affordable to themselves and to the County of Mendocino. (Ord. No. 3343, adopted 1981.)

(Ord. No. 4404, § 14, 3-13-2018)

**Editor's note**—Ord. No. 4404, § 14, adopted March 13, 2018, amended § 18.23.440 to read as set out herein. Previously § 18.23.440 was titled "Findings in Support of Adoption of Regulations for Limited Density Rural Dwellings."

**Sec. 18.23.441 Findings and Support of Adoption of Ordinance providing for the application of Chapter 18.23 of the Mendocino County Code "Regulations for Limited Density Rural Dwellings" to buildings existing on or after January 1, 1980.**

(Repealed by Ord. No. 3491, adopted 1984.)

**Sec. 18.23.442 Findings and Support of Adoption of Ordinance Amending Chapter 18.23 of the Mendocino County Code "Regulations for Limited Density Rural Dwellings" (2018).**

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17958.2, the Board of Supervisors hereby makes the express finding that the amendment of the regulations for limited density rural dwellings is reasonably necessary because of local conditions based upon the following:

(1) The findings and local conditions stated in Section 18.23.440 are still relevant and applicable, specifically the County's mountainous terrain and lack of developed roads, and are incorporated herein by this reference. Mendocino County continues to suffer from a housing shortage and the ability to develop housing under the limited density rural dwellings chapter provides the County with flexibility in providing housing for its citizens.

(2) The amendments proposed by the ordinance adopting this section of this Chapter 18.23 are reasonably necessary to place additional limits on the types of property and buildings to qualify for building permit processing under this Chapter 18.23, update certain building code requirements while still providing for the flexibility of allowing limited density rural dwellings a performance standard of evaluation, and require additional inspections to ensure conformance with plans submitted.

(3) The amendments proposed by the ordinance adopting this section of Chapter 18.23 will help strike a balance between updating this Chap-



ter to ensure that reasonable health and safety standards are being met, while not creating burdens that make the development of housing in the more rural and remote regions of the County prohibitively expensive.

(Ord. No. 4404, § 15, 3-13-2018)

## Chapter 18.25

### REGULATIONS FOR COLLECTING AND LOADING RECYCLABLE MATERIALS IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

#### Sec. 18.25.010 Purpose.

(A) The Cities and County must divert fifty percent (50%) of all solid waste by January 1, 2000, through source reduction, recycling and composting activities.

(B) Diverting fifty percent (50%) of all solid waste requires the participation of the residential, commercial, industrial and public sectors.

(C) The lack of adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials that are compatible with surrounding land uses is a significant impediment to diverting solid waste and constitutes an urgent need for State and local agencies to address access to solid waste for source reduction, recycling, and composting activities. This Chapter has been developed to meet that need. (Ord. No. 3862 (part), adopted 1993.)

#### Sec. 18.25.020 Definitions.

(A) "Development project" means any of the following:

(1) A project for which a building permit is required for a commercial, industrial or institutional building, marina or residential building having five (5) or more living units, where solid waste is collected and loaded and any residential project where solid waste is collected and loaded in a location serving five (5) or more living units;

(2) Any new public facility where solid waste is collected and loaded and any improvements for areas of a public facility used for collecting and loading solid waste.

(3) The definition of development project only includes subdivisions or tracts of single-family detached homes if, within such subdivisions or tracts there is an area where solid waste is collected and loaded in a location which serves five (5) or more living units. In such instances, recycling ar-

reas as specified in this Chapter are only required to serve the needs of the living units which utilize the solid waste collection and loading area.

(B) "Floor area of a marina" means the space dedicated to the docking or mooring of marine vessels.

(C) "Improvement" adds to the value of a facility, prolongs its useful life or adapts it to new uses. Improvements should be distinguished from repairs. Repairs keep facilities in good operating condition, do not materially add to the value of the facility and do not substantially extend the life of the facility.

(D) "Public facility" includes, but is not limited to, buildings, structures, marinas and outdoor recreation areas owned by a local agency.

(E) "Recycling area" or "areas for recycling" means space allocated for collecting and loading of recyclable materials. Such areas shall have the ability to accommodate receptacles for recyclable materials. Recycling areas shall be accessible and convenient for those who deposit as well as those who collect and load any recyclable materials placed therein. (Ord. No. 3862 (part), adopted 1993.)

#### Sec. 18.25.030 General Requirements.

(A) Any new development project for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after September 1, 1993, shall include adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials.

(B) Any improvements for areas of a public facility used for collecting and loading solid waste shall include adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials.

(C) Any existing development project for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after September 1, 1993 for a single alteration which is subsequently performed that adds thirty percent (30%) or more to the existing floor area of the development project shall provide adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials.

(D) Any existing development project for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after September 1, 1993 for multiple alterations which are conducted within a twelve (12) month period which collectively add thirty percent (30%) or more to the existing floor area of the development project shall provide adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials.

(E) Any existing development project for which multiple applications for building permits are submitted within a twelve (12) month period beginning on or after September 1, 1993 for multiple alterations which are subsequently performed that collectively add thirty percent (30%) or more to the existing floor area of the development project shall provide adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials.

(F) Any existing development project occupied by multiple tenants, one of which submits on or after September 1, 1993, an application for a building permit for a single alteration which is subsequently performed that adds thirty percent (30%) or more to the existing floor area of that portion of the development project which said tenant leases shall provide adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials. Such recycling areas shall, at a minimum be sufficient in capacity, number and distribution to serve that portion of the development project which said tenant leases.

(G) Any existing development project occupied by multiple tenants, one of which submits on or after September 1, 1993 an application for a building permit for multiple alterations which are conducted within a twelve (12) month period which collectively add thirty percent (30%) or more to the existing floor area of that portion of the development project which said tenant leases shall provide adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials. Such recycling areas shall, at a minimum be sufficient in capacity, number and distribution to serve that portion of the development project which said tenant leases.

(H) Any existing development project occupied by multiple tenants, one of which submits within a twelve (12) month period beginning on or after September 1, 1993 multiple applications for building permits for multiple alterations which are subsequently performed that collectively add thirty percent (30%) or more to the existing floor area of that portion of the development project which said tenant leases shall provide adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials. Such recycling areas shall, at a minimum be sufficient in capacity, number and distribution to serve that portion of the development project which said tenant leases.

(I) Any costs associated with adding recycling space to existing development projects shall be the responsibility of the party or parties who are responsible for financing the alterations. (Ord. No. 3862 (part), adopted 1993.)

#### **Sec. 18.25.040 Guidelines for All Development Projects.**

(A) Where local standards exist, recycling areas should be designed to be architecturally compatible with nearby structures and with the existing topography and vegetation, in accordance with such standards.

(B) The design and construction of recycling areas shall not prevent security of any recyclable materials placed therein.

(C) The design, construction and location of recycling areas shall not be in conflict with any applicable Federal, State or local laws relating to fire, building, access, transportation, circulation or safety.

(D) Recycling areas or the bins or containers placed therein must provide protection against adverse environmental conditions, such as rain, which might render the collected materials unmarketable.

(E) Driveways and/or travel aisles shall, at a minimum, conform to local building code requirements for garbage collection access and clearance. In the absence of such building code require-

ments, driveways and/or travel aisles should provide unobstructed access for collection vehicles and personnel.

(F) A sign clearly identifying all recycling and solid waste collection and loading areas and the materials accepted therein shall be posted adjacent to all points of direct access to the recycling areas.

(G) Developments and transportation corridors adjacent to recycling areas shall be adequately protected for any adverse impacts such as noise, odor, vectors or glare through measures including, but not limited to maintaining adequate separation, fencing and landscaping. (Ord. No. 3862 (part), adopted 1993.)

**Sec. 18.25.050 Additional Guidelines for Single-Tenant Development Projects.**

(A) Areas for recycling shall be adequate in capacity, number and distribution to serve the development project.

(B) Dimensions of the recycling area shall accommodate receptacles sufficient to meet the recycling needs of the development project.

(C) An adequate number of bins or containers to allow for the collection and loading of recyclable materials generated by the development project should be located within the recycling area. (Ord. No. 3862 (part), adopted 1993.)

**Sec. 18.25.060 Additional Guidelines for Multiple-Tenant Development Projects.**

(A) Recycling areas shall, at a minimum be sufficient in capacity, number and distribution to serve that portion of the development project leased by the tenant(s) who submitted an application or applications resulting in the need to provide recycling area(s) pursuant to Section 18.25.030 of this Chapter.

(B) Dimensions of recycling areas shall accommodate receptacles sufficient to meet the recycling needs of that portion of the development project leased by the tenant who submitted an

application or applications resulting in the need to provide recycling area(s) pursuant to Section 18.25.030 of this Chapter.

(C) An adequate number of bins or containers to allow for the collection and loading of recyclable materials generated by that portion of the development project leased by the tenant(s) who submitted an application or applications resulting in the need to provide recycling area pursuant to Section 18.25.030 of this Chapter should be located within the recycling area. (Ord. No. 3862 (part), adopted 1993.)

**Sec. 18.25.070 Location.**

(a) Recycling areas shall not be located in any area required to be constructed or maintained as unencumbered, according to any applicable Federal, State or local laws relating to fire, access, building, transportation, circulation or safety.

(B) Any and all recycling area(s) shall be located so they are at least as convenient for those persons who deposit, collect and load the recyclable materials placed therein as the location(s) where solid waste is collected and loaded. Whenever feasible, areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials shall be adjacent to the solid waste collection areas. (Ord. No. 3862 (part), adopted 1993.)

**Sec. 20.239.040 Findings and Decision.**

**Sec. 20.239.045 Appeals.**

**CHAPTER 20.240 DEVELOPMENT  
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**Sec. 20.243.080 Continued Operation.**

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Distribution Facilities for  
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**Sec. 20.243.100 Permit Application  
Submittal Requirements for  
Administrative Permits, Use  
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for Medical and Adult Use  
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**Sec. 20.243.110 Permit Revocation.**

**Appendix A Industrial Uses Which Normally  
Will Not Require Development Review**

**Appendix B Industrial Uses Which Require  
Environmental Review**

**Appendix C Exterior Noise Limit Standards**





2. If the established land use for which the permit was granted has ceased or has been suspended for twenty four (24) consecutive months.

B. Procedure: If a site development permit is subject to revocation under subsection 20.240.045(A) of this Section, the County shall follow the procedures set forth herein.

1. Notice: Notice of a hearing before the Planning Commission shall be provided in accordance with subsection 20.240.025(C) of this Section.

2. Hearing: The Planning Commission shall conduct a public hearing to determine whether the permit shall be revoked and shall make findings that comply with Section 20.240.030.

3. Appeal: The Planning Commission decision shall be subject to appeal in accordance with Section 20.208.015 of this Title.

C. New Application: Nothing herein shall prohibit the holder of a permit revoked pursuant to this Section, from applying for a new permit in accordance with the procedures for new applications.

D. Renewal: Site development permits may be renewed for an additional period not to exceed one year provided, prior to the expiration of the permit, an application for renewal is filed with the Planning and Building Services Department. The applications shall consist of a detailed letter explaining the reason(s) for the request. The Planning Director shall grant or deny an application to renew a site development permit, and shall provide an explanation of his decision, in writing, to the applicant. The Planning Director's decision to approve a renewal shall generally be based upon a determination that all the circumstances associated with the original approval are substantially the same at the time of the renewal applications. An appeal of the Planning Director's decision may be made to the Board of Supervisors for a final decision. Any such appeal must comply with the requirements of Section 20.208.010. (Ord. No. 4139 (part), adopted 2005)

**Sec. 20.240.050 Sunset of Ordinance.**

Chapter 20.240 of this Code shall be in effect only until January 1, 2007, and is repealed as of that date unless one of the following occurs before that date:

A. An ordinance enacted after the effective date of this ordinance extends or repeals this section; or

B. The City of Ukiah has, in compliance with the ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND LAND USE AGREEMENT referred to in Section 20.240.015, constructed the Orrs Creek Bridge and opened it to passage by vehicular traffic. (Ord. No. 4139 (part), adopted 2005)

## CHAPTER 20.242

### CANNABIS CULTIVATION SITES\*

#### Sec. 20.242.010 Intent.

This chapter 20.242 ("Chapter") is intended to provide land use regulations for the County of Mendocino where cannabis may be cultivated, subject to the limitations established of this chapter and the provisions of Mendocino County Code Chapter 10A.17, the Mendocino Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance (MCCO). The objective of this Chapter is to allow the cultivation of cannabis in locations that are consistent with the intent of the base zoning district and to help ensure that its cultivation and related activities will not create adverse impacts to the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the County of Mendocino.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 2, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 16, 4-28-2018)

#### Sec. 20.242.020 Application.

The cultivation of cannabis is prohibited in all zoning districts in Mendocino County, except as allowed by this Chapter or by Chapter 10A.17.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 2, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 17, 4-28-2018)

#### Sec. 20.242.030 Definitions.

Unless otherwise defined in this Chapter, the terms and phrases used herein shall have the same definitions as provided in Chapter 10A.17, or as provided in this Title 20.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 2, 4-4-2017)

#### Sec. 20.242.040 Existing Cannabis Cultivation Sites.

(A) Referrals of applications to the Department for review related to existing cultivation sites shall include the Agriculture Commissioner's determination that the cultivation site existed prior

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\*Editor's note—Ord. No. 4408, § 15, adopted April 28, 2018, amended the title of ch. 20.242, to read as set out herein. Previously ch. 20.242 was titled "Medical Cannabis Cultivation Site."

to January 1, 2016, unless the Agricultural Commissioner requests the assistance of the Department in making this determination as part of the referral to the Department.

(B) Cultivation sites, in conformance with the MCCO, may be allowed on a legal parcel with an approved Zoning Clearance, Administrative Permit or Minor Use Permit as required for the zoning district in which the cultivation site is located and as listed in Table 1.

**TABLE 1**  
**Zoning Permit Requirement for Existing Cannabis Cultivation by Zoning District and Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance Permit Type**

MCCO Permit Type	C Sm Outdoor	C-A Sm Indoor, Artificial Light		C-B Sm, Mixed Light	1 Med Outdoor	1-A Med Indoor, Artificial Light	1-B Med Mixed Light	2 Lg Outdoor	2-A Lg Indoor, Artificial Light	2-B Lg Mixed Light	4 Nursery
Min Parcel Area (ac)	NA	NA		NA	5	5	5	10	10	10	10
Cultivation Area Limit (sf)	2,500	500	501 — 2,500	2,500	2,501 — 5,000	2,501 — 5,000	2,501 — 5,000	5,001 — 10,000	5,001 — 10,000	5,001 — 10,000	22,000
Zoning District	RR 5*	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	—	—	—
	RR 10	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC
	AG	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC
	UR	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC
	RL	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC
	FL***	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	AP	—	AP	AP	—	AP
	TPZ***	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	AP	—	AP	AP	—	AP
	I1**	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC
	I2**	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC
PI**	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	

— = Not Allowed, ZC = Zoning Clearance, AP = Administrative Permit, UP = Minor Use Permit

\* Parcels in the RR-5 zoning district must have a minimum parcel size of five (5) acres.

\*\* Parcels in Industrial zoning districts are not subject to a minimum parcel area.

\*\*\* Existing cultivation sites in the FL and TPZ zoning districts that were previously enrolled in a permit program pursuant to the County's Chapter 9.31 shall be required to obtain a zoning clearance unless the applicant seeks to expand beyond the size previously cultivated under such permit program.

(C) An existing cultivation site located in a zoning district not listed in Table 1 of this section may continue, but shall not be expanded or enlarged, subject the following planning permit and approval requirements.

(1) Planning Permit Requirements:

(a) Outdoor Cultivation (pursuant to a MCCO Type C Permit) not exceeding two thousand five hundred (2,500) requires an approved Zoning Clearance.

(b) Indoor Artificial Light Cultivation (pursuant to a MCCO Type C-A Permit) not exceeding five hundred (500) square feet requires an approved Administrative Permit.

(c) Indoor Artificial Light Cultivation (pursuant to a MCCO Type C-A Permit) between five hundred one (501) and two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet requires an approved Minor Use Permit.

(d) Mixed Light Cultivation (pursuant to a MCCO C-B Permit) not exceeding two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet requires an approved Zoning Clearance.

(i) Any future lapse or revocation of the MCCO permit will extinguish the permittee's ability to obtain a future permit from the Department to continue or resume an existing cultivation site that is not within a zoning district listed in Table 1 of this section.

(D) Transferability of Permits. Permits issued pursuant to this Section shall not be transferable to another person, except that the permittee may transfer the permit to a spouse/domestic partner, child, parent, or, for estate planning purposes,

to a trust in which the permittee serves as a trustee, which shall not be deemed a change in ownership for purposes of this Chapter.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 2, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 18, 4-28-2018)

**Editor’s note**—Ord. No. 4405, § 1, adopted March 13, 2018, amended § 20.242.040 to read as set out herein. Previously § 20.242.040 was titled "Existing Medical Cannabis Cultivation Sites."

**Sec. 20.242.050 New Cannabis Cultivation Sites Located in Industrial Zoning Districts.**

Establishment of a new cannabis cultivation site in the I1 (Light Industrial), I2 (General Industrial), and Pinoleville (PI) zoning districts, for Type 1A and 2A MCCO permits, issued on or after January 1, 2018 may be permitted subject to the requirements of Section 20.242.060.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 2, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 19, 4-28-2018)

**Editor’s note**—Ord. No. 4408, § 19, adopted April 28, 2018, amended § 20.242.050 to read as set out herein. Previously § 20.242.050 was titled "New Medical Cannabis Cultivation Sites Located in Industrial Zoning Districts."

**Sec. 20.242.060 New Cannabis Cultivation Sites.**

(A) Except as provided in Section 20.242.050, on or after January 1, 2020, new cannabis cultivation sites may be permitted in accordance with this section.

(B) All new cannabis cultivation sites shall be consistent with the General Limitations on Cultivation of Cannabis, Section 10A.17.040; provided, however, that an applicant may seek a reduction in the setback requirements as stated in paragraph (D) of this section.

(C) Cultivation sites, operated in conformance with the MCCO, may be allowed on a legal parcel with an approved Zoning Clearance, Administrative Permit or Minor Use Permit, as required for the zoning district in which the cultivation site is located and listed in Table 2.

**TABLE 2**  
Zoning Permit Requirement for New Cannabis Cultivation by Zoning District and Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance Permit Type

MCCO Permit Type	C Sm Outdoor	C-A Sm Indoor, Artificial Light		C-B Sm Mixed Light	1 Med Outdoor	1-A Med Indoor, Artificial Light	1-B Med Mixed Light	2 Lg Outdoor	2-A Lg Indoor, Artificial Light	2-B Lg Mixed Light	4 Nursery
Min Parcel Area (ac)	2	2		2	5	5	5	10	10	10	10
Cultivation Area Limit (sf)	2,500	500	501 — 2,500	2,500	2,501 — 5,000	2,501 — 5,000	2,501 — 5,000	5,001 — 10,000	5,001 — 10,000	5,001 — 10,000	22,000
Zoning District	RR 5*	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	—	—	—
	RR 10	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC
	AG	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC
	UR	ZC	AP	UP	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC
	I1**	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC
	I2**	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC
PI**	ZC	ZC	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	—	ZC	ZC	ZC

— = Not Allowed, ZC = Zoning Clearance, AP = Administrative Permit, UP = Minor Use Permit

\* Parcels in the RR-5 zoning district must have a minimum parcel size of five (5) acres.

\*\* Parcels in Industrial zoning districts are not subject to a minimum parcel area.

(D) **Setback Reduction.** A reduction in the setback from a legal parcel line required by Section 10A.17.040 may be allowed with an Administrative Permit, approved according to Section 20.242.070(C), provided that the approved setback reduction is fifty (50) feet or greater from an adjoining property under separate ownership or access easement, whichever is most restrictive and the location of the cannabis cultivation site continues to comply with the required setback from an occupied legal residential structure.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 2, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 20, 4-28-2018)

**Editor's note**—Ord. No. 4408, § 20, adopted April 28, 2018, amended § 20.242.060 to read as set out herein. Previously § 20.242.060 was titled "New Medical Cannabis Cultivation Sites."

**Sec. 20.242.070 Planning approval required to cultivate cannabis.**

(A) **Planning Approval Procedure.** Each proposed cannabis cultivation site is subject to one (1) of the following planning review processes that correspond to the applicable zoning district and Chapter 10A.17 permit as specified by Table 1 or Table 2 in this Chapter.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office shall refer applications for cultivation permits pursuant to Chapter 10A.17 to the Department, which shall review the application to determine which of the following processes applies. If the application needs only a Zoning Clearance, the Department will provide a zoning clearance approval to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. If the application requires either an Administrative Permit or a Minor Use Permit, the Department will notify the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the applicant that planning approval is required.

(B) **Zoning Clearance.** The Department shall review the MCCO permit application to confirm the cannabis cultivation site is allowed in zoning district, subject to the applicable requirements of this chapter, and confirm the legal parcel on which the cultivation site is located. The Department shall additionally provide any information as requested by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to confirm compliance with any of the provisions of Chapter 10A.17.

(C) **Administrative Permit.** In accordance with the Administrative Permit review procedure listed in Chapter 20.192, the Zoning Administrator shall approve, conditionally approve or deny an Administrative Permit for cannabis cultivation sites based on the following special findings.

(1) The cannabis cultivation site is allowed in the zoning district and it is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 10A.17.

(2) There is no other environmentally superior cultivation site located on the same parcel; the location and operation of the cannabis cultivation site will, to the maximum extent feasible, avoid or minimize its impact on environmentally sensitive areas including hillsides exceeding fifteen (15) percent, prime soil, oak woodland, and timber resources.

(3) The cannabis cultivation will avoid or minimize odor and light impact on residential uses.

(4) For any new cannabis cultivation site established after January 1, 2020 and that is not located in the AG (Agriculture) Zoning District, the submitted MCCO permit application contains evidence that demonstrates: (1) there is adequate water supply in the watershed and water rights to serve the cultivation site; (2) the cultivation site has received a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers or a Clean Water Act Section 401 permit from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as applicable, and a General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water from the State Water Resources Control Board.

(5) The Administrative Permit granted for the cannabis cultivation site shall be limited to a period not to exceed ten (10) years. The Administrative Permit shall expire at the end of this period unless it is renewed prior to the end of the 10-year period, or at any time the approved MCCO permit for the cultivation site expires or is revoked.

(6) An Administrative Permit may be applied for and granted for an exception to the dwelling unit requirement of Chapter 10A.17 for parcels in the Rural Residential, lot size ten (10) acres (R-R:L-10) zoning district with the additional finding

that the applicant shall demonstrate that the cultivation site and any associated infrastructure (roads, buildings, water storage, etc.) does not preclude the development of the parcel with a residence in the future. For parcels that will need on-site sewage disposal systems to be developed, making this finding may require the identification of a primary and reserve leach field to be identified in order to issue the Administrative Permit.

(7) An Administrative Permit may be applied for and granted for an exception to the one thousand (1,000) foot setback requirement of a cannabis cultivation site as outlined in section 10A.17.040(B). Administrative permits may be approved, conditionally approved or denied for the reduction of the setback provided for in section 10A.17.040(A)(1) based on the findings of 20.242.070(C)(1), (C)(2) and (C)(3) and on the following special findings:

(i) That there be special circumstances applicable to the property involved, including size, shape, topography, location or surrounding;

(ii) That the granting of such reduction will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in such vicinity and zone in which the property is located; and

(iii) That the granting of such reduction will not adversely affect the General Plan.

(D) Minor Use Permit. In accordance with the Use Permit review procedure listed in Chapter 20.196, the Zoning Administrator or the Planning Commission shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny a Minor Use Permit for a cannabis cultivation site based on findings in Section 20.196.020 and the following special findings:

(1) The proposed cannabis cultivation site is in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 10A.17.

(2) In cases where there is no other environmentally superior cultivation site located on the same parcel, the location and operation of the cannabis cultivation site will, to the maximum extent feasible, avoid or minimize its impact on

environmentally sensitive areas including hillsides exceed fifteen (15) percent, prime soil, oak woodland, and timber resources.

(3) The proposed cannabis cultivation site will avoid or minimize odor and light impact on residential uses.

(4) For any new cannabis cultivation site established after January 1, 2020 and that is not located in the AG (Agriculture) Zoning District, the submitted MCCO permit application contains evidence that demonstrates: (1) there is adequate water supply in the watershed and water rights to serve the cultivation site; (2) the cultivation site has received a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers or a Clean Water Act Section 401 permit from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as applicable, and a General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water from the State Water Resources Control Board.

(5) The Use Permit granted for the cannabis cultivation site shall be limited to a period not to exceed ten (10) years. The Use Permit shall expire at the end of this period unless it is renewed prior to the end of [the] 10-year period, or at any time the approved MCCO permit for the cultivation site expires or is revoked.

(Ord. No. 4381, § 2, 4-4-2017; Ord. No. 4408, § 21, 4-28-2018)

**Editor's note**—Ord. No. 4408, § 21, adopted April 28, 2018, amended § 20.242.070 to read as set out herein. Previously § 20.242.070 was titled "Planning Approval Required to Cultivate Medical Cannabis."



## CHAPTER 20.243

### CANNABIS FACILITIES

#### Sec. 20.243.010 Title, Purpose and Intent.

This Chapter shall be known as and may be referred to in all proceedings as "Cannabis Facilities Code" or "CFC."

It is the purpose and intent of this Chapter to regulate the processing, manufacturing, testing, dispensing, retailing and distributing of cannabis for medical and adult use within the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County in a manner that is consistent with current State law and to establish a program to be implemented in coordination with the State of California's future implementation of the Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act ("MAUCRSA").

All commercial processing, manufacturing, testing, dispensing, retail sales and distributing of medical and adult use cannabis within the jurisdiction of the County of Mendocino inland of the coastal zone shall be controlled by the provisions of this Chapter, regardless of whether the business existed or occurred prior to the adoption of this Chapter. Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to exempt the commercial processing, manufacturing, testing, dispensing, retailing, or distributing of cannabis for medical and adult use, as defined herein, from compliance with all other applicable Mendocino County zoning and land use regulations, or other applicable provisions of the County Code, or from any and all applicable local and state construction, electrical, plumbing, environmental, or building standards or permitting requirements, or from compliance with any applicable state laws.

These regulations shall apply to the location and permitting of commercial processing, manufacturing, testing, dispensing, retailing and distributing of cannabis for medical and adult use in zoning districts within which such use is authorized, as specified in this Chapter.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to preclude a landlord or property

owner from limiting or prohibiting commercial processing, manufacturing, testing, dispensing, retailing and distributing of cannabis for medical and adult use on private property.

All persons operating facilities and conducting activities associated with the cultivation of cannabis for medical or adult use, as defined in this Chapter, are subject to possible federal prosecution, regardless of the protections provided by state or local law.

(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)

#### Sec. 20.243.020 Application.

The processing, manufacturing, testing, dispensing, retailing and distributing of cannabis for medical and adult use is prohibited in all zoning districts in Mendocino County governed by Division I of this Title, except as allowed by this Chapter.

(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)

#### Sec. 20.243.030 Definitions.

The definitions in this Chapter are intended to apply solely to the regulations in this Section. Applicable definitions in Mendocino County Code Sections 10A.17.020 and Section 20.242.030 shall also apply to this Chapter. As used herein the following definitions shall apply:

"A-license" means a state license issued for cannabis or cannabis products that are intended for adults twenty-one (21) years of age and over and who do not possess a physician's recommendation.

"A-licensee" means any person holding a license for cannabis or cannabis products that are intended for adults twenty-one (21) years of age and over and who do not possess a physician's recommendation.

"Bureau" means the Bureau of Cannabis Control.

"Cannabis product" means raw cannabis that has undergone a process whereby the raw agricultural product has been transformed into a concentrate, an edible product, or a topical product. "Cannabis product" also means marijuana products as

defined by Section 11018.1 of the California Health and Safety Code and is not limited to medical cannabis products.

"Cannabinoid" or "phytocannabinoid" means a chemical compound that is unique to and derived from cannabis.

"Cannabis facility" means a business and/or structure or location where, or from where, retailing, distributing, processing, testing, manufacturing or delivering of cannabis for either medical or adult use is operating.

"Caregiver" or "primary caregiver" has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 11362.7 of the Health and Safety Code.

"Commercial cannabis activity" includes cultivation, possession, manufacture, processing, storing, laboratory testing, labeling, transporting, distribution, or sale of cannabis and cannabis products as provided for in this division.

"Customer" means a natural person twenty-one (21) years of age or over or a natural person eighteen (18) years of age or older who possesses a physician's recommendation.

"Day care center" has the same meaning as in Section 1596.76 of the Health and Safety Code.

"Delivery" means the commercial transfer of cannabis or cannabis products to a customer. "Delivery" also includes the use by a retailer of any technology platform owned and controlled by the retailer.

"Distribution" means the procurement, sale, and transport of cannabis and cannabis products between licensees.

"Edible cannabis product" means cannabis that is intended to be used, in whole or in part, for human consumption, including, but not limited to, chewing gum, but excluding products set forth in Division 15 (commencing with Section 32501) of the Food and Agricultural Code. An edible cannabis product is not considered food as defined by Section 109935 of the Health and Safety Code or a drug as defined by Section 109925 of the Health and Safety Code.

"Environmental Health" means the Environmental Health Division of the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency or the authorized representatives thereof.

"Extraction" means a process by which cannabinoids are separated from cannabis plant material through chemical or physical means.

"License" means a state license issued pursuant to MAUCRSA, and includes both an A-license (Adult Use) and an M-license (Medical), as well as a testing laboratory license.

"Licensee" means any person holding a license under this division, regardless of whether the license held is an A-license or an M-license, and includes the holder of a testing laboratory license.

"M-license" means a state license issued for commercial cannabis activity involving medicinal cannabis.

"M-licensee" means any person holding a license for commercial cannabis activity involving medicinal cannabis.

"Manufacturing Level 1 (Non-Volatile)" means facilities that manufacture medical or adult use cannabis products using nonvolatile solvents, or no solvents or volatile solvents using a non-volatile method.

"Manufacturing Level 2 (Volatile)" means facilities that manufacture medical or adult use cannabis products using volatile solvents.

"MAUCRSA" means the Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulations Safety Act.

"Mendocino County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)" means the agency certified to implement the unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management regulatory program set forth in Section 25404 of the Health and Safety Code.

"Microbusiness" means the cultivation of adult use cannabis on an area ten thousand (10,000) square feet or less and acting as a licensed distributor, Level 1 manufacturer, and retailer under this Chapter, provided such licensee complies with all requirements imposed by this Chapter on licensed

cultivators, distributors, Level 1 manufacturers, and retailers to the extent the licensee engages in such activities.

"Nonvolatile extraction" means an extraction method using nonvolatile solvents (such as carbon dioxide or "CO<sub>2</sub>") to manufacture medical or adult use cannabis products.

"Nonvolatile solvent" means any solvent used in the extraction process that is not a volatile solvent. For purposes of this division, a nonvolatile solvent includes carbon dioxide used for extraction.

"Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, limited liability company, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, syndicate, or any other group or combination acting as a unit, whether organized as a nonprofit or for-profit entity, and includes the plural as well as the singular number.

"Processing Facility" means a location or facility where medical or adult use cannabis is dried, cured, graded, trimmed, and/or packaged at a location separate from the cultivation site where the medical or adult use cannabis is grown and harvested.

"Retailer/Dispensary" means the retail sale and delivery of cannabis or cannabis products to customers.

"State" means the State of California.

"Testing" means testing of cannabis and cannabis products.

"Testing laboratory" means a facility, entity, or site in the State that offers or performs testing of cannabis or cannabis products and that is both of the following:

(A) Accredited by an accrediting body that is independent from all other persons involved in the cannabis industry in the state; and

(B) Licensed by the Bureau.

"Volatile extraction" means an extraction method using volatile solvents to manufacture medical or adult use cannabis products.

"Volatile solvent" means any solvent that is or produces a flammable gas or vapor that, when present in the air in sufficient quantities, will create explosive or ignitable mixtures.

"Youth center" has the same meaning as in Section 11353.1 of the Health and Safety Code. (Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)

#### **Sec. 20.243.040 Use Classifications.**

The purpose of these provisions is to classify uses into a limited number of use types on the basis of common functional, product or compatibility characteristics, thereby providing a basis for regulation of uses in accordance with criteria which are directly relevant to the public interest.

(A) Processing Facilities.

(1) Processing facilities, as defined herein, shall be an agricultural use type.

(2) Processing facilities for cannabis grown on site pursuant to a permitted cultivation operation shall be allowed as an accessory use in all zones where cultivation is permitted pursuant to Chapter 10A.17 *Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance*.

(B) Manufacturing Facilities.

(1) Manufacturing facilities, as defined herein, shall be an industrial use type.

(2) Exception for home manufacturing.

(a) Manufacturing (Level 1) as an accessory use to cultivation is allowed in all zones where cultivation is allowed pursuant to Chapter 10A.17 *Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance* and is subject to the provisions of Chapter 20.160 *Cottage Industry* and the following provisions:

(i) The cultivator engaging in home manufacturing must be permitted to cultivate pursuant to Chapter 10A.17 *Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance* and must reside on the property where the home manufacturing is occurring.

(ii) All cannabis used in home manufacturing must be cultivated on site, under a cultivation permit issued pursuant to Chapter 10A.17.

(iii) The manufacturing of edible cannabis products is permitted in compliance with State of California regulations.

(iv) Only nonvolatile extraction methods may be used.

(C) Testing Laboratories and Research Institutions.

(1) Testing laboratories and research institutions, as defined herein, shall be a commercial use type.

(2) Testing licensees shall not

(a) hold a license in another facility or category established by this Chapter; or

(b) own or have an ownership interest in any other facility or category licensed pursuant to this Chapter.

(D) Retailer/Dispensary.

(1) A Retailer/Dispensary, as defined herein, shall be a commercial use type.

(2) This section applies to all retailers/dispensaries, as defined in Section 20.243.030 of this Chapter.

(a) M-license retailers/dispensaries that cultivate nursery stock or seeds must comply with the provisions of Mendocino County Code Chapter 10A.17 *Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance*.

(b) M-license retailers/dispensaries that engage in mobile deliveries are prohibited from having any advertisement of their business or services on their delivery vehicles.

(c) On-site consumption of cannabis is permitted in outdoor areas of A-license retailers/dispensaries, such as patios or decks, and shall adhere to the provisions of Mendocino County Code Chapter 9.32 *Smoking Pollution Control and Health Protection Ordinance*.

(d) Promotional items and free product give-aways by A-license retailers/dispensaries is prohibited.

(E) Distribution Facility.

(1) A distribution facility shall be a site or location where distribution, as defined herein, occurs. A distribution facility shall be a commercial use type.

(F) Microbusinesses.

(1) Microbusiness, as defined herein, shall be the use type which is the predominant use type of that microbusiness.

(2) Microbusinesses with on-site cultivation must comply with and obtain a permit pursuant to Chapters 10A.17 and 20.242 of the Mendocino County Code, and microbusinesses intending to cultivate adult use cannabis shall comply with the terms of an Adult Use Cultivation Ordinance, when adopted by the County.

(3) Microbusinesses with on-site processing, distribution, wholesale, and/or retail sales or dispensing of its products shall comply with all applicable sections of this Chapter.

(4) Microbusinesses proposed in the General Commercial (C2) zoning district must demonstrate that the retail component of the Microbusiness is the primary use and other uses are incidental and subordinate to the retail component.

(5) The manufacturing of edible cannabis products is permitted in compliance with State of California regulations.

(6) Notwithstanding Table 1 of Section 20.243.060, a microbusiness that qualifies as a home occupation pursuant to Chapter 20.156 may be allowed in any zoning district provided there is a cultivation site permitted pursuant to Chapter 10A.17.

(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)

**Sec. 20.243.050 General Limitations on Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Facilities.**

(A) The Applicant must have authorization as a qualified patient or as a primary caregiver to process, manufacture, test, dispense, or distribute, medical cannabis for medical use. This provision shall sunset consistent with the operative date of applicable provisions of MAUCRSA.

(B) All cannabis facilities shall comply with all applicable regulations of in the Mendocino County Code and State law.

(C) The processing, manufacturing, testing, dispensing, retail sales, and distributing of cannabis for medical and adult use in Mendocino County, shall not be allowed within one thousand (1,000) foot radius of a youth-oriented facility, a school, a park, or any church or residential treatment facility, as those terms are defined in section 10A.17.020



of the Mendocino County Code, that is in existence at the time the zoning clearance or permit is applied for. The distance between the uses listed in the preceding sentence and the cannabis facility shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest point of the cannabis facility to the nearest point of any fenced, maintained or improved area where the users of the facility are typically present during normal hours of operation.

(D) All structures associated with permitted medical and adult use cannabis facilities shall comply with the setbacks established by the zoning district in which the medical or adult use cannabis facility site is located.

(E) All cannabis facilities shall be located in a permanent building in conformance with the California Building Code as adopted by Mendocino County for a commercial or industrial building, as applicable, and shall not be located in a dwelling unit, recreational vehicle, cargo container, motor vehicle or other similar personal property, except as provided for by Mendocino County Code Chapter 20.156.

(F) The processing, manufacturing, testing, dispensing, retailing, and distributing of medical and adult use cannabis is not permitted within any habitable space (i.e., kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, living room or hallway) of a dwelling unit nor is it permitted within any required parking space, except as otherwise allowed in this chapter, except as provided for by Mendocino County Code Chapter 20.156.

(G) Cannabis facilities proposed in Industrial zoning districts shall be subject to the provisions of Development Review pursuant to Chapter 20.188, as applicable.

(H) Medical and adult use cannabis facilities shall implement the following security measures:

(1) Sufficient security measures to both deter and prevent unauthorized entrance into areas containing cannabis or cannabis products and theft of cannabis or cannabis products.

(2) Security measures to prevent individuals from remaining on the premises of the facility if they are not engaging in activity expressly related to the operations of the facility.

(3) Establishing limited access areas accessible only to authorized personnel.

(4) Storing all cannabis and cannabis products in a secured and locked room, safe, or vault and in a manner sufficient to prevent diversion, theft, and loss.

(5) Diversion, theft, loss or any criminal activity involving the facility or any other breach of security must be reported immediately to law enforcement.

(I) Medical and adult use cannabis remnants, infused products, bi-products, and other waste material shall be disposed of in a safe, sanitary, and secure manner. Any portion of the medical and adult use cannabis remnants, products or bi-products being disposed of will be rendered unusable before disposal, will be protected from being possessed or ingested by any person or animal, and shall not be placed within the facility's exterior refuse containers.

(J) Signage associated with permitted medical and adult use cannabis facilities shall meet the applicable requirements set forth in the Mendocino County Zoning Code for signage and other applicable State regulations.

(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)

#### **Sec. 20.243.060 Permit Types and Zoning Districts.**

All medical and adult use cannabis facilities shall be permitted in accordance with this Section. All new medical and adult use cannabis facilities shall obtain approval from other State and Local agencies with permitting jurisdiction. Medical and adult use cannabis facilities may be allowed with an approved Zoning Clearance, Administrative Permit, Minor Use Permit, or Major Use Permit as required for the zoning district in which the medical or adult use cannabis facility is located as listed in Table 1, below:

**Table 1  
Permit Requirements for Processing, Manufacturing, Testing, Retailers, Distribution, and  
Microbusiness by Zoning District and Cannabis Facilities Code Permit Type**

			6-A and 6-M	7-A and 7-M	8-A and 8-M	10-M and 10-A	11-A and 11-M	12-A
			Processing	Manufacturing Level 1 (Non-volatile) **	Manufacturing Level 2 (Volatile)	Testing	Retail/Dispensary	Distribution
Zoning District	RR 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	RR 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	RR 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	R3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	RC	AP	AP	UP	UP	UP	UP	UP
	SR	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	AG	AP	—	—	—	—	—	—
	UR	AP	—	—	—	—	—	—
	RL	AP	—	—	—	—	—	—
	FL	AP	—	—	—	—	—	—
	TPZ	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	C1	AP	—	—	—	ZC	—	—
	C2	AP	UP	—	ZC	ZC	UP	AP
	I1	ZC	ZC	AP	ZC	UP	ZC	AP
	I2	ZC	ZC	AP	ZC	UP	ZC	AP
PI	ZC	ZC	AP	ZC	UP	ZC	AP	

— = Not Allowed,  
 ZC = Zoning Clearance,  
 AP = Administrative Permit,  
 UP = Minor Use Permit,  
 MUP = Major Use Permit

\* See Section 20.243.040(A)(2) regarding processing of cannabis grown on site.  
 \*\* See Section 20.243.040(B)(2) regarding home manufacturing exception.  
 \*\*\* Microbusinesses engaged in cultivation shall be allowed at such time as the County adopts an Adult Use Cultivation Ordinance and State Licenses are available.

(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)



**Sec. 20.243.070 Exceptions.**

(A) Existing packing and processing facilities. Establishment of new cannabis facilities may be considered with a Minor Use Permit in FL, AG, or RL Districts, and in any other zoning district where such facilities exist subject to compliance with the County's existing nonconforming use requirements in Chapter 20.204, and consistent with Section 20.243.090 Planning Approval Required to Process, Manufacture, Test, Dispense, Retail, and Distribute, Cannabis for Medical and Adult Use, where all of the following can be demonstrated:

(1) The site has been previously permitted as a packing and processing facility prior to the effective date of these regulations.

(2) The site is developed with an existing packing and processing facility, including buildings, roads, power source, water source, and sewage disposal system.

(3) There will be no net expansion of impervious surfaces.

(4) No trees shall be unlawfully removed.

If all of the above are true, substantial improvements to existing facilities and systems would be acceptable, subject to use permit conditions of approval and subject to the making of findings consistent with those found in Chapter 20.204, as applicable.

(B) Business offices for medical or adult use cannabis at which no cultivation, processing, storage, handling, or distribution of cannabis in any form occurs shall be allowed in any zone in which business offices are allowed. Business offices that are clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the premises for residential purposes where cannabis cultivation or manufacturing may occur are subject to the provisions of Mendocino County Code Chapter 20.156 Home Occupations. Medical and adult use cannabis business offices shall be subject to all the regulations and standards applicable to business offices in the Mendocino County Code.

(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017; Ord. No. 4406, § 1, 3-27-2018)

**Sec. 20.243.080 Continued Operation.**

All medical cannabis retailers/dispensaries operating with an approved business license prior to the effective date of these regulations, are eligible to continue operations without obtaining any additional permit which may be required by this Chapter, but shall comply with the requirements listed in sections 20.243.040 and 20.243.050, except for paragraph (C) of section 20.243.050, and any requirements of State law.

(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)

**Sec. 20.243.090 Planning Approval Required for Processing, Manufacturing, Testing, Retail/Dispensary, and Distribution Facilities for Medical and Adult Use Cannabis.**

(A) Planning Approval Procedure. Each medical or adult use cannabis facility site is subject to one (1) of the following planning procedures that correspond to the applicable zoning district, as specified by Table 1 of this Chapter. Planning and Building shall review the application in accordance with the applicable planning approval process.

(1) Zoning Clearance. Planning and Building Services and the Department of Environmental Health shall review projects for compliance with applicable local regulations.

(2) Administrative Permits. In accordance with the Administrative Permit review procedure listed in Chapter 20.192, the Zoning Administrator shall approve, conditionally approve or deny an Administrative Permit for a medical or adult use cannabis facility based on the following special findings:

(a) The medical or adult use cannabis facility site is allowed in the zoning district and is in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter and Chapter 10A.17 *Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance*, as applicable.

(b) The medical or adult use cannabis facility will avoid or minimize odor and light impact on residential uses.

(c) The findings required by Section 20.196.020 shall also be made.

(3) Minor Use Permits. In accordance with the Use Permit review procedure listed in Chapter 20.196, the Zoning Administrator or the Planning Commission shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny a Minor Use Permit for a medical cannabis facility based on findings in Sections 20.196.020 and 20.196.030.

(a) The medical or adult use cannabis facility site is allowed in the zoning district and is in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter and Chapter 10A.17 *Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance*, as applicable.

(b) The medical or adult use cannabis facility will avoid or minimize odor and light impact on residential uses.

(4) Major Use Permits. In accordance with the Use Permit review procedure listed in Chapter 20.196, the Zoning Administrator or the Planning Commission shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny a Major Use Permit for a medical cannabis cultivation site based on findings in Sections 20.196.020 and 20.196.030.

(a) The medical or adult use cannabis facility site is allowed in the zoning district and it is in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter and Chapter 10A.17 *Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance*, as applicable.

(b) The medical or adult use cannabis facility will avoid or minimize odor and light impact on residential uses.

(B) The County shall notify any State licensing authority, as defined by the MAUCRSA, as applicable, whenever the County business license, Administrative Permit or Minor or Major Use Permit has been revoked or terminated.

(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)

**Sec. 20.243.100 Permit Application Submittal Requirements for Administrative Permits, Use Permits and Major Use Permits for Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Facilities.**

Any person or entity that wishes to engage in the processing, manufacturing, testing, dispens-

ing, retailing, and distributing, of cannabis for medical and adult use shall submit an application to Planning and Building. Applications for medical or adult use cannabis facilities shall be made upon such forms and accompanied by such plans and documents as may be prescribed by Planning and Building so as to assure the fullest practical presentation of facts for the review of the application. An application fee will be due at the time the application is submitted and is non-refundable.

Applicants for a permit for a medical or adult use cannabis facility shall provide the standard application materials for Administrative Permits, Use Permits, and Major Use Permits, as applicable, and all of following information on, or as an attachment to, the application:

(A) An operations plan which provides a description of the proposed processing, manufacturing, testing, dispensing, retailing, or distributing of medical or adult use cannabis activities including, but not limited to, permit type, size of facility or structure where business will be conducted, description of the nature of the activity, product type, average production amounts (including each product produced by type, amount, process, and rate), source of medical or adult use cannabis material product(s), estimated number of employees, hours of operation, visibility, and anticipated number of deliveries and pickups.

(B) Planning and Building is hereby authorized to require in the permit application any other information reasonably related to the application including, but not limited to, any information necessary to discover the truth of the matters set forth in the application.

(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)

**Sec. 20.243.110 Permit Revocation.**

An Administrative Permit or Use Permit may be revoked or modified according to the revocation or modification provisions in Mendocino County Code sections 20.192.060 and 20.192.065 or sections 20.196.055 and 20.196.060, respectively. Grounds for seeking revocation or modification include: non-compliance with one (1) or

more of the requirements listed in this Code; failure to comply with the requirements of the Mendocino County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), or any of the grounds listed in code sections identified in this paragraph, as applicable, and any successor provisions.  
(Ord. No. 4394, § 2, 10-17-2017)



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ZONING, COASTAL,  
UNINCORPORATED AREAS

### MINORS

See ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES  
BINGO GAMES  
CURFEW  
GRAFFITI SUPPRESSION  
JUVENILE DETENTION HOME  
JUVENILE JUSTICE, DELINQUENCY  
PREVENTION COMMISSION

### MOBILE HOME

See also ZONING  
Flood hazard reduction  
See ZONING  
ZONING, COASTAL,  
UNINCORPORATED AREAS

### MOBILE HOME PARK

See also ZONING  
Flood hazard reduction  
See ZONING  
ZONING, COASTAL,  
UNINCORPORATED AREAS

### MOTEL

Business license  
See also BUSINESS LICENSE  
fee 6.04.050  
Zoning regulations  
See ZONING  
ZONING, COASTAL  
ZONING, COASTAL,  
UNINCORPORATED AREAS

### MOTORBOATS

See BOAT  
WATERCRAFT

### MOVIE PRODUCTION COMPANY

See FILM PERMIT

### MULTIPLE-SELLERS LICENSE

Business license  
See also BUSINESS LICENSE  
fee 6.04.050

### MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Archeological commission membership 22.12.040

### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE, OUTDOOR

See OUTDOOR FESTIVALS

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### NUISANCE

See NUISANCES CAUSED BY CANNABIS  
CULTIVATION, ABATEMENT PROCEDURE  
FOR  
Abandoned vehicle 15.28.020  
Animals, when 10.08.030  
Declare intentionally killed and left standing trees  
a public nuisance  
Findings 8.400.010  
Prohibition 8.400.020  
Severability 8.400.030  
Fruit tree, shrub when 10A.08.050  
Outdoor festival provisions violation 6.16.120  
Plant pests 10A.08.020  
Rural dwelling, limited density, substandard  
18.23.050  
Sewage disposal, improper  
County Water Works District No. 2 16.20.030  
Ukiah Valley sanitation district 16.12.030  
Water well, when 16.04.190

### NUISANCES CAUSED BY CANNABIS CULTIVATION, ABATEMENT PROCEDURE FOR

Administrative order to show cause 8.76.060  
Administrative penalties 8.76.110  
Automatic hearing procedures 8.76.080  
Definitions 8.76.020  
Enforcement 8.76.090  
Findings, purpose and authority 8.76.010  
Liability for costs 8.76.100  
Scope of chapter 8.76.030  
Service of notice and order to show cause 8.76.070  
Severance 8.76.120  
Standard abatement 8.76.050  
Summary abatement 8.76.040



NURSE

See PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

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OCCUPANCY TAX

See TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX

OFFICERS, COUNTY

See also Specific Officer

PERSONNEL

Emergency organization  
duties as

See EMERGENCY ORGANIZATION

OFFICES, COUNTY

Hours, days open 2.04.020

