

## ORDINANCE NO. 4381

### ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 10A.17 – MEDICAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION ORDINANCE AND CHAPTER 20.242 – MEDICAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION SITE

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, State of California, ordains as follows:

**Section 1.** Chapter 10A.17 is hereby added to the Mendocino County Code to read as follows:

#### **Chapter 10A.17 – Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance**

Section 10A.17.010	Title, Purpose and Intent
Section 10A.17.020	Definitions
Section 10A.17.030	Cultivation Permit Required; Exemptions
Section 10A.17.040	General Limitations on Cultivation of Medical Cannabis
Section 10A.17.050	Medical Marijuana Collectives
Section 10A.17.060	Permit Types
Section 10A.17.070	Requirements for All Permits
Section 10A.17.080	Permit Phases and Requirements Specific to Each Phase
Section 10A.17.090	Cultivation Permit Application and Zoning Review
Section 10A.17.100	Permit Review and Issuance
Section 10A.17.110	Performance Standards
Section 10A.17.120	Certifications
Section 10A.17.130	Third Party Inspectors
Section 10A.17.140	Cultivation Site Inspections: Violations and Penalties
Section 10A.17.150	Administrative Order to Show Cause
Section 10A.17.160	Enforcement and Declaration of Public Nuisance
Section 10A.17.170	Attorneys' Fees
Section 10A.17.180	Confidential nature of medical cannabis information – legislative intent
Section 10A.17.190	Severability

#### **Section 10A.17.010 – Title, Purpose and Intent**

This Chapter is known and may be cited as the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance (“MCCO”). Chapter 20.242 of the Mendocino County Code, titled Medical Cannabis Cultivation Site, is complementary to this Chapter and together the chapters may be cited as the Medical 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 intended exclusively for medical use (which may also be referred to herein as medical 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 a local permitting structure that will operate in conformance with State licensing requirements for the cultivation of medical cannabis, once state licenses

become available.

All cultivation of cannabis for medical use within the County of Mendocino shall comply with the provisions of the MCCR, as well as all applicable 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, 2) allow the use or diversion of cannabis for nonmedical purposes, or 3) 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 for medical use 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 upon qualified patients and their primary caregivers the right to create or maintain a public nuisance in the course of cultivating cannabis plants for medical purposes.

Nothing in this Chapter is intended, nor shall it be construed, to exempt the cultivation of cannabis for medical use, 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 for medical use.

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

**Section 10A.17.020 - Definitions**

As used herein the following definitions shall apply:

“Agricultural Commissioner” or “Agricultural Commissioner’s Office” or the “Department of Agriculture” means the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture or the authorized representatives thereof.

“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.

“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 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 Food

and Agricultural Code or Section 11018.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

“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 for medical use” means the planting, growing, harvesting, drying or processing at a cultivation site of cannabis plants or any part thereof.

“Cultivation site” means one or more locations or facilities on one legal parcel subject to a single approved Permit where medical 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 or more areas of cannabis cultivation may exist on the legal parcel used for that purpose.

“Dwelling unit” means a legal residential structure providing complete, independent living facilities for one (1) or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation, and having only one (1) kitchen.

“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.

“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 2" x 4" or thicker studs overlain with 3/8" 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

“Licensee” means a person issued a state license under the MCRSA to engage in commercial cannabis activity.

“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 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 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 for medical use. Included in this definition is the process of solely manipulating natural light to cultivate cannabis for medical use.

“Nursery producer” means a Permittee that produces vegetative immature medical cannabis plants, through cloning, seed germination, or tissue culture. 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 for medical use. 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 medical cannabis in Mendocino County pursuant to this Chapter.

“Permittee” means a Person issued a permit to cultivate medical cannabis in Mendocino County pursuant 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 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).

“Processing” means to harvest, dry, cure, grade, trim, or package for transport medical 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 medical 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.

“Third party inspector” means an individual that has been approved by the Agricultural Commissioner to conduct compliance consultations with permittees to assess compliance with this section.

“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 medical cannabis.

“Unique identifier” or “Unique ID” means individual, non-repeating identification issued to a permittee and attached to the base of each medical 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.

**Section 10A.17.030 – Cultivation Permit Required; Exemptions**

- (A) Except as provided for by paragraph (B) of this Section, cultivation of cannabis for medical use shall be allowed only following the issuance of a Permit pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter, and the issuance of a permit pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 20.242 of the Mendocino County Zoning Code, if required. Chapter 20.242 authorizes the cultivation of cannabis for medical use 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 medical cannabis are exempt from the permit requirements of paragraph (A) of this Section, subject to the following requirements:
  - (1) Registration with the Agricultural Commissioner on an annual basis and maintaining such registration.
  
  - (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 100 square feet of medical cannabis may be cultivated by a qualified patient.
  
  - (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 100 square feet of cultivation area of medical cannabis may be cultivated by a primary caregiver for each patient they are cultivating for, up to a maximum total of 200 square feet.

**Section 10A.17.040 – General Limitations on Cultivation of Medical Cannabis**

The following limitations shall apply to all cultivation of cannabis for medical use in Mendocino County, whether pursuant to a Permit issued under this Chapter or the exemption provided for in Section 10A.17.030. Cultivation of cannabis for medical use shall also be subject to all applicable restrictions of Mendocino County Code Chapter 20.242.

- (A) The cultivation of medical 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.
  - (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 for medical use 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 for medical use 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 for medical use shall only be allowed on the same parcel as the dwelling unit, if required.

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(g), or if the cannabis is cultivated indoors, from the nearest exterior wall of the building in which the cannabis is cultivated to the nearest boundary line of the property on which the facility, building, or structure, or portion of the facility, building, or structure in which the above-listed use occurs is located. 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(G) to the nearest exterior wall of the residential structure.

Applicants may seek a reduction in the setback described in paragraph (A)(5) upon issuance of an administrative permit pursuant to Chapter 20.242.

- (B) The outdoor, indoor or mixed light cultivation of medical 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.
- (C) The use of light assistance for the indoor or mixed light cultivation of medical cannabis shall not exceed a maximum of 35 watts of lighting capacity per one square foot of growing area. The indoor or mixed-light cultivation of medical cannabis shall rely on the electrical grid or some form of alternative energy source. The indoor or mixed-light cultivation of medical cannabis shall not rely on a generator as a primary source of power.
- (D) All lights used for the indoor or mixed light cultivation of medical 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.
- (E) All activities associated with the cultivation of medical cannabis shall not exceed the noise level standards as set forth in the County General Plan Policies DE100, 101 and 103.
- (F) All cultivation of medical 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 medical cannabis shall not create erosion or result in contaminated runoff into any stream, creek, river or body of water.
- (G) All medical 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.
- (H) All buildings where medical cannabis is cultivated or stored shall be properly secured to prevent unauthorized entry.
- (I) Prohibition on Tree Removal. Removal of any commercial tree species as defined by 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 safety or disease concerns.

### **Section 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.

### **Section 10A.17.060 - Permit Types**

The cultivation Permits that may be applied for under this Chapter are for the production of flowering medical cannabis plants and for nursery and seed production, as defined in section 10A.17.020. A Permittee producing flowering medical cannabis plants may maintain an area scaled appropriately for their operation where they may propagate their own 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 will be included in measuring the cumulative total square footage allowed under a given Permit.

The following medical cannabis cultivation Permit types may be applied for and granted provided the applicant and the legal parcel 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.

- (1) "Type C" for small outdoor cultivation using no artificial lighting not to exceed a maximum of 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 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 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 2,501 to a maximum of 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 2,501 to a maximum of 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 2,501 to a maximum of 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 legal parcel not less than five (5) acres in size.
- (7) "Type 2" for large outdoor cultivation using no artificial lighting of 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 5,001 to 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 5,001 to a maximum of 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 legal parcel not less than ten (10) acres in size.
- (10) "Type 4" for the cultivation of medical cannabis nursery stock and/or seed production which shall not exceed a maximum of 22,000 square feet of total plant canopy on one 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 medical cannabis plants through cloning, seed termination or tissue culture starts for the planting, propagation and cultivation of medical 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 medical cannabis product of any kind shall be derived from the plants being cultivated.
- (B) If plant starts are tiered vertically in racks during their growing phase, the maximum allowed power usage shall be 35 watts per shelf.
- (C) A maximum of 5,000 square feet of plant canopy may be dedicated to medical 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.

**Section 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 for medical use 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 medical cannabis.

- (C) Cultivation of cannabis for medical use is not permitted within any required parking space.
- (D) Persons 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 applicant per legal parcel; provided, however, that 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 Permits does not exceed the largest maximum square footage permitted on a parcel for the relevant zoning district.
- (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 medical 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 of the combined power requirements by the expiration of twelve 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 for medical use. 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 annual on-site compliance inspection (Type 4 Permits shall be subject to two 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 24 hours advance notice to the applicant or Permittee, and shall be conducted during regular business hours. Cancellation of scheduled inspections 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.
  - (1) All site inspections conducted prior to issuance of a Permit for any indoor or mixed-light cultivation Permit shall include a representative from the Department of Planning and Building Services to confirm that the structure(s) used for the Permit complies with the requirements stated in the definitions of "indoor" and "mixed-light" found in Section 10A.17.020 and is suitable for support of the proposed cultivation activity.
- (J) Third Party Inspectors. Permittees shall engage the services of a third party inspector approved by the Agricultural Commissioner, who shall conduct a minimum of one (1) consultation inspection at approximately the midpoint of each cultivation cycle; provided that Type 2, Type 2A, and Type 2B Permittees shall be subject to a minimum of two (2) consultation inspections conducted at approximately uniform intervals during each cultivation cycle, and Type 4 Permittees shall be subject to one (1) consultation inspection for each six-month period or operation.
- (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.

#### **Section 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 December 31, 2017. 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 in compliance with the provisions 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 showing: 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 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 for medical use 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 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.
- (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 consistent 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 material 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 for medical use 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 medical 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 for medical use, 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.
- (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 Resources 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.

**Section 10A.17.090 – Cultivation Permit Application and Zoning Review**

Any person or entity that wishes to engage in the cultivation of cannabis for medical use 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 medical 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 for medical use 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 for medical use 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 medical 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 for medical use.
- (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) The applicant shall provide proof, by way of a written agreement or agreements, that the applicant is authorized by one or more medical marijuana dispensing collectives or processors to produce medical marijuana for the use of the members of said collective(s) or processor(s).
- (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 medical 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) If the application would include the conversion of timberland as defined under Public Resources Code section 4526, in order to create or expand a cultivation site, a copy of a less-than-3-acre conversion exemption or timberland conversion permit, approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("CalFire"). Alternately, for existing operations occupying sites created through prior unauthorized conversion of timberland, the applicant must provide evidence that environmental impacts have been mitigated, to the extent feasible, as required by the resource protection agencies including CalFire, the NCRWQCB and the CDFW.
- (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 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.

**Section 10A.17.100 – Permit Review and Issuance**

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

- (A) Following the referral to and clearance or permit approval pursuant to Chapter 20.242; and
- (B) Following review by qualified County staff and/or qualified third party inspectors

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

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

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 for medical use 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 for medical use.

If, during the pre-permit site inspection, violations of any building or other health, safety or other state or county statute, ordinance, or regulation are discovered, the applicant shall be required to submit a written plan to remediate, abate, or cure the violations at the earliest feasible date, but in no event more than one (1) year after the date of issuance of the Permit; said plan shall be signed by the applicant, approved by the relevant enforcement agency or agencies, and compliance with said plan shall be a condition of the Permit.

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 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 72 hours of being provided to the Permittee.

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.

#### **Section 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 MCRSA, 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 medical 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 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 the minimum prescribed number of visits by an approved Third Party Inspector, and 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 medical 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) 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).

### **Section 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).

### **Section 10A.17.130 – Third Party Inspectors**

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office is authorized to allow third party inspectors to assist medical cannabis cultivators in complying with the provisions of this Chapter. The County shall develop policies in consultation with CDFW to determine required qualifications of third party inspectors. By performing field checks with the cultivators, identifying potential or real points of concern, and working with the cultivators to correct the issues(s) at hand, while communicating with the Agricultural Commissioner's office, adherence to the standards established by this Chapter will be greatly enhanced and the possibility of enforcement actions being initiated by the County will be reduced.

Any third party inspector must receive approval by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in order to serve individual permittees and to be recognized as credible and ensuring compliance with the requirements of this Chapter. The Agricultural Commissioner shall have the authority to approve or deny any application to operate as a third-party inspector based on experience, qualifications, education, incomplete applications, and insufficient detail/scope of proposed work, conflicts of interest, and ability to perform. To ensure that a third party inspector is qualified to assist cannabis cultivators with the implementation of this Chapter, individuals desiring to be third party inspectors must submit an application/ proposal to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and successfully pass an oral appraisal interview. An annual application fee will be due at the time the application is submitted for initial review or prior to any annual renewal of the application, and paid pursuant to the provisions set forth in Section 10A.17.070(H)(1).

Third party proposals shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- (A) Program Purpose: Statement of the functions which the third party proposes to fulfill, including procedures to implement the proposed functions/roles.
- (B) Technical experience and qualifications of the third party program necessary for implementation of technical functions/roles.

- (C) Demonstration of organizational capacity and funding mechanisms to administer the program.
- (D) Framework for filing consultation reports, photo-documentation, etc. with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office within 24 hours of an inspection.
- (E) Sample liability waiver that demonstrates that the responsibility falls to the landowner/operator of the site to meet the stated terms and conditions of the MCCO.
- (F) Framework for confirmation of adherence to standard conditions and developed plans and addressing non-compliance(s) by individual permittees.
- (G) Ability to provide proof of current and valid insurance for any vehicle used in the performance of Third Party Inspector duties.
- (H) If a third party application/proposal is approved, the Agricultural Commissioner will send an approval letter. All approved third party programs will be listed on the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture website. The approval is conditional and subject to a probationary period. Approvals for third party inspector status expire one year from the date of issuance and may be renewed, subject to a positive evaluation based on performance, by the Agricultural Commissioner.

The Agricultural Commissioner may establish additional criteria for third party programs and inspectors and may request any other information deemed reasonably related to verification of the qualifications of the third party program and/or inspector.

Successful candidates to become a Third Party Inspector will be required to sign an agreement letter with the County committing to certain conditions as part of being an approved Third Party Inspector.

All consultation inspection information and outcomes from Third Party Inspectors shall be forwarded to the Agricultural Commissioner's office within 24 hours of the completion of the inspection. Any dispute regarding findings or outcomes of Third Party inspections will be handled through the process established in the Third Party Inspector Program guidance and procedures manual.

#### **Section 10A.17.140 – Cultivation Site Inspections: Violations and Penalties**

If the Third Party inspector determines that the site does not comply with the requirements established by this Chapter, the inspector shall serve notice to the permit holder and the Agricultural Commissioner with a written statement identifying the items not in compliance and identifying a time frame in which the permit holder has to correct the items out of compliance. This statement may also suggest action(s) that the permit holder may take to cure the non-compliance(s). Personal delivery or mailing the written statement to the mailing address listed on the application by regular mail, plus three (3) days after date of mailing, shall constitute delivery. The time frame allowed for the permit holder to take appropriate actions to cure the non-compliance will be the shortest feasible time frame as determined by the inspector. The Agricultural Commissioner's office may amend the time frame if deemed appropriate. A re-

inspection by the Third Party inspector will be required to confirm and document the curative measure(s) taken by the permit holder. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to schedule the above mentioned re-inspection by the end of the timeframe identified in the notice of non-compliance. Failure to request and schedule re-inspection by the Third Party inspector and cure the items of non-compliance identified in the notice of non-compliance prior to the expiration of the time permitted in the notice of non-compliance shall prompt an un-scheduled compliance inspection from the Department of Agriculture. Inspection fees shall be charged to the permittee for any additional compliance inspections required beyond those regularly scheduled and enumerated in Section 10A.17.070. 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 and paid pursuant to the provisions set forth in Section 10A.17.070(H)(1).

If any non-compliance(s) identified in the notice of non-compliance are substantiated during the un-scheduled compliance inspection above, the Department of Agriculture may issue an administrative citation pursuant to Mendocino County Code Chapter 1.08 against the permittee for a violation of the specific portion of this Chapter constituting the non-compliance and notify other public agencies or County departments, including the Department of Planning and Building Services, of these findings. The cultivation permit issued pursuant to this Chapter shall be in temporary "alert status" for possible action against the permit, pending a final compliance re-inspection from the Department of Agriculture within ten (10) days. If the permit holder desires additional time to cure any non-compliance(s) identified in the notice of non-compliance, it is the responsibility of the permit holder to request an extension of time from the Agricultural Commissioner prior to final re-inspection. The Agricultural Commissioner is not obligated to grant the requested extension, but may do so if deemed appropriate. No request for additional time to cure will be considered if requested during the final re-inspection, unless the Agricultural Commissioner determines that the request practicably could not have been made prior to the final re-inspection and that such extension is otherwise appropriate. This final re-inspection will be to determine whether or not the permit holder has cured all issues of noncompliance. Failure to request and schedule this final re-inspection and cure any items of non-compliance shall result in the issuance of a "Notice to Terminate Permit". The permit shall be terminated upon the final determination after the hearing on the order to show cause pursuant to Section 10A.17.150.

The County shall additionally notify any state license authority, as defined by the MCRSA, whenever the County cultivation permit has been terminated.

### **Section 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 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 5 days after personal delivery, or 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 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 written decision and order that either affirms or reverses the determination to terminate the permit in question. Such decision shall be delivered to the permittee by personal delivery or by first class mail, postage prepaid and return receipt requested. The decision shall become effective when signed by the Hearing Officer and on the day the decision is personally delivered to the permittee, or five (5) days after the decision is mailed to the permittee.

#### **Section 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: is exempt pursuant to County Code section 10A.17.030; 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 is being cultivated by an entity whose application for a 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.

**Section 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.

**Section 10A.17.180 - Confidential nature of medical 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.

**Section 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.

**Section 2.** Chapter 20.242 is hereby added to the Mendocino County Code to read as follows:

**Chapter 20.242 Medical Cannabis Cultivation Site**

- Section 20.242.010 Intent
- Section 20.242.020 Application
- Section 20.242.030 Definitions
- Section 20.242.040 Existing Medical Cannabis Cultivation Sites
- Section 20.242.050 New Medical Cannabis Cultivation Sites Located in Industrial Zoning Districts
- Section 20.242.060 New Medical Cannabis Cultivation Sites
- Section 20.242.070 Planning Approval Required to Cultivate Medical Cannabis

**Section 20.242.010 - Intent**

This Chapter 20.242 (“Chapter”) is intended to provide land use regulations for the County of

Mendocino where medical cannabis may be cultivated, subject to the limitations established in this Chapter and the provisions of Mendocino County Code Chapter 10A.17, the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance (MCCO). The objective of this Chapter is to allow the cultivation of medical 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.

**Section 20.242.020 – Application**

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

**Section 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.

**Section 20.242.040 Existing Medical 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 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 Medical Cannabis Cultivation by Zoning District and Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance Permit Type**

MCCO Permit Type	C Small Outdoor	C-A Small Indoor, Artificial Light		C-B Small, Mixed Light	1 Medium Outdoor	1-A Medium Indoor, Artificial Light	1-B Medium Mixed Light	2 Large Outdoor	2-A Large Indoor, Artificial Light	2-B Large 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
	I2	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.

\*\* Existing cultivation sites in the FL, TPZ and RL zoning districts are permitted subject to limitations of this section. Expansion of existing cultivation sites in the FL, TPZ and RL zoning districts is permitted, subject to the issuance of an Administrative Permit.

(C) An existing cultivation site located in a zoning district not listed in Table 1 of this section may continue subject to the requirements of Chapter 10A.17 and the following planning permit requirements for a Zoning Clearance, Administrative Permit or Minor Use Permit.

(1) Planning Permit Requirements:

- (a) Outdoor Cultivation (pursuant to a MCCO Type C Permit) not exceeding 2,500 square feet requires an approved Zoning Clearance.
- (b) Indoor Artificial Light Cultivation (pursuant to a MCCO Type C-A Permit) not exceeding 500 square feet requires an approved Administrative Permit.
- (c) Indoor Artificial Light Cultivation (pursuant to a MCCO Type C-A Permit) between 501 and 2,500 square feet requires an approved



Minor Use Permit.

- (d) Mixed Light Cultivation (pursuant to a MCCO Type C-B Permit) not exceeding 2,500 square feet requires an approved Zoning Clearance.
- (2) 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) An existing cultivation site, which qualifies for a MCCO permit, may continue within the FL (Forest Land), the TPZ (Timber Production Zone), or the RL (Rangeland) zoning districts not to exceed 2,500 square feet of cultivation with a Zoning Clearance, Administrative Permit or Minor Use Permit as listed in Table 1. The existing cultivation site may be expanded to a MCCO Outdoor or Mixed-Light permit type that allows up to 10,000 square feet of cultivation in conformance with all applicable MCCO requirements and conditions and with an approved Administrative Permit or Use Permit as listed in Table 1.
- (E) 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.

**Section 20.242.050 New Medical Cannabis Cultivation Sites Located in Industrial Zoning Districts**

Establishment of a new medical cannabis cultivation site in the I-1 (Light Industrial), I-2 (General Industrial), and Pinoleville Industrial (P-I) 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.

**Section 20.242.060 New Medical Cannabis Cultivation Sites**

- (A) Except as provided in Section 20.242.050, on or after January 1, 2020, new medical cannabis cultivation sites may only be permitted in accordance with this section.
- (B) All new medical cannabis cultivation sites shall be consistent with the General Limitations on Cultivation of Medicinal 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 Medical Cannabis Cultivation by Zoning District and Medical Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance Permit Type

MCCO Permit Type	C Small Outdoor	C-A Small Indoor, Artificial Light		C-B Small Mixed Light	1 Medium Outdoor	1-A Medium Indoor, Artificial Light	1-B Medium Mixed Light	2 Large Outdoor	2-A Large Indoor, Artificial Light	2-B Large 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

-- = 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.

- (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 50 feet or greater from an adjoining property under separate ownership or access easement, whichever is most restrictive and the location of the medical cannabis cultivation site continues to comply with the required setback from an occupied legal residential structure.

**Section 20.242.070 - Planning Approval Required to Cultivate Medical Cannabis**

- (A) Planning Approval Procedure. Each proposed medical cannabis cultivation site is subject to one 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 medical cannabis cultivation site is allowed in the 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 medical cannabis cultivation sites based on the following special findings.
  - (1) The medical 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 medical cannabis cultivation site will, to the maximum extent feasible, avoid or minimize its impact on environmentally sensitive areas including hillsides exceeding 15%, prime soil, oak woodland, and timber resources.
  - (3) The medical cannabis cultivation site will avoid or minimize odor and light impact on residential uses.
  - (4) For any new medical 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 medical cannabis cultivation site shall be limited to a period not to exceed 10 years. The Administrative Permit shall expire at the end of this period unless it is renewed prior to the end of 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

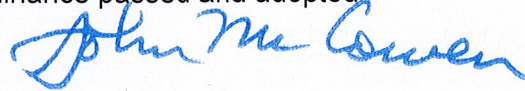
be developed, making this finding may require the identification of a primary and reserve leach field to be identified in order to issue the Administrative Permit.

- (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 medical cannabis cultivation site based on findings in Section 20.196.020 and the following special findings:
- (1) The proposed medical 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 medical cannabis cultivation site will, to the maximum extent feasible, avoid or minimize its impact on environmentally sensitive areas including hillsides exceed 15%, prime soil, oak woodland, and timber resources.
  - (3) The proposed medical cannabis cultivation site will avoid or minimize odor and light impact on residential uses.
  - (4) For any new medical 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 medical cannabis cultivation site shall be limited to a period not to exceed 10 years. The Administrative Permit shall expire at the end of this period unless it is renewed prior to the end of 10-year period, or at any time the approved MCCO permit for the cultivation site expires or is revoked.

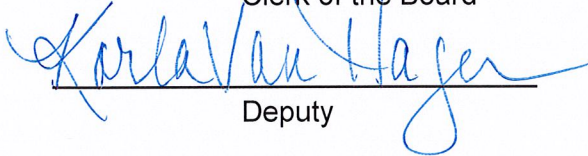
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, State of California, on this 4th day of April, 2017, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Brown, McCowen and Gjerde  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
RECUSED: Supervisor Hamburg

**WHEREUPON**, the Chair declared the Ordinance passed and adopted and **SO ORDERED**.



ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Clerk of the Board



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Deputy

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JOHN MCCOWEN, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

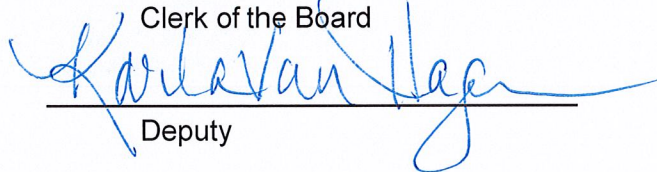
I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
KATHARINE L. ELLIOTT,  
County Counsel



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BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Clerk of the Board



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Deputy