UNDERSTANDING THE PROPOSED LOS ANGELES COUNTY Commercial Cannabis Regulatory Program

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSUMER & BUSINESS AFFAIRS
Serving Los Angeles County Since 1976

A comprehensive approach to a regulated market aimed at protecting our communities, supporting social equity, and ensuring safe and responsible licensed cannabis business operations in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This fact sheet outlines the County's proposed commercial cannabis regulatory program, highlighting its structure and how it addresses community concerns, while ensuring regulation and enforcement.

THE REGULATORY PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

Evaluates potential environmental impacts and identifies mitigation measures.

The EIR analyzes potential environmental effects of the proposed commercial cannabis regulatory program and identifies mitigation measures needed to address those impacts.

2 TITLE 22 (ZONING)

Identifies where cannabis businesses may be considered.

Title 22 defines where licensed cannabis businesses may potentially locate based on zoning and land-use compatibility requirements. It guarantees that licensed cannabis businesses are only allowed in suitable locations.

3 TITLE 8 (LICENSING)

Establishes how businesses are licensed, monitored, and held accountable.

Title 8 establishes who can operate, the number and types of licenses available, geographic distribution requirements, community protections, the County's enforcement authority, and authority to create a Social Equity Program.

4 REGULATIONS

Provides detailed implementation requirements consistent with policy direction in the ordinances.

Regulations outline detailed operational standards and administrative procedures essential for managing the program. These include application procedures, Social Equity Program requirements, and various compliance procedures.

A COMPLETE REGULATORY PROGRAM

Title 22, Title 8, and the Regulations, together with the EIR, each serve different purposes. Collectively, they form the County's comprehensive regulatory program, establishing where cannabis businesses may locate, how they are regulated, and how communities are protected.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS. COUNTY RESPONSE.

The proposed program was developed over several years of outreach, public meetings, workshops, environmental review, and policy discussions.

Many of the proposed policies and safeguards reflect feedback received from residents, community organizations, and stakeholders.

BUILT ON INPUT

Our program is built on community input and seeks to balance strong community protections with the needs of responsible cannabis businesses.

COMMUNITY CONCERN	PROGRAM RESPONSE
OVERCONCENTRATION Too many cannabis businesses could locate in the same neighborhoods.	**MULTIPLE LAYERS OF PROTECTION** Countywide license caps, Supervisorial District limits, additional Planning Area safeguards, distance buffer requirements, & storefront spacing regulations help reduce overconcentration.
YOUTH EXPOSURE Youth access to cannabis and exposure to businesses and advertising.	**STRONG YOUTH PROTECTIONS** Reasonable distance buffers from schools, parks, libraries, and other youth-oriented uses; age verification requirements; advertising and marketing restrictions; and delivery restrictions.
CRIME AND SECURITY Crime, theft, and impacts on public safety.	**SECURITY REQUIREMENTS** Licensed security personnel, security plans, surveillance cameras, lighting, and alarm systems help improve operational security and protect surrounding communities.
BAD OPERATORS Businesses may not follow the rules and lack of enforcement of bad operators.	**STRONG ENFORCEMENT TOOLS** Inspections and penalties ensure accountability by allowing the County to remove non-compliant businesses from the industry.
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACTS Odors, noise, traffic, and other quality of life impacts.	**OPERATING STANDARDS & OVERSIGHT** Operating requirements, security plans, and complaint processes ensure responsible business operations and addresses neighborhood impacts.
LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY Not having a voice or knowing who to contact.	**COMMUNITY LIAISON & TRANSPARENCY** Each storefront business must maintain a Community Liaison to respond to concerns and serve as a direct point of contact for the community.

MULTI-YEAR POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

2018-2026
Multi-year policy development and engagement

Engaged thousands of community members, advocacy groups, and industry stakeholders through various meetings and workshops across the County.

Community feedback shaped policy discussions on land use, safeguards, social equity, & implementation.

HOW OVERCONCENTRATION IS PREVENTED

Concerns about overconcentration were among the most frequently raised issues during outreach. In response, the County has built multiple layers of safeguards to ensure that cannabis businesses do not become concentrated in any one community.

BALANCING PROTECTION AND OPPORTUNITY

These complementary measures work together to provide access for qualified businesses while safeguarding our communities.

MULTIPLE LAYERS OF PROTECTION

1 COUNTYWIDE LICENSE CAPS
The total number of licenses available in unincorporated LA County is limited.

2 SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT CAPS
Each Supervisorial District has a cap on the number of Storefront and Delivery retail licenses allowed.

3 PLANNING AREA SAFEGUARDS
Additional limits within Planning Areas help prevent business clustering within a single community.

4 BUFFER REQUIREMENTS
600-foot minimum distance requirements between cannabis businesses and youth-oriented uses help limit youth exposure.

5 STOREFRONT SPACING REQUIREMENTS
500-foot minimum distances between storefront retailers in unincorporated areas *and* neighboring cities help reduce business clustering.

TOGETHER, THESE MEASURES SUPPORT A BALANCED AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES ACROSS THE COUNTY.

ONGOING MONITORING

The County will monitor the distribution of licensed cannabis businesses over time and may recommend adjustments as needed to ensure the program remains well-regulated and balanced.

COUNTYWIDE LICENSE CAPS (MAXIMUM LICENSES)

Storefront Retail	25
Delivery Retail	25
Cultivation	10
Manufacturing	10
Distribution	10
Testing	10

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT CAPS (For Storefront & Delivery)

Each Supervisorial District is limited to:

- **5** Storefront Retail Licenses
- **5** Delivery Retail Licenses

PLANNING AREA SAFEGUARDS

RETAIL & DELIVERY BUSINESSES
(Storefront & Delivery-Only)

NO MORE THAN 3 businesses within a Planning Area in each Supervisorial District segment.

NON-RETAIL BUSINESSES
(Cultivation, Manufacturing, Distribution, Testing)

NO MORE THAN 5 businesses of each license type within a Planning Area.

ACCOUNTABILITY, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT

The County is committed to fair and consistent enforcement that promotes public health and safety while supporting responsible, well-regulated cannabis businesses.

The proposed program includes strong accountability measures and enforcement tools to ensure compliant operations and protect our communities.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

COMMUNITY LIAISON

Each licensed storefront business must designate a Community Liaison to serve as a direct point of contact for the community.

INSPECTIONS

County and State officials conduct announced or unannounced inspections to verify compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations.

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

Businesses must maintain approved security plans, including personnel, cameras, lighting, alarms, and other measures to ensure public safety.

RESPONSIVE TO CONCERNS

The County takes complaints seriously and will investigate concerns regarding compliance, operations, and community impacts.

IF A BUSINESS VIOLATES TITLE 8 REQUIREMENTS

NOTICE TO CORRECT

Minor violations may result in a Notice to Correct, requiring the business to fix the issue within a specified time.

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

Violations may result in monetary penalties based on severity and nature of the violation.

LICENSE SUSPENSION

The County may suspend a license and order a business to cease operations if violations pose a threat to public health or safety.

LICENSE REVOCATION

The County may revoke a license for serious or repeated violations or failure to comply with applicable requirements.

LICENSED BUSINESS COMPLIANCE OVERSIGHT

The Office of Cannabis Management will oversee compliance with Title 8 through inspections, operational monitoring, and review of complaints.

UNLICENSED CANNABIS BUSINESSES

Unlicensed operations remain prohibited. The Sheriff's Department, along with other relevant agencies, is responsible for enforcement actions, which may involve investigations and legal remedies, as applicable.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

REGULATORY PROCESS & NEXT STEPS

The County has completed extensive outreach, environmental review, and draft ordinance development. The proposed commercial cannabis regulatory program will continue through the public review and decision-making process.

THE ROAD AHEAD

1

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT COMPLETED

Multiple rounds of community outreach and stakeholder engagement conducted over several years informed the development of the program.

2

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMPLETED

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been completed to evaluate potential environmental impacts and identify needed mitigation measures.

3

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

The proposed land use program under Title 22 and EIR will be presented to the Regional Planning Commission for review and considerations.

4

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDERATION

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings and consider adoption of Title 22, EIR, and Title 8 licensing ordinances.

5

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

If adopted, the County will implement the program and preparation for the application period.

6

LICENSING PROCESS LAUNCH

The application period will open and licenses will be issued in accordance with the County's adopted ordinances and regulations.

ONGOING COMMITMENT

The County remains committed to transparency, accountability, and community partnership as we move forward. We will continue to monitor the program, respond to emerging issues, and make adjustments as needed to ensure the long-term success of a safe, equitable, and effective commercial cannabis regulatory program.

- Protecting Communities
- Promoting Equity
- Ensuring Accountability
- Supporting Responsible Business

STAY INFORMED & GET INVOLVED

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Find the latest updates, ordinance documents, EIR materials, FAQs, and program information.

SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES

Sign up on our website to receive emails on program updates.

ATTEND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Opportunities will be provided to attend and provide comments during public hearings.

CONTACT US

We are here to answer your questions and provide information about the program.