

Types of Commercial Marijuana Licenses

Outdoor Commercial Cultivation (no use of artificial light)



License types based on size of grow operation:

Type 1 – up to 5,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises, or up to 50 mature plants on non-contiguous plots

Type 2 – between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy on one premises

Type 3 - between 10,001 square feet to 1 acre of total canopy size on one premises

Type 5 – greater than 1 acre of total canopy size on one premises (no state licenses to be issued prior to Jan.1, 2023)¹

Pro: Plants should be grown outdoors; much less energy usage than indoor grows; economic opportunity

Con: High potential for nuisance impacts (smell, crime, trespassing); high water usage; potential to increase costs of ag land; waste processing

Staff recommendation: Ban all outdoor cultivation in the unincorporated County

¹ Use of italics indicates it is a part of the Adult use of Marijuana Act, Proposition 64.

Indoor Cultivation (exclusive use of artificial light)



License types based on size of grow operation:

Type 1A – up to 5,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

Type 2A – between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy on one premises

Type 3A - between 10,001 square feet to 22,000 of total canopy size on one premises

Type 5A – greater than 22,000 of total canopy size on one premises (no state licenses to be issued prior to Jan.1, 2023)

Pro: Minimize nuisance impacts (smell, crime, trespassing); economic opportunity

Con: High energy usage; need to re-circulate or otherwise “clean” nutrient-rich water; waste processing

Staff recommendation: Allow with use permit, indoors, up to 10,000 sq. feet in Industrial and Manufacturing zones.

Mixed-Light Cultivation (combination of natural and supplemental lighting at a maximum threshold to be determined by the State)



License types based on size of grow operation:

Type 1B – up to 5,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

Type 2B – between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy on one premises

Type 3B - between 10,001 square feet to 22,000 of total canopy size on one premises

Type 5B – greater than 22,000 of total canopy size on one premises (no state licenses to be issued prior to Jan.1, 2023)

Pro: Economic opportunity; less energy use than indoor only

Con: High potential for nuisance impacts (smell, crime, trespassing); high water usage; potential to increase costs of ag land; waste processing; high energy usage; light pollution

Staff recommendation: Ban

Cultivation includes trimming, drying, and curing marijuana “buds”



Nursery



Type 4 – produces only clones, immature plants, seeds, and other agricultural products used specifically for the planting, propagation, and cultivation of medical marijuana. Can transport marijuana plants without a transporter license.

Because this type of cultivation primarily takes place indoors, it has the same impacts as indoor cultivation

Pro: Minimize nuisance impacts (smell, crime, trespassing); economic opportunity

Con: High energy usage; need to re-circulate or otherwise “clean” nutrient-rich water; waste processing

Staff Recommendation: Allow with use permit, indoors, up to 10,000 sq. feet in Industrial and Manufacturing zones.

Manufacturing



Type 6 – Manufacturing Level 1

Production of medical cannabis products using nonvolatile substances

Pro: Economic opportunity, potential for few neighborhood nuisance impacts while fostering small businesses

Con: Marijuana not a food or a drug and unknown what regulations state will impose; potential for nuisance impacts due to storage of raw and finished marijuana products; waste product issues

Staff recommendation: Allow with use permit in manufacturing and industrial zones

Type 7 – Manufacturing Level 2

Production of medical cannabis products using volatile substances. State will limit the number of these licenses. *Volatile solvents mean volatile organic compounds, including explosive gasses, such as Butane, Propane, Xylene, Styrene, Gasoline, Kerosene, O2 or H2, and dangerous poisons, toxins or carcinogens, such as Methanol, Iso-propyl Alcohol, Methylene Chloride, Acetone, Benzene, Toluene, and Tri-chloro-ethylene.*

Pro: Economic opportunity

Con: Potential for explosion/fire if not done correctly; potential for nuisance impacts due to storage of raw and finished marijuana products; waste product issues

Staff recommendation: Ban

Testing Laboratories



Type 8 – Testing of all commercial cannabis and cannabis products.

Pros: Potentially low-profile marijuana business with minimal nuisance impacts; economic opportunity

Cons: Some amount of traffic from transporters; potential for crime due to storage of small amounts of marijuana and marijuana products; waste issues

Staff recommendation: Allow with use permit in select zones

Distributors



Type 11 – Only entity that can distribute marijuana and marijuana products from manufacturers/cultivators to dispensaries. A distributor must also hold a transporter (Type 12) license.

Pro: Economic opportunity

Con: Potential target for crime, given the storage of large quantities of marijuana and marijuana products

Staff recommendation: Ban

Transporter



Type 12 – Transports cannabis and cannabis products between licensees. *No transporter licenses in Prop 64.*

Pro: Economic opportunity; good location with proximity to major road systems and population centers

Con: Potential for noise and traffic; potential that criminals would target

Staff recommendation: Ban

Microbusiness



***Type 12** - Cultivation of marijuana (indoors or outdoors) on an area less than 10,000 square feet, level 1 manufacturer, distributor and retailer. Can deliver marijuana to retail customers and on-site consumption may also be allowed. Allows for vertical integration for a marijuana business.*

Pro: Economic opportunity

Con: Potential for nuisance impacts (smell, crime, trespassing); requires operator to be knowledgeable about regulations across many different marijuana activities

Staff Recommendation: Ban