



SUTTER COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Building Inspection
Code Enforcement

Engineering/Water Resources
Environmental Health

Planning
Road Maintenance

Industrial Hemp Processing License

On April 13, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 1682 regulating the cultivation and processing of industrial hemp in unincorporated Sutter County. This ordinance became effective on May 13, 2021. This ordinance is in Chapter 412 of the County's Ordinance Code. This ordinance regulates the indoor and outdoor cultivation of industrial hemp and requires everyone in the unincorporated County to annually obtain a license for cultivation or processing of hemp.

If you are interested in the cultivation of industrial hemp, please contact the Sutter County Agricultural Department to discuss licensing requirements.

Key License Requirements

- Licenses for industrial hemp processing may only be issued on land zoned Agriculture (AG), Food Processing, Agricultural and Recreation Combining District (FPARC) or General Industrial (M-2). The processing of hemp is prohibited in all other zone districts.
- License applications shall be accompanied by a fee as adopted by the Board of Supervisors.
- Licensees shall be the deed holder of the land upon which hemp is to be processed or written consent shall be provided in a form acceptable to the Director of Development Services, from the deed holder granting permission for the processing of hemp on the specified parcel.
- Industrial hemp processing facilities shall comply with the following setback buffers:
 - 1,000 feet from any incorporated city limit line, church, childcare center, hospitals, parks, school, school evacuation site or youth-oriented facility (measured from the exterior boundary of the cultivation or processing area).
 - 500 feet from any offsite dwelling unit not owned by the licensee.
- Any structure(s) containing facilities used for the processing of hemp shall have all permits required under State law and Sutter County Code.
- Each license issued shall expire one year from the date of issuance.
- Once a license is issued under this chapter and continuously renewed and maintained in compliance with this chapter, any new development of residential dwellings, sensitive receptors, or newly established zones that would otherwise prevent a processing facility from complying with the requirements of Section 412-070 shall not affect the current licensee. This provision shall not apply to changes in jurisdictional boundaries of incorporated cities.