



OFFICE OF THE
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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Industrial Hemp Cultivation 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 becomes 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 processing of industrial hemp, please contact the Sutter County Development Services Department to discuss processing requirements.

Key Ordinance Requirements

- An industrial hemp cultivation license may only be issued on land zoned Agriculture (AG), Food Processing, Agricultural and Recreation Combining District (FPARC) or General Industrial (M-2). The cultivation of hemp is prohibited in all other zone districts.
- Industrial hemp cultivation license applications shall be accompanied by a fee as adopted by the Board of Supervisors.
- An applicant for an industrial hemp cultivation license shall be the deed holder of the land upon which hemp is to be cultivated or provide written consent in a form acceptable to the Agricultural Commissioner, from the deed holder granting permission for the cultivation of hemp on the specified parcel.
- Industrial hemp cultivation 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.
- Industrial hemp cultivation license applications shall be accompanied by a bond or other form of security approved by the Agricultural Commissioner in the amount of 100% of the estimated cost to abate a crop of hemp that does not meet requirements for legal harvest under applicable laws and regulations.
- Each license issued shall expire one year from the date of its issuance.
- All parcels used for industrial hemp cultivation shall comply with onsite signage standards. Signs shall be minimum 4 feet wide by 4 feet tall and placed at points of entry and along borders with rights of way.
- 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.