

Draft EIR Meeting for Trinity County Cannabis Program

June 2019

Discussion Points

- Provide an overview of the proposed Cannabis Program and its environmental review process
- Summary of Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Receive comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR
- **No consideration or action on the Cannabis Program will occur at today's meeting.**

Environmental Consultant Overview

Ascent Environmental is under contract to the County for the preparation of the Cannabis Program EIR.

- Ascent's project team includes technical experts in the areas of air quality, biological and natural resources, greenhouse gases, watersheds, noise, and other related environmental issue areas
- Cannabis environmental review experience includes projects in Calaveras County, Humboldt County, and Yolo County
- Focus of work is independent evaluation of environmental impacts consistent with the requirements of state law (CEQA).

Overview of Cannabis Program

- County Cannabis Program is based on re-adoption and amendment of the following ordinances:
 - Cultivation (Ordinance 315-823, -829, -830, -841, and -843)
 - Testing (Ordinance 315-824)
 - Nurseries (Ordinance 315-826 and -827)
 - Distribution (Ordinance 315-828 and -834)
 - Non-storefront retail (Ordinance 315-835)
 - Microbusiness (Ordinance 315-837)
 - Manufacturing (Ordinance 315-838 and -842)

What is CEQA?

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Public disclosure process
- Public participation is essential
- Avoid or mitigate for environmental impacts
- Certification of EIR does not indicate approval of project

What is an EIR?

- An informational document
 - Discloses information about the effects a proposed project could have on the environment
 - Identifies mitigation measures
 - Describes feasible alternatives to the proposed project
 - Provides opportunity for public comment
- Must be certified prior to project approval

What is an EIR? (cont.)

What an EIR Does...

- Analyzes the environmental effects of the Cannabis Program
- Discloses information about the effects a project could have on the environment
- Identifies mitigation measures
- Describes feasible alternatives to the proposed project
- Solicits agency and public input throughout process

What is an EIR? (cont.)

What an EIR Does not Do...

- Does not require mitigation for existing environmental conditions
- Does not advocate for the project under evaluation
- Does not require project denial due to significant environmental impacts
- Does not address economic and social issues (e.g., property values)

Draft EIR Focus

- The EIR being considered analyzes the environmental impacts of the County's Cannabis Program
- The EIR is a “programmatic” document that can provide environmental streamlining for environmental review of subsequent applications for local and state licensing
- Individual license applications may not always be able to “tier” off the EIR; they may require additional “site specific” level review
- The state cannabis agencies may require review of site-specific impacts as part of their licensing review

Environmental Impact Report

Discussion Topics

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise and Vibration
- Public Services/Utilities
- Traffic and Circulation
- Wildfire
- Cumulative Impacts

Impact Analysis Overview

- Baseline condition of the Cannabis Program impact includes operation and relicensing of existing approved cannabis uses (286 operations as of December 2018)
- EIR acknowledges the known extent and environmental impacts of illegal cannabis cultivation in the County as part of the baseline conditions
- EIR analysis acknowledges and uses state cannabis regulations that include CalCannabis and the State Water Resources Control Board Cannabis Policy Order WQ 2019-0023-DWQ
- EIR impact analysis focuses on environmental impacts to the County and region.

Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

- Construction air quality impacts (Impact 3.3-1)
- Operational air quality impacts (Impact 3.3-2)
- Exposure to odors (Impact 3.3-3)
- Traffic noise (Impact 3.12-3)
- Highway traffic operational impacts (Impact 3.14-2)
- Public water system impacts (Impact 3.15-2)
- Cumulative Impacts

Alternatives Considered in the Draft EIR

- **Alternative 1: No Project***
 - existing program
- **Alternative 2: Limitation for Commercial Cannabis Sites**
 - uses restricted to disturbed sites and prohibit new cultivation in designated Cannabis Priority Watersheds
- **Alternative 3: Restricted Commercial Cannabis Cultivation**
 - reduce total number of cultivation licenses allowed
- **Alternative 4: Reduced Commercial Cannabis Operation**
 - uses restricted to disturbed sites and prohibit new cultivation in designated Cannabis Priority Watersheds
 - new cultivation required to be operated within an enclosed building

*Note: a ban on Commercial Cannabis was not considered

Providing Written Comments on the Draft EIR

- **Direct Written Comments to:**

Trinity County Department of Transportation
Attn: David Colbeck, Environmental Compliance Specialist
P.O. Box 2490
31301 State Highway 3
Weaverville, CA 96093
Or e-mail to: dcolbeck@trinitycounty.org

- **Draft EIR comment period ends on Friday July 12, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

Written Comments on the Draft EIR

- Written comments assure accuracy for analysis and inclusion in the Final EIR
- Comments should be about environmental topics
- A commenter may submit multiple comments
- Comments may be anonymous
- Final EIR responds to all environmental comments received

CEQA Schedule

Notice of Preparation (NOP) Circulated	December 21, 2018
Scoping Meeting	January 16, 2019
NOP Review Ended	January 21, 2019
Draft EIR Released	May 29, 2019
Draft EIR Review Ends	July 12, 2019
Final EIR Released	July/August 2019

CEQA Actions

- Planning Commission
 - Action: Recommend or do not recommend EIR certification. May include revisions.
- Board of Supervisors
 - Action: Certify or do not certify. May include revisions

Actions on the Cannabis Program

After Certification of the Final EIR...

The Cannabis Program ordinance process:

- Planning Commission review and may recommend for approval, modifications to the Cannabis Program for approval, or denial to the Board of Supervisors
- Board of Supervisors vote to adopt the recommendations of Planning Commission, further modify the Cannabis Program for adoption, or denial
- 30-day waiting period after 2nd reading
- Cannabis Program takes effect if adopted

Thank You!