

Cultivation Caps & Eligibility Lists

Information on Cultivation Caps

The County has established two separate caps on cannabis cultivation, nurseries and microbusinesses with cultivation as follows: 1) covers the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District (as defined in Ordinance 4529) and is 186 acres, 2) covers the entire unincorporated areas of the County outside the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District and is 1,575 acres (Santa Barbara County Code Section 50-7). These caps are administered through the County Executive Office's cannabis division and are based on cannabis business licensing. The County has established two eligibility lists from which cannabis business licenses subject to the caps will be issued. There is one eligibility list per cap as follows: 1) Eligible Business Applicants List: Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay, and 2) Eligible Business Applicants List: Unincorporated.

Eligibility List Requirements

For a commercial cannabis operator to be placed on the Eligibility List the operator must: 1) have an approved land use entitlement, and 2) submit a complete cannabis business license application that has been accepted by the County Executive Office, and 3) pay all required cannabis business licensing fees/deposits. Any operator who has already been issued a cannabis business license prior to the establishment of the cap will automatically be placed on the appropriate eligibility list. Once a commercial cannabis operator is on the Eligibility List their spot is nontransferable and the operator will be required to annually renew their interest in remaining on the List using the process outlined by the County Executive Office.

Definition of a Complete Business License Application:

Applicants that have submitted a Cannabis Business License Application must also submit a required deposit fee of \$3,250 before County staff will commence their review and processing of the Application. Submitted Applications are first subject to a review by the County Executive Office's Business License Review Coordinator (Business License Review Coordinator) to determine completeness. The Business License Review Coordinator shall review each application to ensure that the application sufficiently meets the requirements set forth in the Cannabis Business License Ordinance (County Code – Chapter 50). Based on the license type that is being applied for, the Business License Review Coordinator shall ensure that all required information and/or documentation is submitted as part of the Application. The Business License Review Coordinator shall identify and provide findings to the applicant (or agent, if applicable) on the following: 1) required information or supporting documentation that was not initially provided as part of the application, and 2) inadequate information or supporting documentation that was initially provided as part of the application and that requires clarification or revisions to the materials that were submitted. After the applicant (or agent) has adequately addressed all findings identified by the Business License Review Coordinator, the Business License Review Coordinator shall deem the application complete. Please note: due to the concurrent processing of a Land Use Entitlement and Business License Application, information or supporting documentation that is submitted as part of the Business License Application may require revision based on Planning & Development Department's approved and issued permit project description. Please be advised that additional charges may be incurred as a result of concurrent processing and the need for staff to perform any additional review, if applicable.