

**ORDINANCE NO. 1188**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING PROVISIONS OF THE COACHELLA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING INTERIM OUTDOOR COMMERCIAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION IN THE CITY'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. CITY-INITIATED.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the authority granted to the City of Coachella ("City") by Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution, the City has the police power to regulate the use of land and property within the City in a manner designed to promote public convenience and general prosperity, as well as public health, welfare, and safety; and,

**WHEREAS**, adoption and enforcement of comprehensive zoning regulations and business license regulations lies within the City's police power; and,

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2016, California voters passed Proposition 64, the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act ("AUMA"), legalizing the use and possession of cannabis and cannabis products by adults aged 21 years and older; and,

**WHEREAS**, on June 27, 2017, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 94, which created a single regulatory scheme for both medicinal and non-medicinal cannabis known as the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act ("MAUCRSA"); and,

**WHEREAS**, MAUCRSA allows local jurisdictions to allow or prohibit the various commercial cannabis activities which are allowed by the State, including outdoor cannabis cultivation; and,

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 2021 the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council adopt Ordinance 1171 to establish interim outdoor cannabis cultivation by amending Title 17 (Zoning), Chapters 17.10, 17.12, 17.14, and 17.85 to (i) allow outdoor commercial cultivation in certain City zones and subject to certain property development standards, and (ii) comply with current City policies and State law; and,

**WHEREAS**, on August 25, 2021 the City Council adopted Ordinance 1171 establishing regulations for interim outdoor cannabis cultivation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Ordinance 1188 would amend the City's interim outdoor cannabis cultivation regulations by amending Title 17 (Zoning), Chapter 17.85 to lift the 2 acre maximum canopy for a site for interim outdoor cannabis cultivation, require City staff to notify outdoor cannabis cultivators of the need to renew expiring Conditional Use Permits, and would amend Title 5 (Business License and Regulations), Chapter 5.68, to allow limited, low intensity outdoor lighting for cultivation purposes during winter months; and .

**WHEREAS**, the subject Municipal Code Amendment is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15061(b)(3). The activity is not subject to CEQA because it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment; the activity is not a project as defined in

Section 15378 of the California Public Resources Code, and the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant impact on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella (“Planning Commission”) conducted a properly noticed public hearing on October 20, 2021 at which members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment upon this Ordinance, the recommendations of staff, and other public testimony; and,

**WHEREAS**, after said public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council approve this Ordinance.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council conducted a properly noticed public hearing on November 10, 2021 at which members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on this Ordinance, the recommendations of staff, and other public testimony.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Incorporation of Recitals.** The City Council of the City of Coachella, California, hereby finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein as substantive findings of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 2. Zoning Ordinance Amendment Findings**

With respect to Zoning Ordinance Amendment (ZOA 21-04), the Planning Commission finds as follows for the proposed ordinance:

The Zoning Ordinance Amendment is consistent with the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures of the Coachella General Plan 2035. The ordinance supports General Plan Policy 12.3 recognizing and maintaining agriculture and related uses as a key component of the City’s long-term development strategy. The proposed ordinance also support Policy 5.9 by supporting the right of existing farms to continue operations.

**SECTION 3. Amendment to the Coachella Municipal Code.** Section 17.85.050 *Commercial cannabis activity—Permitted locations and standards* of Chapter 17.85 *Commercial Cannabis Activity* is hereby amended to include the underlined text as follows and delete text in strike-out:

**17.85.050 - Commercial cannabis activity—Permitted locations and standards.**

A. Indoor commercial cultivation, manufacturing, testing laboratory, and distribution activities.

1. Location. Permitted uses be located in any wrecking yard zone (M-W) or manufacturing service - industrial park overlay zone (IP) in the city, upon issuance of a CUP and a regulatory permit.

2. Property development standards.

(a) In M-W zone – Permitted uses should be restricted to a site having a minimum of five (5) acres in size, with a minimum paved street frontage of two hundred fifty (250) feet. Permitted uses may not be established in the M-W zone on a multi-tenant industrial park or business park site existing on the effective date of this ordinance. A CUP to develop a new stand-alone commercial cannabis activity facility or a multi-tenant facility within a minimum site area of five acres may be pursued.

(b) In MS-IP Overlay zone – Permitted uses should be restricted to sites having a minimum project area of ten (10) acres and a minimum lot size or grouping of lots of at least five (5) acres.

3. Indoor only. All uses shall be conducted only in the interior of enclosed structures, facilities, and buildings. All indoor cultivation operations, including all cannabis plants, at any stage of growth, shall not be visible from the exterior of any structure, facility or building containing cultivation. All indoor cultivation, manufacturing, testing and processing must take place indoors, within a permanent structure that is enclosed on all sides. Outdoor manufacturing, testing, and processing are prohibited. Portable greenhouses and/or non-permanent enclosures shall not be used for cultivation unless they are placed inside of a permanent structure that is enclosed on all sides.

4. Odor control. Uses shall not result in the creation of any odors detectable from anywhere off the property boundaries. The use of carbon filtration systems and other mitigation measures shall be used on all commercial cannabis activities that cause such odors.

B. Interim outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation.

1. Location. Interim outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation be located in any agricultural reserve (A-R) zone, agricultural transition (A-T) zone, residential single-family (R-S) zone, multiple-family residential (R-M) zone, and general commercial (C-G) zone that is located within the geographic area bounded by Vista Del Sur on the north, the All-American Canal on the east, Avenue 52 on the south, and the 86 Expressway on the west, upon issuance of a CUP and a regulatory permit.

2. Property development standards. All interim outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation sites:

(a) shall be located on a site having a minimum of one (1) acre in size.

b) ~~shall have a~~ The maximum canopy size ~~equal to the lesser of two (2) acres or~~ shall be the maximum size authorized by the State license for that business.

(c) shall provide a minimum twenty-foot (20 ft.) setback on all sides with an opaque fencing material, subject to review and approval by the Planning Director, to screen the outdoor grow areas from view to public streets.

3. Distance Restrictions. No interim outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation shall be located within:

(a) five hundred (500) feet of another interim outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation use.

(b) one thousand (1,000) feet of any public or private school (K-12), day care center or youth center. The distance shall be measured from the nearest point between the property line containing the interim outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation use to any lot line of the other use. “Day care center” means any child day care facility other than a family day care home, and includes infant centers, preschools, extended day care facilities and school age child care centers. “Youth center” means any public or private facility that is primarily used to house recreational or social activities for minors, including, but not limited to, private youth membership organizations or clubs, social service teenage club facilities, video arcades, or similar amusement park facilities.

C. Indoor commercial cannabis activity must be served by municipal water and sewer services. Interim outdoor cannabis cultivation uses need only be served by a private water well or municipal water.

D. Commercial cannabis activity shall be located a minimum distance of six hundred (600) feet away from any residentially-zoned lot. The distance shall be measured at the nearest point between property lines containing the commercial cannabis use and any lot line of the residential use.

E. Testing laboratories may be located in the general commercial (C-G) zone in addition to the M-W zone and IP overlay zone with a CUP, but are not required to meet the two hundred fifty-foot paved street frontage requirement in subsections (A)(2)(a) and (A)(2)(b) of this section.”

**SECTION 4. Amendment to Coachella Municipal Code.** Section 5.68.130 *Operating standards* of Chapter 5.68 *Commercial Cannabis Activity Regulatory Permit* of the Coachella Municipal Code is hereby amended to add underlined text and delete stricken text as follows:

**“5.68.130 - Operating standards.**

.....

B. Interim Outdoor Cultivation. Cannabis plants shall not be easily visible from offsite. All interim outdoor commercial cultivation sites should have a minimum twenty-foot (20 ft.) setback with an opaque fencing material to screen the outdoor cannabis grow areas from view to the public streets. All interim outdoor commercial cultivation activities shall occur within a secure fence at least six (6) feet in height that fully encloses the cultivation area(s) and prevents access to the cultivation area(s). The fence must include a lockable gate(s) that is locked at all times, except for during times of active ingress and egress. Outdoor lighting shall be used for the purpose of illumination only. Low intensity outdoor lighting ~~shall not be located within the~~ may be permitted in the canopy area, used for photosynthesis, mixed-light processes, other purposes intended to manipulate cannabis plant growth during the months of November through February for two hours before sunrise and two hours after sunset. ~~All other~~ temporary lighting, whether powered by a portable generator or permitted electrical service, is prohibited.

**SECTION 5. Amendment to the Coachella Municipal Code.** Section 17.85.040 *Conditional use permit or development agreement required* of Chapter 17.85 *Commercial Cannabis Activity* is hereby amended to include the underlined text as follows:

**“17.85.040 - Conditional use permit or development agreement required.**

Prior to initiating operations and as a continuing requisite to operating a commercial cannabis activity, the applicant shall obtain a validly issued CUP as provided in Chapter 17.74 entitled “Conditional Uses” of this municipal code or enter into a fully executed development agreement agreed to by the city council. If any provision of this chapter conflicts with any provision of Chapter 17.74 of this code, the provision in this chapter shall control. An applicant must obtain a separate CUP for each commercial cannabis activity the applicant wishes to operate. Separate CUPs may be issued for indoor cannabis cultivation versus interim outdoor cannabis cultivation. Each CUP will include a condition of approval requiring that the permittee also obtain and maintain an indoor cultivation, interim outdoor cultivation, manufacture, distribution, non-retail microbusiness, or testing laboratory regulatory permit required by this code. Each CUP for interim outdoor cultivation may include a condition of approval that limits outdoor cultivation activities to a specified duration not to exceed the sooner of forty eight (48) months, or the first phase of construction establishing a new residential or commercial use. If the condition is accepted by the applicant, the City may thereafter record a covenant memorializing this restriction against the property, which shall include a reference to the approved CUP. The City Manager or his/her designee shall make efforts to notify the permittee a year prior to CUP expiration of the need to renew the CUP.

**SECTION 6. CEQA.** The City Council finds that this Ordinance is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonable foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

**SECTION 7. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

**SECTION 8. Severability.** If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance, or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase be declared unconstitutional.

**SECTION 9. Certification.** The City Clerk shall certify the passage of this Ordinance and shall cause the same to be entered in the book of original ordinances of said City; shall make a minute passage and adoption thereof in the records of the meeting at which time the same is passed and adopted; and shall, within fifteen (15) days after the passage and adoption thereof,

cause the same to be published as required by law, in a local newspaper of general circulation and which is hereby designated for that purpose.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

---

Steven A. Hernandez  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

---

Angela M. Zepeda  
City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

---

Carlos Campos  
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA            )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE        ) ss.  
CITY OF COACHELLA            )

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing Ordinance No. 1188 was duly and regularly introduced at a meeting of the City Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021, and that thereafter the said ordinance was duly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

---

Andrea J. Carranza, MMC  
Deputy City Clerk