

FINDINGS

I. PROPOSAL

This is a legislative text amendment to Deschutes County Code (DCC), Title 18, County Zoning. The changes are as follows:

- DCC 18.116.330(D)(1): Adds text to state “**An annual report is required unless the approved applicant has (a) secured a license from the OLCC; (b) operated through at least one growing season, and (c) obtained a passing inspection from the Community Development Department. Thereafter, mandated annual reporting is not applicable unless the license is modified, in which case annual reporting is required until (a), (b), and (c) are once again satisfied.** An annual report shall be submitted to the Community Development Department...” (new text indicated in bold type).

II. REVIEW CRITERIA

Deschutes County lacks specific criteria in DCC Titles 18, 22, or 23 for reviewing a legislative plan amendment. Nonetheless, since Deschutes County is initiating one, the County bears the responsibility for justifying that the amendments are consistent with Statewide Planning Goals and its existing Comprehensive Plan.

A. Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines

Goal 1: Citizen Involvement: The amendments do not propose to change the structure of the County’s citizen involvement program. Notice of the proposed amendments were provided to the *Bulletin* for the Board public hearing.

Goal 2: Land Use Planning: This goal is met because ORS 197.610 allows local governments to initiate post acknowledgments plan amendments (PAPA). An Oregon Land Conservation and Development Department 35-day notice was initiated on June 9, 2021. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 22, 2021 and the Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on August 25, 2021. The Findings document provides the adequate factual basis for the amendments.

Goal 3: Agricultural Lands: The proposed amendments do not make changes regarding marijuana’s status as a farm crop, or the appropriate location of commercial grow sites and processing operations, and therefore continue to support Statewide Goal 3, to preserve and maintain agricultural lands. The proposed amendments to the County Code are consistent with these provisions of state law and are therefore consistent with Goal 3.

Goal 4: Forest Lands: The proposed text amendments do not propose to change the County’s Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 4, and therefore are in compliance.

Goal 5: Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources: Complies because the text amendment does not propose to change the County’s Plan policies or implementing regulations for Goal 5 open spaces, scenic and historic areas, and natural resources.

Goal 6: Air, Water and Land Resources Quality: The proposed text amendments do not propose to change the County’s Plan policies or implementing regulations for compliance with Goal 6, and therefore are in compliance.

Goal 7: Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards: The proposed text amendments do not propose to change the County's Plan or implementing regulations regarding natural disasters and hazards; therefore, they are in compliance.

Goal 8: Recreational Needs: Complies because the text amendment does not propose to change the County's Plan or implementing regulations regarding recreational needs.

Goal 9: Economy of the State: Goal 9 and its implementing regulations focus on economic analysis and economic development planning required in urban Comprehensive Plans. The proposed amendments apply to rural lands but do not propose to amend the Comprehensive Plan. Nevertheless, changing the reporting requirements will not have a direct effect on the economy of the state.

Goal 10: Housing: This goal is not applicable because, unlike municipalities, unincorporated areas are not obligated to fulfill certain housing requirements.

Goal 11: Public Facilities and Services: Complies because the text amendments do not propose to change the County's Plan or implementing regulations regarding public facilities and services.

Goal 12: Transportation: The proposed text amendments do not propose to change the County's Plan or implementing regulations regarding the Transportation System Plan; therefore, they are in compliance.

Goal 13: Energy Conservation: Complies because the text amendments do not propose to change the County's Plan or implementing regulations regarding energy conservation.

Goal 14: Urbanization: Complies because the text amendments do not propose to change the County's Plan or implementing regulations regarding urbanization.

Goals 15 through 19 are not applicable to the proposed text amendments because the County does not contain these types of lands.

D. Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 1, Comprehensive Planning: This chapter sets the Goals and Policies of how the County will involve the community and conduct land use planning. As described above, the proposed regulations will be discussed at work sessions with the Board of County Commissioners, as well as to the Planning Commission, which is the County's official committee for public involvement. Both will conduct separate public hearings.

These actions also satisfy the Goals and relevant Policies of Section 1.3, Land Use Planning Policies. Goal 1 of this section is to "maintain an open and public land use process in which decisions are based on the objective evaluation of facts." Staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board reviewed the text amendments.

Chapter 2, Resource Management: This chapter sets the Goals and Policies of how the County will protect resource lands, including but not limited to, Agriculture and Forest as well as Water Resources and Environmental Quality.

Section 2.2, Agricultural Lands Policies, states that Goal 1 is to "preserve and maintain agricultural lands and the agricultural industry." Changing annual reporting requirements for existing marijuana production and processing businesses will not have a direct effect on the agricultural lands they may operate on.

Goal 2 promotes a diversified, sustainable, revenue-generating agricultural sector. Policy 2.2.10 calls for the promotion of economically viable opportunities and practices while Policy 2.2.11 encourages small farming enterprises including but not limited to, niche markets and organic farming and valued-added projects. The proposed text amendments do not change existing marijuana businesses' ability to operate as a revenue generating agricultural businesses.

Goal 3 specifies the Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) policies, classifications, and codes are consistent with local and emerging agricultural conditions and markets. As noted above, the proposed amendments only impact reporting aspects of marijuana recreational production and processing businesses, not agricultural conditions and markets.