



THE TOWN OF
CORTE MADERA
MARIN COUNTY CALIFORNIA

TOWN OF CORTE MADERA PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

August 9, 2018

REPORT ON MEASURES TAKEN TO ALLEVIATE THE CONDITIONS THAT LED TO THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 971

On October 17, 2017 staff provided a report to the Town Council describing the measures taken to alleviate the conditions that led to the adoption of the Ordinance No. 971, adopted September 19, 2017. Also on October 17, 2017, the Council extended the temporary prohibition on medical and non-medical cannabis-related businesses in Corte Madera until September 18, 2018. This is a follow up report describing the additional measures Town staff has taken since October 17, 2017 to alleviate the conditions that led to the adoption of Ord. No. 971.

The purpose of Ordinance No. 971 was to allow Town staff, the Planning Commission, and the Town Council, a reasonable amount of time to analyze, consider, and adopt through the required public process with appropriate community outreach and engagement – new policies and regulations applicable to medical and nonmedical cannabis-related businesses.

Since the adoption of Ordinance No. 971, staff has gathered additional information regarding the types of cannabis-related businesses that could be licensed by the State; discussed mobile delivery business models with industry representatives; attended seminars related to regulatory best practices for cannabis-related businesses; and met with local planning staff from other jurisdictions to understand regional regulatory responses and other jurisdiction's policy directions.

In the last several months staff has also hired a consultant to provide project management services in coordination with Planning Department Staff. Staff has also developed a public survey that will be available via the Town's website to get a sense of the community opinions and concerns about cannabis. Finally, staff has developed a schedule of public workshops this fall to gather opinions and answer questions the community has regarding cannabis regulations, cannabis use and cannabis businesses. The public workshops will be followed by public hearings before the Planning Commission and the Town Council to discuss and potentially adopt permanent cannabis regulations for the Town. The goal is to have an ordinance adopted by the end of 2018 or early in 2019.

These actions described above were necessary first steps to alleviate the conditions leading to the adoption of the interim urgency ordinance. However, do to the current workload and Town priorities staff still needs additional time to complete the lengthy process of analyzing, considering, and adopting appropriate regulations to govern this new industry. Therefore, a one year extension of the urgency ordinance will be considered by the Town Council at the August 21, 2018 Town Council meeting.

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