

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 20, 2016

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April 26 Public Hearing to Extend Interim Marijuana Regulations

The public is invited to comment on the proposed extension of the County's interim regulations.

OLYMPIA – The Thurston Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 26th at 5:30 p.m. to accept public testimony on a proposal to extend the County's interim zoning regulations for state-licensed marijuana producers, processors and retailers.

The County's interim marijuana zoning regulations that are set to expire on May 10, 2016. County staff has recommended that the county's current interim regulations as amended be extended by six months so that staff can develop and refine a proposal for permanent marijuana zoning regulations that is consistent with any state laws.

County commissioners may choose to approve the Interim Ordinance, as amended, at the end of the April 26th public hearing, or they may request that staff make changes to the proposal following the public hearing.

For more detailed information about the proposal to extend the interim regulations, and to view the full text of the proposed ordinance, go to www.ThurstonPlanning.org and click on the link for the April 26th, Board of County Commissioners hearing under the "News and Links" section.

Public Hearing Details

WHAT: Public Hearing on Six-Month Extension of Interim Marijuana Regulations

WHEN: Tuesday April 26, 2016 at 5:30 p.m., or soon thereafter

WHERE: County Courthouse Building One, Room 280 at 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW in Olympia, 98502

Public Comment: The public is invited to participate in an informed discussion, and testimony will be accepted at the April 26th hearing.

Written Comments: May be submitted in lieu of testimony at the hearing. The deadline for *written* comments is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26th. Written comments can be emailed to Kraig Chalem, Associate Planner, at chalemk@co.thurston.wa.us, or mailed to:

- Thurston County Resource Stewardship Department
Land Use and Permitting, ATTN: Kraig Chalem

2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502

Background

Washington State licenses marijuana producers, processors, and retailers under RCW 69.50. The state began to take applications for licenses on November 18, 2013. Thurston County did not have regulations governing such uses in its zoning regulations, and therefore passed Ordinance No. 14978 enacting interim regulations until final regulations could be considered and recommended to the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners by the Thurston County Planning Commission. State law allows for the interim regulations to be extended up to six months, and requires a public hearing be held for a proposed extension.

The interim regulations amended the Thurston County Code to add Chapter 20.63 for the rural county, Chapter 21.103 for the unincorporated Lacey Urban Growth Area, Chapter 22.65 for the Tumwater Urban Growth Area, and Chapter 23.91 for the unincorporated Olympia Urban Growth Area.

In summary, the interim ordinance will renew the provisions of Ordinance No. 15210, which increased notification requirements, created minimum lot sizes for producers and processors; and added new buildings associated with marijuana operations over 8,000 square feet to Chapter 17.09 TCC, requiring a review under the State Environmental Policy Act. In addition, the interim regulations restricted marijuana producers from residential zoning districts throughout unincorporated Thurston County. Production and processing are permitted in most zones that permit either agricultural uses or industrial uses, and retailing is permitted in most commercial zones.