

ORDINANCE NO. Introduction (CM)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WATSONVILLE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 14-16
(DISTRICT REGULATIONS) OF TITLE 14 (ZONING) OF THE
WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE CULTIVATION,
MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, TESTING, DELIVERY AND RETAIL
SALES OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, the revisions to Chapter 14-16 (District Regulations) and 14-53 (Cannabis Facilities) will provide more visibility, more location options, more streamlined permitting for cannabis business owners, and more tax revenue for the City while still providing a comprehensive regulatory program for all types of cannabis businesses in Watsonville; and

WHEREAS, the revisions to Chapter 14-16 (District Regulations) and 14-53 (Cannabis Facilities) were developed with input from the City Council, local cannabis business owners, the prevention community, and the Watsonville Police Department with the goal of balancing the welfare of youth in the community with the challenging business environment for the cannabis industry; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to enact an ordinance updating Chapter 14-16 (District Regulations and 14-53 (Cannabis Facilities) regulating cannabis facilities and cultivation so Watsonville residents may have safe and convenient access to cannabis while also ensuring that such uses do not conflict with the General Plan, are not incompatible with surrounding uses, and are not detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2024, the Planning Commission of the City of Watsonville considered the proposed Ordinance and voted 7-0 to adopt Resolution No. 06-24 recommending the City Council adopt amendments to WMC Chapter 14-16 (District Regulations) and Chapter 14-53 (Cannabis Facilities); and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the Ordinance, held a public hearing thereon, and found the request to be consistent with the Findings required for a zoning text amendment pursuant to Section 14-12.807 of the Watsonville Municipal Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The above recitals are hereby declared to be true and correct findings of the City Council of the City of Watsonville.

SECTION 2. ENACTMENT.

Part 12: CT-Thoroughfare Commercial District of Chapter 14-16 (District Regulations) of Title 14 (Zoning) of the Watsonville Municipal Code is hereby amended by amending subsection (b) of Section 14-16.1203 (Conditional Uses) to add the following use requiring a Special Use Permit to read in words and figures as follows:

**Chapter 14-16
DISTRICT REGULATIONS**

Part 12: CT – Thoroughfare Commercial District

14-16.1203 Conditional uses.

(b) The following uses require a Special Use Permit:

GLU	
50	Retail cannabis facility (Type 10 license only)

All other words and figures in Section 14-16.1203(b) shall remain unchanged.

Part 13: CN-Neighborhood Commercial District of Chapter 14-16 (District Regulations) of Title 14 (Zoning) of the Watsonville Municipal Code is hereby amended

by amending subsection (b) of Section 14-16.1303 (Conditional Uses) to add the following use requiring a Special Use Permit to read in words and figures as follows:

Part 13: CN – Neighborhood Commercial District

14-16.1303 Conditional Uses

(b) The following uses require a Special Use Permit:

GLU	
50	Retail cannabis facility (Type 10 license only)

All other words and figures in Section 14-16.1303(b) shall remain unchanged.

Part 14: CNS-Neighborhood Shopping Center District of Chapter 14-16 (District Regulations) of Title 14 (Zoning) of the Watsonville Municipal Code is hereby amended by amending subsection (b) of Section 14-16.1403 (Conditional Uses) to add the following use requiring a Special Use Permit to read in words and figures as follows:

Part 14: CNS – Neighborhood Shopping Center District

14-16.1403 Conditional Uses

(b) The following uses require a Special Use Permit:

DLU 50 Retail cannabis facility (Type
10 license only)

All other words and figures in Section 14-16.1403(b) shall remain unchanged.

SECTION 3. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.

The provisions of this ordinance are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3). This section

is the "common sense exemption" that states that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. If the Lead Agency can determine with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Pursuant to this section, the proposed amendments and adjustments fit within the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, because the proposed amendments and adjustments would primarily revise administrative processes relating to cannabis operator permits and renewal of those permits and minor regulatory amendments to the operation of cannabis businesses and would therefore not have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed amendments would also not have a significant effect on the environment because they are allowing commercial retail operations in existing commercial districts and therefore the proposed amendments would not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore the activity is not subject to CEQA.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATION.

This ordinance shall be published in the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian and/or Santa Cruz Sentinel in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Watsonville.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall be in force and take effect thirty (30) days after its final adoption.
