

**County of Santa Clara**  
**Department of Planning and Development**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 5, 2022

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

**FROM:** <sup>DS</sup> *JRO* Jacqueline R. Onciano, Director, Dept. of Planning and Development

**SUBJECT:** Industrial Hemp Ordinance – Update on Implementation

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This memo is intended to notify the Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding implementation of the County's Industrial Hemp Ordinance.

At the August 25, 2020 Board meeting, the Board adopted Ordinance No. NS-1200.373 amending Appendix I, Zoning, of the County of Santa Clara Ordinance Code for purposes of permitting and regulating industrial hemp (hemp) operations. During that meeting, the Board requested a report-back on the implementation of hemp regulations within two years of the adopted ordinance, specifically relating to the quarter-mile buffer requirement to distance hemp operations from sensitive receptors.

While the Board adopted the hemp ordinance on August 25, 2020, it became effective on January 01, 2022, when the [California State Regulatory Plan for Hemp Production](#) was approved by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The County Agricultural Commissioner's Office received around twenty-five inquiries from potentially interested hemp growers in 2019. However, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and following the hemp ordinance going into effect on January 1, 2022, the County has not received any applications for hemp production in the unincorporated areas.

Given there have been no hemp applications to date, the Department recommends returning to the Board in two years, in August 2024, with an update.

cc: Tiffany Lennear, Clerk of the Board, [bosagenda@cob.sccgov.org](mailto:bosagenda@cob.sccgov.org)  
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