



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 13, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Marijuana Zoning Update**

Following the legalization of recreational marijuana use, the former County Administrator provided you in [June 2021](#) an outline of County efforts to align Pima County zoning regulation with those of the City of Tucson.

Since that time, the Arizona Department of Health Services refined their rules, creating a new category of Social Equity dispensary licenses. To date, 26 Social Equity licenses have been issued, some of which may be eligible to locate in unincorporated Pima County.

County staff is proposing to amend the zoning code to allow marijuana dispensaries, cultivation locations, and marijuana manufacturing locations by right in commercial and industrial zones, subject to appropriate setbacks and size limitations. This is consistent with the City of Tucson regulation.

However, County staff is also proposing to provide an approval process for cultivation locations through a conditional use permit in the Rural Homestead Zone. This deviates from the City of Tucson regulation, which prohibits cultivation in rural zones.

Another distinction is that County staff is proposing to treat Social Equity licenses in the same manner as Recreational and Medical Marijuana license types, allowing them by right. The City of Tucson does not allow Social Equity licensed facilities by right.

These proposed code changes will be vetted with stakeholders starting April 20th. Contingent on outcome, it is anticipated that code amendments will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission in May, prior to submittal for your consideration.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

JKL/dym

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Yves Khawam, PhD, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works
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