

CITY OF MERCED
Planning & Permitting Division

STAFF REPORT: #18-25

AGENDA ITEM: 4.4

FROM and Kim Espinosa,
PREPARED BY: Planning Manager

PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING DATE: Sept. 18 and
Sept. 19, 2018

SUBJECT: **Commercial Cannabis Business Permit #18-17R**, initiated by Merced Business Ventures, Inc., DBA Manzanita, on property owned by Robert Gray. This application is a request to permit the operation of a retail dispensary for both medicinal and adult-use cannabis, including delivery services, on a 0.3-acre parcel at 1594 W. 18th Street within a General Commercial (C-G) Zone.
PUBLIC HEARING

ACTION: Approve/Disapprove/Modify:

- 1) Environmental Review #18-30 (Categorical Exemption)
- 2) Commercial Cannabis Business Permit #18-17R

SUMMARY

This application is for a permit to utilize the property at 1594 West 18th Street, for cannabis-related business activities. The permit seeks to allow the Applicant to operate a Retail Dispensary for medicinal and adult use cannabis and cannabis-related products, including delivery services. The project proposes to use and modify an existing building, which has existing access to utilities. Staff is recommending approval with conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve Environmental Review #18-30 (Categorical Exemption) and Commercial Cannabis Business Permits #18-17R (including the adoption of the Resolution at Attachment M), subject to the following conditions:

- *1) The proposed project shall be constructed/designed as shown on Exhibit 1 (site plan), Exhibit 2 (floor plan), and Exhibit 3 (elevations) -- Attachments C, D, and E, except as modified by the conditions.
- *2) All conditions and requirements contained in Merced Municipal Code (MMC) Section 20.44.170/Ordinance #2480 (Attachment J) shall apply. Particular attention shall be paid to MMC 20.44.170(F) "Additional Regulations for Dispensary and Retail Sales of Cannabis" and MMC 20.44.170(G) "Additional Regulations for Commercial Cannabis Delivery Services."
- *3) The proposed project shall comply with all standard Municipal Code and Subdivision Map Act requirements as applied by the City Engineering Department.
- *4) All other applicable codes, ordinances, policies, etc. adopted by the City of Merced shall apply.

- *5) The developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend (with counsel selected by the City), and hold harmless the City, and any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof, from any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof to attack, set aside, void, or annul, an approval of the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, advisory agency, appeal board, or legislative body, including actions approved by the voters of the City, concerning the project and the approvals granted herein. Furthermore, developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend (with counsel selected by the City), and hold harmless the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, against any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against any governmental entity in which developer/applicant's project is subject to that other governmental entity's approval and a condition of such approval is that the City indemnify and defend such governmental entity. City shall promptly notify the developer/applicant of any claim, action, or proceeding. City shall further cooperate fully in the defense of the action. Should the City fail to either promptly notify or cooperate fully, the developer/applicant shall not thereafter be responsible to indemnify, defend, protect, or hold harmless the City, any agency or instrumentality thereof, or any of its officers, officials, employees, or agents.
- *6) The developer/applicant shall construct and operate the project in strict compliance with the approvals granted herein, City standards, laws, and ordinances, and in compliance with all State and Federal laws, regulations, and standards. In the event of a conflict between City laws and standards and a State or Federal law, regulation, or standard, the stricter or higher standard shall control. State Law shall prevail in regards to cannabis activities as permitted by State Law.
- *7) The proposed project shall comply with all applicable regulations of the State of California including, but not limited to, those found in the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA).
- *8) The details of the property's fencing (if any), security, and screening are to meet the approval of the Director of Development Services and Chief of Police prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Key access and/or a Knox Box to any perimeter fencing shall be provided to the City Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments.
- *9) The applicants shall meet the standards of the City of Merced's "Commercial Building Permit Application Submittal Requirements" (Attachment K) at the time of submittal for building permits for tenant improvement.
- *10) The applicants shall keep on the premises of the proposed project site a physical copy of the approved plans, to be annotated and updated accordingly with any notes, changes, or requirements determined to be necessary by representatives of the City of Merced or any contractors that the City of Merced may employ for the purpose of site inspections. These plans shall be made available to the City's representatives, employees, agents, inspectors, or contractors upon request.
- *11) Any non-public areas, including cannabis inventory storage room, restrooms, etc., within the facility shall be secured from intentional or accidental access by any person not employed, contracted, or otherwise authorized on the premises.

- *12) Fire sprinklers shall be modified or installed to accommodate the building configuration and process configuration prior to occupancy if required by the Chief Building Official.
- *13) Regulatory Fees, as per Resolution #2017-67, are to be paid prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy and annually thereafter on or before the anniversary date. The Regulatory Fee may be amended from time to time based upon actual costs. The amount of the fees shall be adjusted annually (starting on January 1, 2019) to account for inflation by using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In no event, shall the fees in any year be less than the preceding year.
- *14) A Commercial Cannabis Business Permit is valid for one year or until December 31 of each year, unless sooner revoked. Applications for the renewal of a permit shall be filed with the Director of Development Services, in accordance with MMC 20.44.170(L).4, “Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Renewal (All Types)”, at least sixty (60) calendar days before the expiration of the current permit. If the permittee allows their permit to lapse, they shall be required to submit a new application, pay corresponding fees, and be subject to all aspects of the selection process.
- *15) If the applicants are unable to provide a FEMA flood elevation certificate showing that the top of the bottom floor and all equipment are at the required height as to not mandate mitigation measures (if applicable), flood mitigation measures shall be required to meet the approval of the City flood plain manager and City Engineer.
- *16) As required by Merced Municipal Code Section 17.04.050 and 17.04.060, full public improvements shall be installed/repared if the permit value of the project exceeds \$100,000.00. Public improvements may include, but not be limited to, repairing/replacing the sidewalk, curb, gutter, and street corner ramp(s), so that they comply with ADA standards and other relevant City of Merced/State/Federal standards and regulations.
- *17) The applicants shall provide a trash enclosure on the property such that all waste is securely stored until it is removed from the premises with access to the enclosure to be provided to the Refuse Division. The proposed enclosure as shown on the Site Plan is located at the southwest corner of the parcel, but per the Refuse Division, it should be relocated closer to the northwest corner of the parcel. The final location and design shall be approved by the Refuse Division prior to issuance of a building permit. The applicants have also agreed to post a sign on the enclosure making clear there is no cannabis product inside of it, and it will be locked.
- 18) Future modifications to the scale, scope, activities, implementation, processes, materials, design, layout, or other factors pertaining to the operation of the project that are consistent with permits to perform activities related to operation of a retail dispensary of cannabis and cannabis-based products may be authorized with the approval of the City’s Chief Building Official, Fire Chief, and Director of Development Services.
- 19) A joint parking and cross access agreement shall be recorded by the property owner to ensure that the dispensary has access to the parking, trash enclosure, and any other required facilities on the adjacent parcel to the east (APN #031-351-028).

- 20) The parking areas shall be repaved and striped to City Standards prior to obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy.
- 21) The final design of the exterior elevations and any signage shall be approved by Planning staff prior to obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy. Details to be worked out with staff.

(*). Denotes non-discretionary conditions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicants are proposing to operate a cannabis dispensary business at 1594 West 18th Street on a 13,000-square-foot parcel in a 5,076-square-foot building with secured parking. A customer parking area is provided on an adjacent approximately 9,000-square-foot parcel to the east.

Surrounding Uses

Surrounding Land	Existing Use of Land	City Zoning Designation	City General Plan Land Use Designation
North	Beauty/Nail Salon (across W. 18 th St)	General Commercial (C-G)	General Commercial (C-G)
South	Merced County Health & Human Services Offices (across alley)	General Commercial (C-G)	General Commercial (C-G)
East	Carpenter Printing/Trailers & Power Sports	General Commercial (C-G)	General Commercial (C-G)
West	Single-Family Homes (Across Bear Creek)	Low Density Residential (R-1-6)	Low Density Residential (LD)

BACKGROUND

These applications have passed Phase I screening and paid the fee for Phase II. Background checks on all owners have been performed to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police.

FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS:

General Plan/Zoning Compliance

- A) The proposed project complies with the General Plan designation of General Commercial (CG) and the zoning designation of General Commercial (C-G) with approval of a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit.

Land Use Issues

- B) The subject site is more than 1,000 feet from any schools and more than 600 feet from any day care centers, youth centers, libraries, or public parks that are currently in existence, as is required by Section 11362.768 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 20.44.170(E).3.f of the Merced Municipal Code (Ordinance #2480) for retail cannabis businesses (Attachment G).

Merit Based Scores and Ranking of Application

- C) The City of Merced received 22 complete applications for retail cannabis dispensaries in March 2018. Only four dispensaries may be approved under the City’s cannabis ordinance. A Selection Committee of City Manager Steve Carrigan, Police Chief Chris Goodwin, and Director of Development Services Scott McBride reviewed the applications and scored them based on merit-based criteria established by the City Council. All the proposed business owners were also subject to a detailed background check by the Police Department.

A total score of 100 points was possible for each application. Points were awarded based on non-discretionary facts, such as public/neighborhood outreach programs, parking, business hours, previous experience and qualifications of the owners, access to capital, inclusion of certain safety features, and local residency. There were 29 points awarded at the discretion of the Selection Committee based on enhanced security measures, community benefits, and other outstanding features above the minimum requirements of the applications. The total scores of the reviewers were divided by three for an average score. The applications were ranked based on that average score. The Selection Committee ranked this application Number 3 of all applications with an average score of 96.333. The full scoring sheet for this application is at Attachment H.

Proposed Operations/Customer Experience

- D) The proposed dispensary will offer the retail sale of both medicinal and adult use cannabis and cannabis products, along with deliveries. The proposed dispensary hours are Mondays through Saturdays (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) and Sundays (9 a.m. to 8 p.m.). Please see the proposed floor plan at Attachment D for the 5,076-square-foot dispensary building. Approximately 1,503 square feet are occupied by areas accessible to the public, including the main entrance/security lobby off W. 18th Street, the main sales floor, and Courtyard through which customers exit. Approximately 3,573 square feet are occupied by “back of house” areas, not accessible to the public, including offices, restrooms, the vault, storage, intake/receiving area, and delivery area.
- E) The applicants’ proposal includes a detailed account of the typical “customer experience,” which is excerpted at Attachment I. The following is a brief summary:
- “Express ordering” or a fully immersive/educational experience with concierge service, augmented reality {“AR”, and a multimedia theater sharing history, origins, & specifications of their considered purchase via multiple 4k screens, live video microscopes, & cannabis experts.
 - All customers are greeted into a segregated foyer with 2 podium stations for checking ID’s and express ordering if desired.
 - No cannabis products are in the foyer.
 - Security personnel are stationed at the front of the store, just outside the foyer during all business hours.
 - Podiums are flanked by product menus with prices (10 ft x 10 ft).

- Behind the podiums is the electronically controlled access door into the store, which can only be opened by security personnel.
- Customer then enters sales area where they may browse on their own or be assisted.
- Sales Floor is divided into boutique areas for Flowers, Edibles, Concentrates/Extracts/Vape, Health/Homeopathic, & Accessories/Equipment.
- **Saleable inventory is held in locked drawers on the sales floor.**
- Sample Handling:
 - Available for Flowers, Select Edibles, and Select Concentrates.
 - Always secured until requested by the customer.
 - Sales Associate retrieves the product and allows inspection by customer. However, customer can never touch the product itself, only the container.
 - Customer may smell and visually examine the product with assistance.
 - Products may be viewed through a microscope.
 - Upon completion of inspection, product is returned to the locked drawers.
 - **At No Time is a Customer Left Unattended with the Product.**
 - Maximum Number of Products to be viewed at one time is three.
- Checkout:
 - Customer selects products; Sales Associate records the items and retrieves them from locked drawers.
 - Multiple items may be collected in an “exit” bag (State requirement).
 - Customer submits payment to Sales Associate at Cash Drawer.
 - Prior to releasing product to customer, Sales Associate does the following:
 - Verifies expiration dates
 - Verifies products are labeled either “A” or “M” (Adult or Medical)
 - Verifies products are properly packaged and pre-labelled for sale
 - Insert cannabis education sheet into “exit” bag
 - Prior to accepting payment, POS system will alert sales associate of potential purchases that exceed personal limits of 28.5 grams of flowers, 8 grams of concentrate for adult use, or 8 ounces of flower for medical.

Deliveries

- F) Manzanita will offer delivery services to customers for both adult and medicinal cannabis products. The delivery area is proposed to include the City of Merced and a 50-mile radius from the store except to those areas that do not allow cannabis deliveries. Delivery hours are proposed to be from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Delivery orders may be placed by telephone, through the company’s mobile application or website, or through a third party provider, such as “Weed Maps.” Digital orders are only accepted upon completion of customer registration and identification requirements. Delivery orders are only accepted for a physical address and cannot be made to publically-owned land or public agency buildings. Delivery vehicles have lockboxes to hold the cannabis products and no more than \$3,000 in product will be carried at one time. Delivery vehicles are equipped with GPS tracking devices. Delivery vehicles will be housed and loaded inside the dispensary building.

Traffic/Circulation

- G) As the project is proposed in an existing building with existing access to the City's roadway infrastructure, and due to the conformity with the zoning and land use for the site, no concerns related to traffic or circulation have been raised as a result of this project.

Site Plan/Parking

- H) The proposed dispensary building is approximately 5,076 square feet in size. The building occupies a 13,000-square-foot parcel (APN #031-351-031), which includes a proposed secured parking area to the west of the building and the trash enclosure. One adjacent 9,000-square-foot parcel to the east of the building (APN #031-351-028) contains the proposed parking area for the dispensary. The retail sales areas of the dispensary building only occupies approximately 1,503 square feet while the rest of the 3,573 square feet are used more for storage and delivery uses. The City's Zoning Code requires one space per 300 square feet for retail uses and one space for each 2,000 square feet for warehouse uses, as well as allowing for a 15% reduction in usable space for hallways and other "non-public" areas. Using these factors, the proposed dispensary requires a total of 7 parking spaces. The site plan proposes 8 parking spaces to the west of the building behind a fence (for employees) along with 14 spaces on the adjacent parcel to the east, with 2 of those spaces being ADA-compliant. There are also approximately 10 parking spaces off-site on the end of West 18th Street. Therefore, the site meets and exceeds the City's parking requirements for these uses.

Neighborhood Impact/Interface

- I) The proposed dispensary site is within a General Commercial (C-G) zone at the west end of West 18th Street where it ends in a cul-de-sac adjacent to Bear Creek. The site is surrounded by other commercial uses, including a beauty salon, a print shop, County offices, and a trailer/power sports dealer. There are single-family homes on the west side of Bear Creek, approximately 200 feet from the parcel. The building has been vacant for some time and has fallen into disrepair. The dispensary will make significant upgrades to the appearance of the building and site as well as bringing a substantial security presence to the area (see Findings J and K below). Based on all of these factors, City staff believes the dispensary would fit in well and enhance this commercial area. Planning staff circulated a public hearing notice in the Merced County Times and mailed the notice to property owners within 300 feet of the subject site at least 10 days prior to this public hearing. As of the date that this report was prepared, staff had not received any comments from the community about this project.

Exterior Elevations/Signage

- J) The applicants have proposed to upgrade the exterior of the building, including improvements to the facade. See photographs at Attachment E that depict the current building and parking areas along with renderings and elevations of the proposed enhancements. Exterior signage shall be limited to one wall sign not to exceed twenty (20) square feet in area. Interior signage or advertising may not be visible from the exterior. No temporary signs including, but not limited to, banners and A-frames, nor window signs are allowed.

Safety/Security

- K) The applicants' security plan includes the following provisions:
- Alarms on all doors
 - 24 hour surveillance with interior and exterior day/night cameras
 - Security agents outside intake foyer during business hours
 - Front door and store access door may not be opened at same time.
 - Restrooms shall be locked and not accessible to public.
 - Security agents walk the perimeter and immediate vicinity hourly to ensure patrons leave and do not consume products onsite, including parking lot.
 - All windows and skylights are secured and sealed.
 - No cannabis products are visible from the exterior.
 - Inventory is secured at all times—Vault room with fireproof steel vault door and 6-inch thick concrete walls holds all inventory during non-business hours; vault room is not visible to public; cameras and alarms in vault; designed to detect intrusion and facilitate a minimum 30-minute response time for law enforcement.
 - Cycle counts performed daily for inventory with full blind physical inventory performed and reconciled weekly

This is not an all-inclusive list of security measures but simply highlights a few areas. The applicant's security plan meets or exceeds the City's requirements and has been reviewed by the Police Chief through the Merit-Based review (Finding C).

Ownership

- L) Merced Business Ventures, Inc., DBA Manzanita, consists of the following owners who have at least 5% interest in the proposed business. All these owners have each performed a Live Scan check and have successfully passed a detailed background check to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police.
- Chris Berman [4%]
 - Jeff Linden [25%]
 - Robert Gray [8%]
 - Luke Bruner [5%]
 - SoCal Building Ventures, LLC [51%]; Officers—Jim Townsend and Dean Borstein
 - Misc. Others [7%] with no individual with at least 5% interest

According to their application, the applicants and operators have significant experience in the commercial cannabis industry. For example, SoCal Building Ventures (including Officers Jim Townsend, Dean Borstein, and Chris Berman) is a private equity cannabis business development group that has amassed one of the largest portfolios of cannabis industry assets in the U.S., including four licensed retail dispensaries in Los Angeles and San Diego, 3 licensed manufacturing facilities in California and Colorado, and more than 2 million square feet of licensed cannabis cultivation facilities across three states. Dean Borstein has been active in medicinal cannabis industry in seven states (California, Colorado, Washington, Hawaii, Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona). Jeff Linden is the Chief

Financial Officer of Focus 415 Capital Investments Group with restaurant and cannabis interests in San Francisco, including the “Medithrive” dispensary. Luke Bruner served as the Business Manager for Wonderland Nursery in Garberville in Humboldt County, California’s largest cannabis nursery. Robert Gray, a business partner and property owner, has been a lifelong Merced resident and has been involved in local businesses for over 30 years, including Merced Dairy Supply.

Community Benefits

- M) According to the applicant’s application, the proposed dispensary will offer the following community benefits, to highlight a few examples:
- Free Literacy and Tutoring Program for underserved youth in grades 5-12, with Manzanita providing the credentialed oversight/tutoring staff, supplies, and learning space through an independent third party.
 - “Just the Facts” Ongoing Cannabis Educational Programming (Quarterly)
 - Pain Management Classes (Monthly)
 - Cannabis Safe Use Education with medical personnel (Monthly)
 - Financial Contributions (2% of sales or Estimated \$87,500 in 2019) to SWAG, Veterans Continuum of Care, Youth Sports, Heart-for-Heart Program, and Committed but unassigned to any particular organization at this point
 - Neighborhood Liaison (City Resident)
 - Manzanita Community Update Program/Quarterly Public Outreach Meetings
 - “Best Neighbor BBQ” Policy—Quarterly Neighborhood Outreach BBQ & Ongoing Feedback
 - Initially, Manzanita will employ 23 employees (19 non-exempt and 4 exempt) at above market wage, company paid medical benefits, vacations/paid time-off, with commitments to 100% local hiring, and 25% veteran hiring

Modification to Operations

- N) City staff recognizes that the details of operating a business, particularly one in a developing sector such as cannabis and cannabis-based products, requires continual updating of business practices, methodologies, and tools, the modification of which may require alterations to the configuration of the equipment, setup, or layout of the facility. In order to allow for these changes while maintaining the safety of all parties involved, modifications to the permit in the course of retail sales of cannabis and cannabis-based products may be requested by the applicants and approved with the consent of the City’s Chief Building Official, Fire Chief, and Director of Development Services (Condition #18).

Environmental Clearance

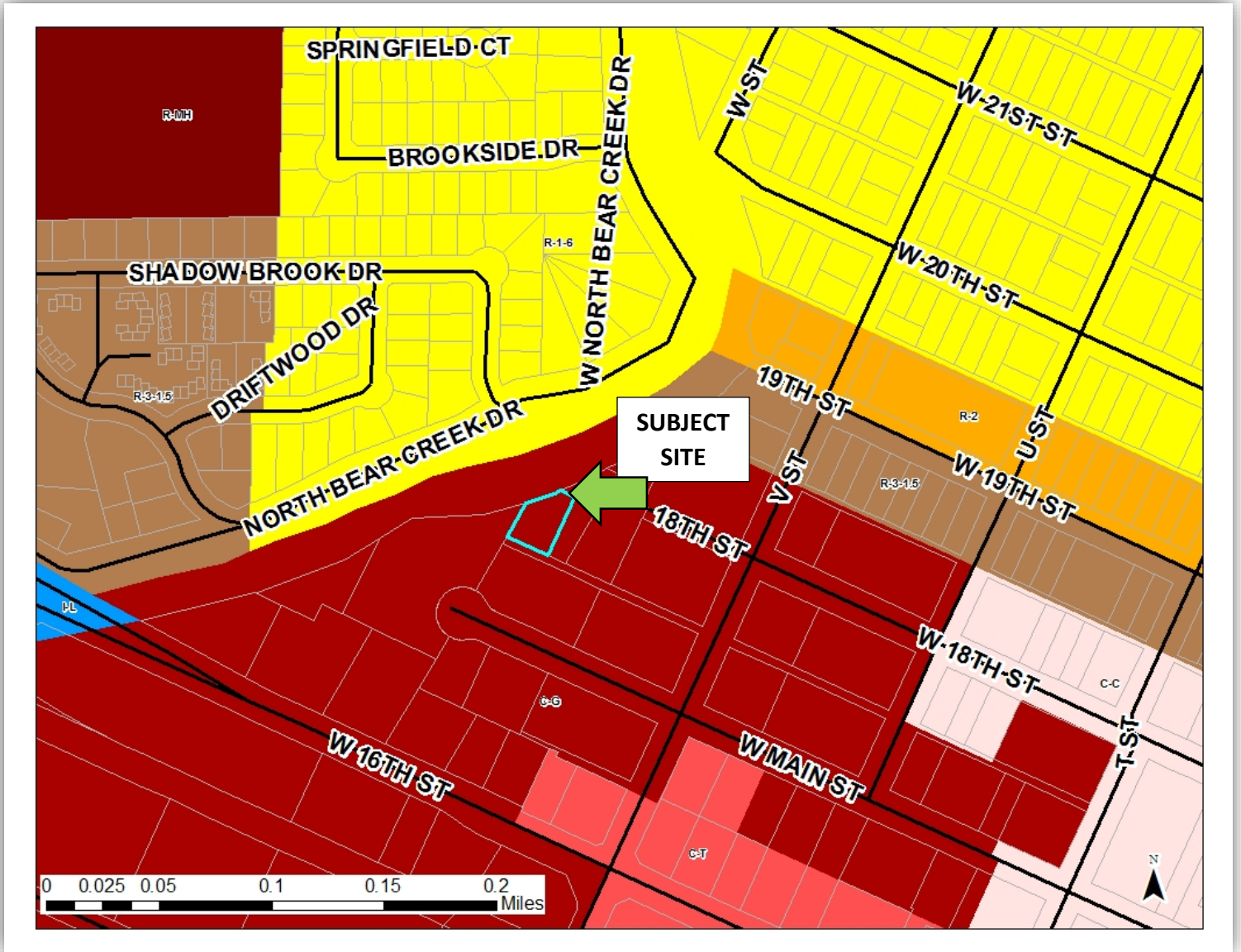
- O) The project proposes to utilize an existing building on a 13,000-square-foot parcel. Planning staff has conducted an environmental review (Environmental Review #18-30) of the project in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and a Categorical Exemption (no further environmental review is required) is being recommended (see Attachment L).

Attachments:

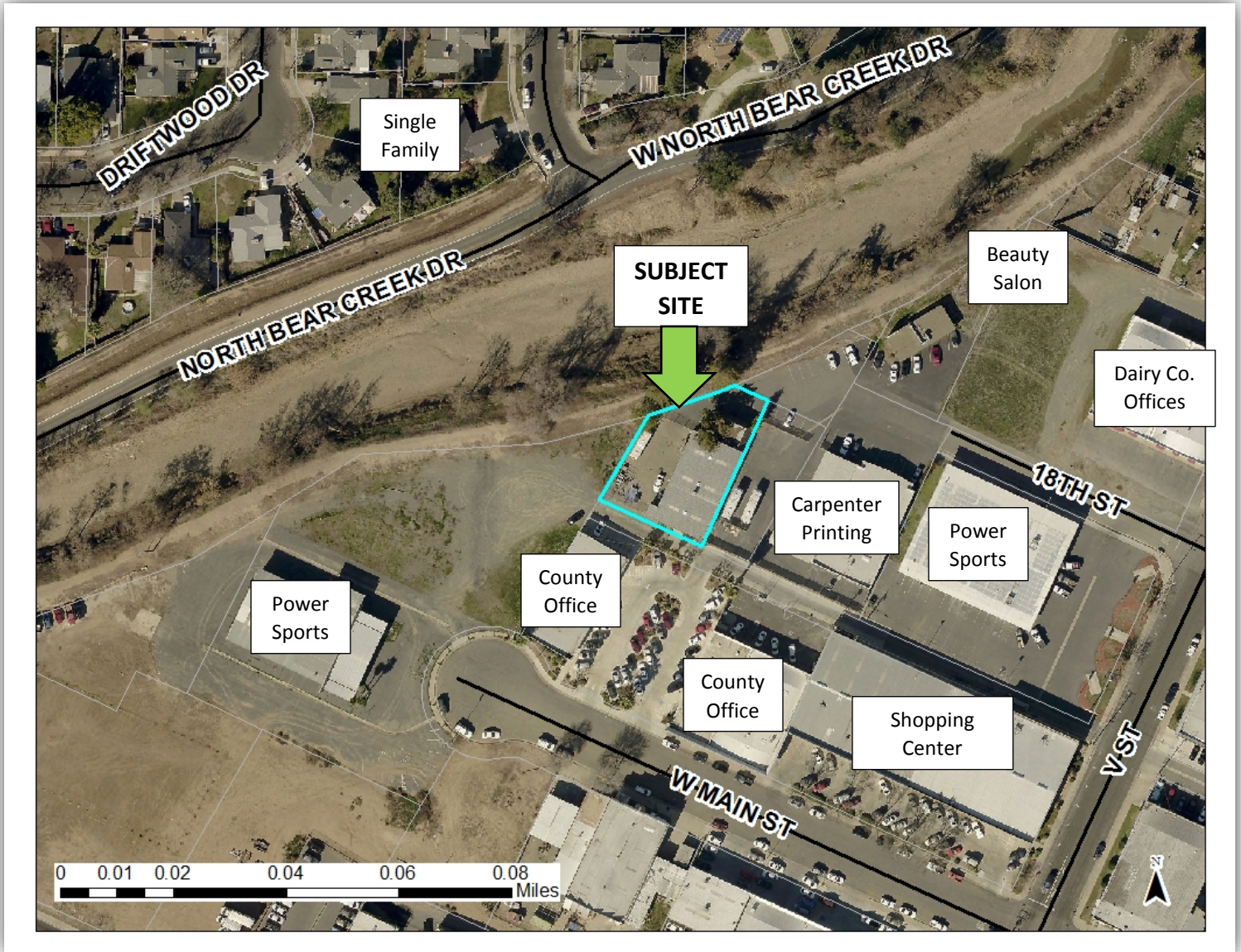
- A) Location Map
- B) Aerial Map
- C) Site Plan
- D) Floor Plan
- E) Existing Photos of Exterior and Proposed Elevations/Renderings
- F) Renderings of Dispensary's Proposed Interior
- G) Sensitive Use Map
- H) Merit-Based Scores and Rankings for CCBP #18-17R
- I) Manzanita "Customer Experience" (Excerpts from Application)
- J) Ordinance #2480
- K) City of Merced Commercial Building Permit Application Submittal Requirements
- L) Environmental Review #18-30
- M) Draft Planning Commission Resolution

Ref: *H:\KIM\PROJECTS\2018\ZOA #17-01 Cannabis Businesses\Applications\18-17R\Staff Report\CCBP 18-17R Manzanita PC Staff Rpt-9-18-19-2018.docx*

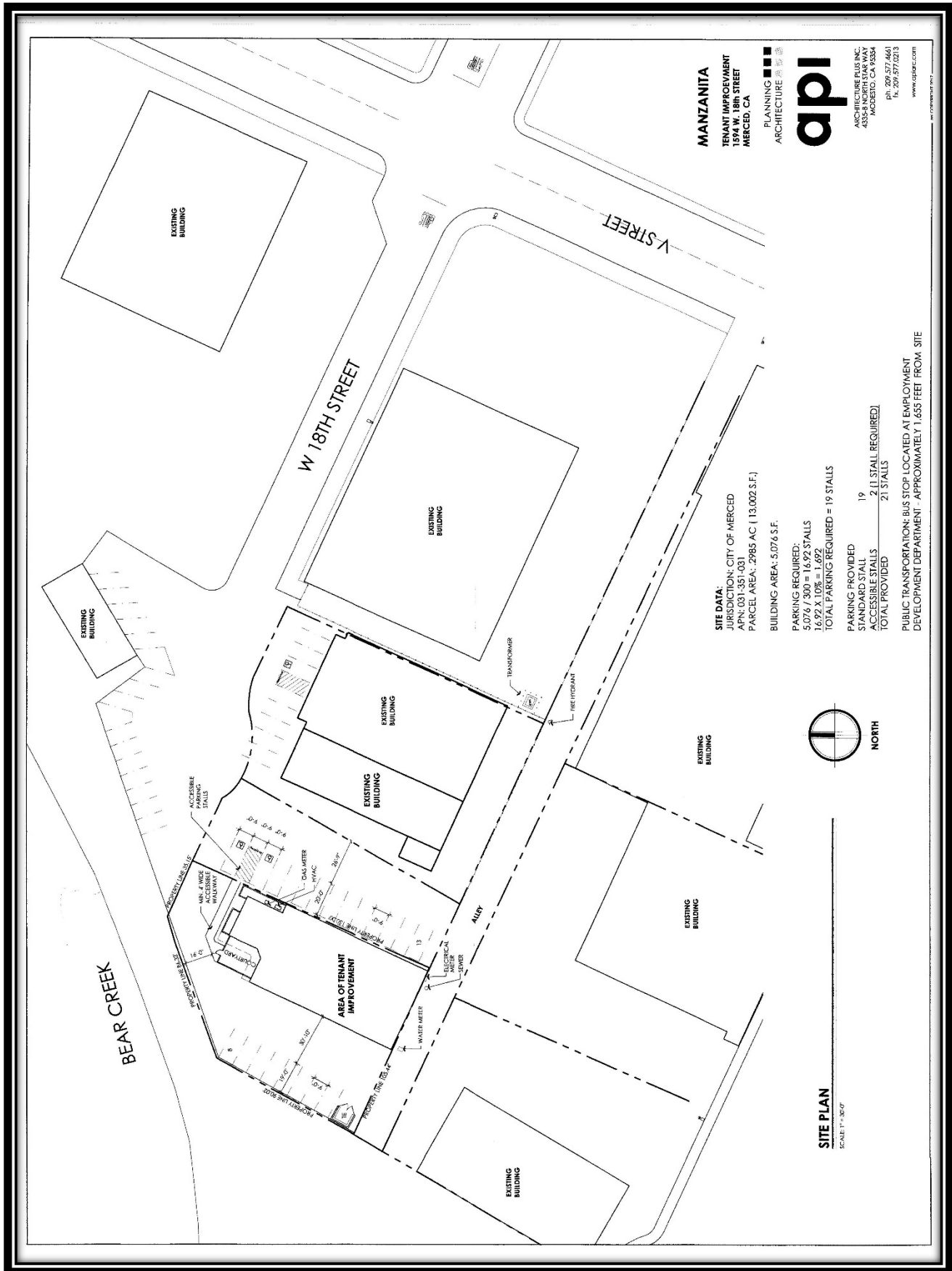
LOCATION & ZONING MAP ("MANZANITA DISPENSARY") (CCBP #18-17R)



AERIAL PHOTO & SURROUNDING USES ("MANZANITA DISPENSARY") (CCBP #18-17R)



"MANZANITA" SITE PLAN



MANZANITA
 TENANT IMPROVEMENT
 1594 W. 18TH STREET
 MERCED, CA

PLANNING
 ARCHITECTURE

api
 ARCHITECTURE PLUS INC.
 4554 W. 18TH STREET
 MERCED, CA 95364
 PH: 209.377.0213
 WWW.API-CORP.COM

SITE DATA:
 JURISDICTION: CITY OF MERCED
 APN: 031-351-031
 PARCEL AREA: .2985 AC (13,002 S.F.)
 BUILDING AREA: 5,074 S.F.

PARKING REQUIRED:
 5,074 / 300 = 16.92 STALLS
 16.92 X 105% = 1.692
 TOTAL PARKING REQUIRED = 19 STALLS

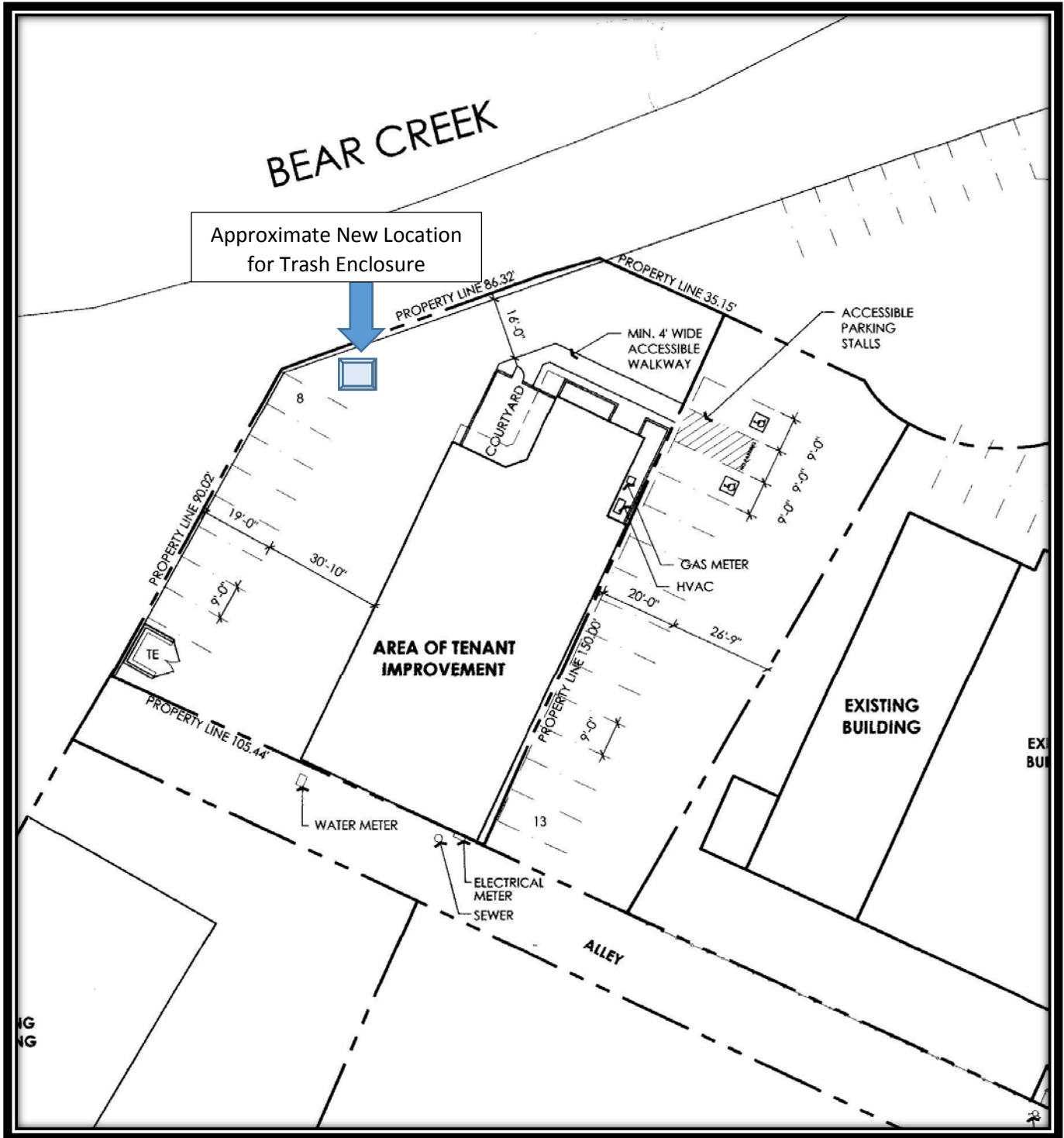
PARKING PROVIDED:
 STANDARD STALL 19
 ACCESSIBLE STALLS 2 (1 STALL REQUIRED)
 TOTAL PROVIDED 21 STALLS

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: BUS STOP LOCATED AT EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - APPROXIMATELY 1,655 FEET FROM SITE

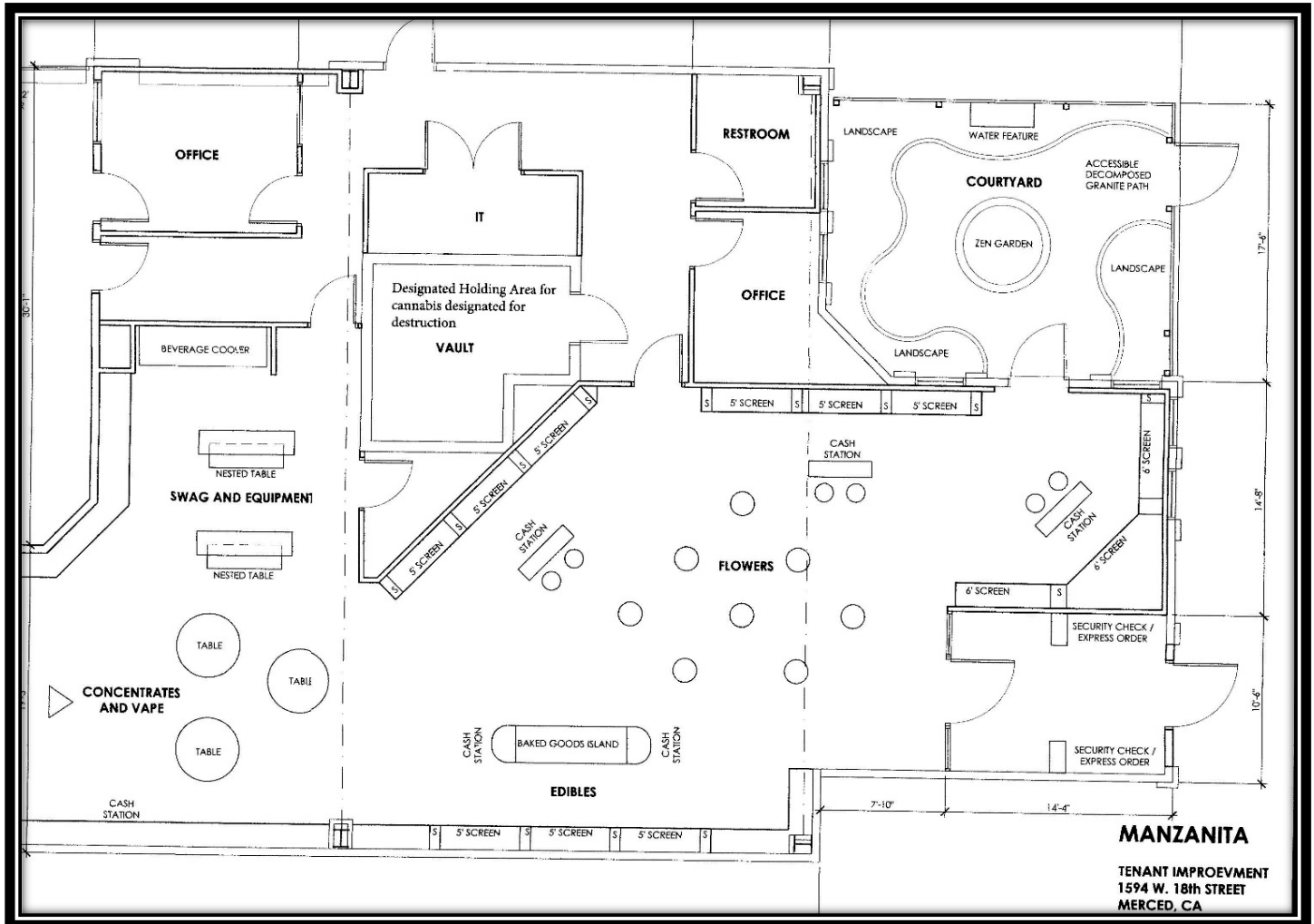


SITE PLAN
 SCALE 1" = 30' 0"

"MANZANITA" ZOOMED SITE PLAN



"MANZANITA" MAIN SALES AREA & COURTYARD



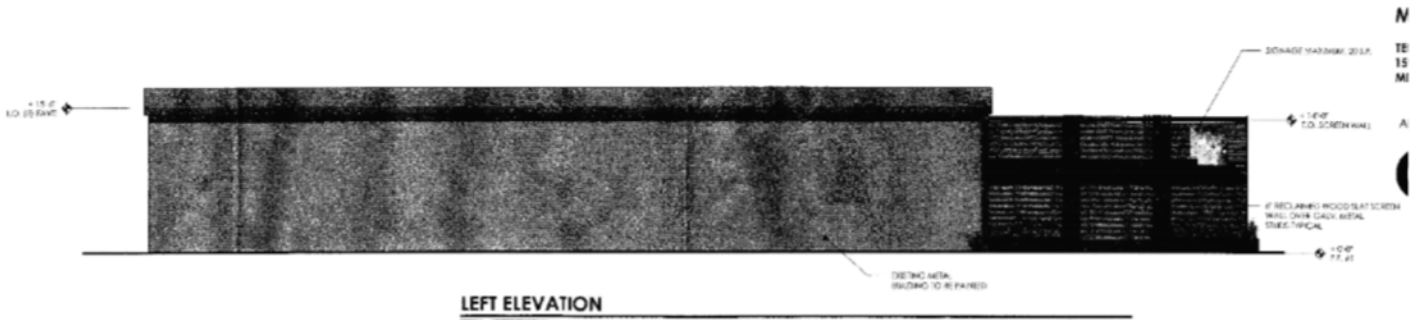
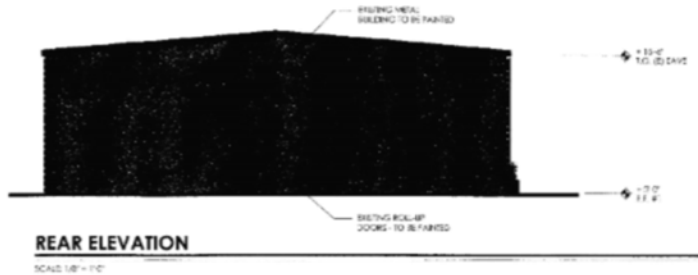
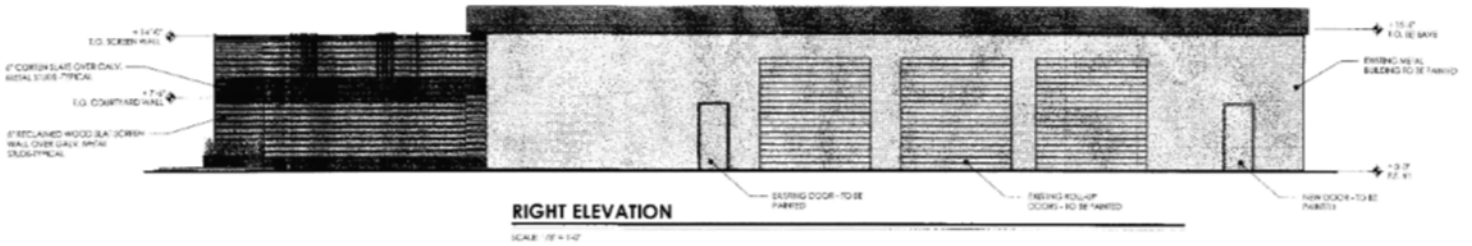
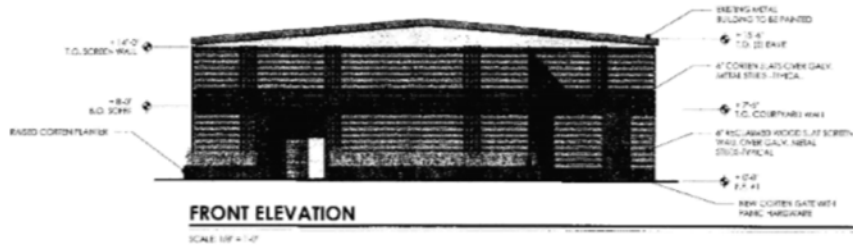
PHOTOS OF EXISTING SITE



PROPOSED RENDERINGS--EXTERIOR



PROPOSED ELEVATIONS—EXTERIOR



RENDERINGS OF DISPENSARY INTERIORS



MAIN SALES FLOOR

RECEPTION

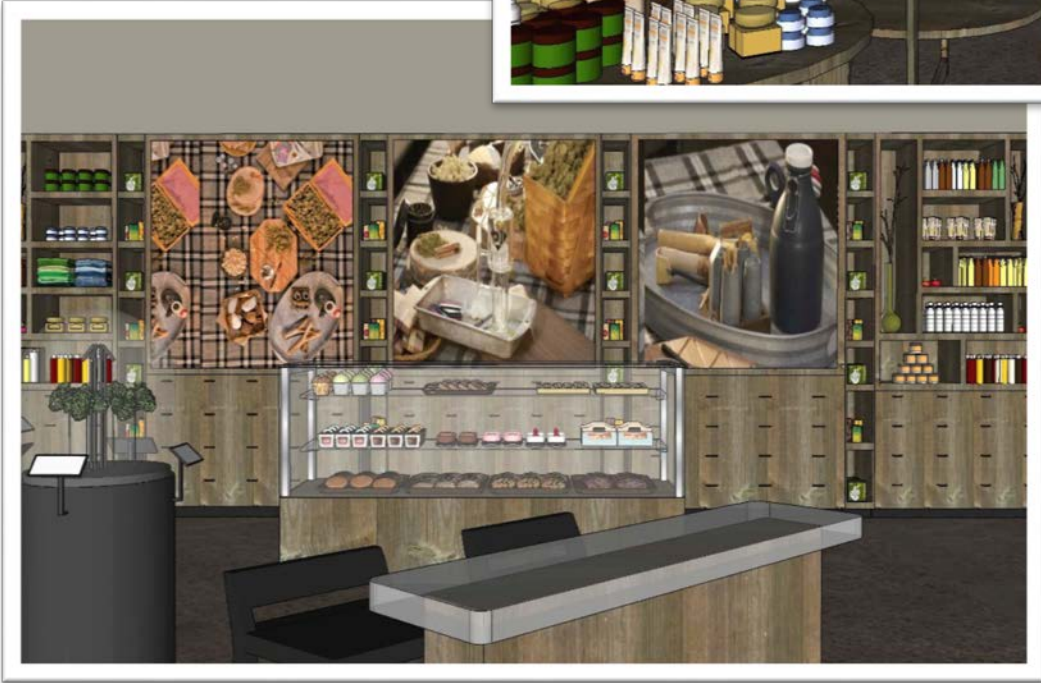


MAIN SALES FLOOR

RENDERINGS OF DISPENSARY INTERIORS



MAIN SALES FLOOR



RENDERINGS OF DISPENSARY INTERIORS



COURTYARD



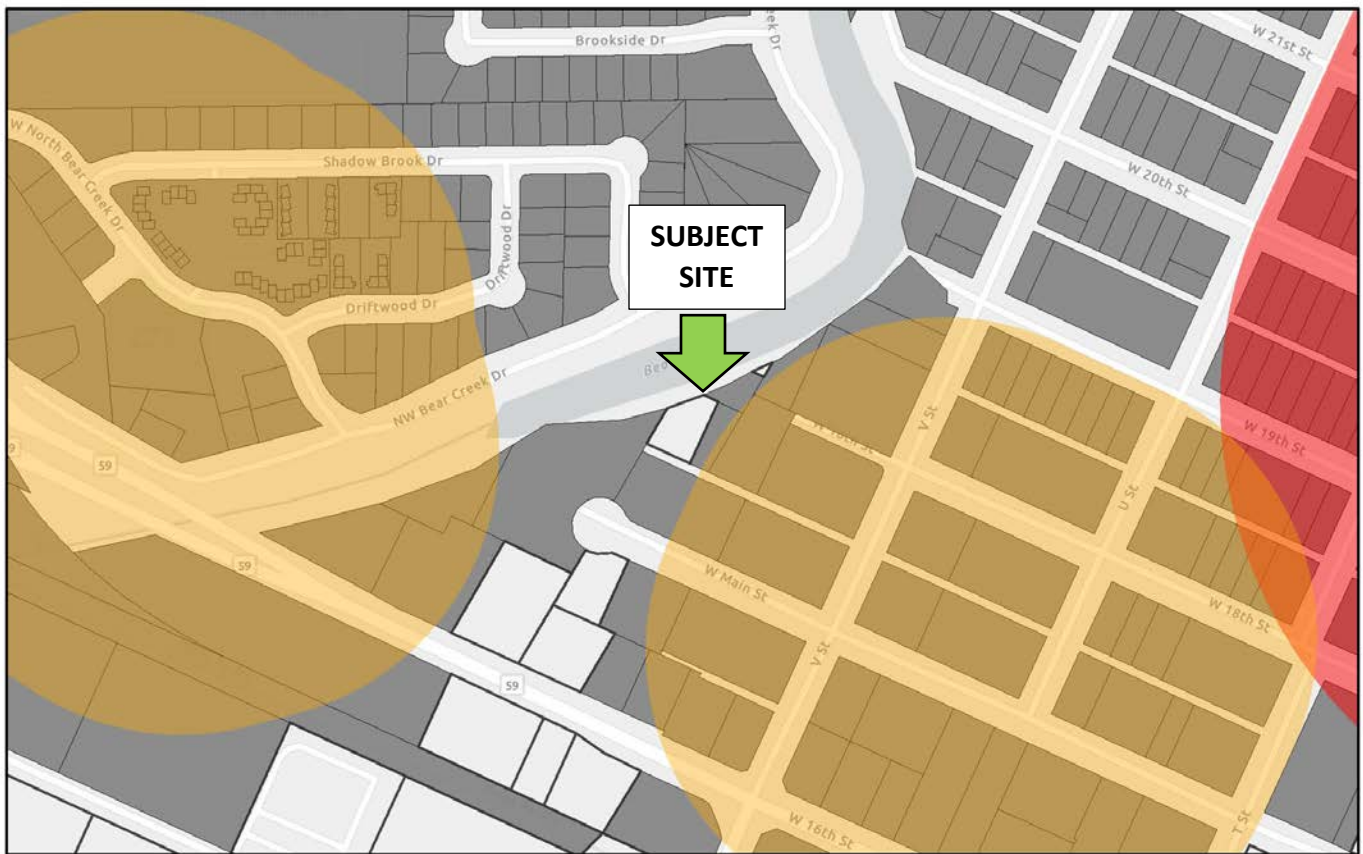
MAIN SALES FLOOR



COURTYARD

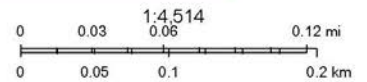
DISTANCE FROM SENSITIVE USES (“MANZANITA DISPENSARY”) (CCBP #18-17R)

City Of Merced-Cannabis Ordinance Map



9/6/2018, 3:48:02 PM

- City Of Merced Addresses Properties With Appropriate Zoning for Cannabis Activities
- 600FT Buffers Properties With Inappropriate Zoning for Cannabis Activities
- 1000 FT Buffers City of Merced Limits



Planning Department Email: planningweb@cityofmerced.org Phone: 209-385-685
 Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA | Merced Data Special Services, LAFCO, Merced County |

City of Merced
Merit Based Selection Criteria for Commercial Cannabis Business Permits
Scoring for CCBP #18-17R ("Manzanita") at 1594 W 18th

<u>Description of Criteria:</u>	Selection Committee Scores			
	Points Possible	Reviewer #1	Reviewer #2	Reviewer #3
Section 1: Prioritize Medicinal Cannabis Access				
a) Proposal for combined medicinal/adult use dispensary	4	4	4	4
b) Proposal for medicinal only dispensary	3	0	0	0
c) Proposal for non-medicinal/adult use dispensary only	0	0	0	0
d) Proposal includes Delivery Services	2	2	2	2
Section 1: Sub-Total of Points Possible	6	6	6	6
Section 2: Geographical Preference/Neighborhood Relations				
a) Proposed locations is within 1,200 feet of local public transportation	1	0	0	0
b) Proposal includes a process and schedule for at least two public outreach meetings per year that meet City approval	2	2	2	2
c) Business plan includes a schedule for communication and receiving feedback from all entities within 300 feet of the business at least two times a year	2	2	2	2
d) Proposal includes the appointment of an employee as a designated liaison with the neighborhood	1	1	1	1
e) Designated liaison employee is a City resident	1	1	1	1
Section 2: Sub-Total of Points Possible	7	6	6	6
Section 3: Facility Plan				
a) Business is formally associated with a non-retail cannabis or non-cannabis-related business in the City of Merced	2	2	2	2
b) Proposal includes daily inspection to ensure maintenance of the interior and exterior of the facility (i.e. free of trash, graffiti, etc.)	2	2	2	2
c) Location exceeds City parking requirements by 10% or more	1	1	1	1
d) Business is open more than five days a week at least 6 hours per day	1	1	1	1
e) Location exceeds minimum disabled parking requirements by 100% or more	1	1	1	1
f) Location is within an existing building or facility with an ability to be open for business within 6 months of approval of the CCBP by the City	1	1	1	1
Section 3: Sub-Total of Points Possible	8	8	8	8

City of Merced
Merit Based Selection Criteria for Commercial Cannabis Business Permits
Scoring for CCBP #18-17R ("Manzanita") at 1594 W 18th

<u>Description of Criteria:</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Selection Committee Scores</u>		
		<u>Reviewer #1</u>	<u>Reviewer #2</u>	<u>Reviewer #3</u>
Section 4: Standards and Procedures for the Safe Operation of Facilities:				
a) Proposal includes documented employee safety training program	1	1	1	1
b) Proposal includes documented employee cannabis educational training program	1	1	1	1
c) Business Plan includes enhanced security measures, including at least three of the following: panic buttons, dye packets, bulletproof window film (with break strength of 400 lbs. per inch or better), a UL-approved safe with a fire rating that is 2-hour 1700 degrees F or better with a complex locking device; motion sensing lighting; or other enhanced security measures acceptable to the City. (0 to 4 points to be awarded at the discretion of the City Selection Committee.)	0 to 4	4	4	4
d) Proposal includes climate controlled environment	1	1	1	1
e) Proposal includes plan for disposal of all solid waste based on best practices of State	1	1	1	1
f) Proposal includes a comprehensive documented process for 24-hour minimum response time to cannabis product recall notifications	2	2	2	2
g) Proposal includes more than one on-site security guard during business hours	2	2	2	2
h) Proposal includes plans and procedures for how all cannabis products on the premises or held by the applicant have met the testing requirements as defined by the State	1	1	1	1
i) Proposal includes a separate lobby area where identification is checked to ensure that only qualified individuals gain access to separate, locked areas where cannabis products are displayed	2	2	2	2
j) Proposal includes electronic storage of required records of sales, delivery manifests, patient information (if medicinal and required by State), inventory, etc., which can be provided to City personnel upon request	2	2	2	2
k) Proposal includes participation in web-based public safety application or equivalent that provides law enforcement with confirmation of local and state licenses	1	1	1	1
l) Proposal includes any proposed "green" business practices relating to energy and climate, water conservation, and materials/waste storage	1	1	1	1
m) Proposal includes secured loading/unloading area for deliveries	1	1	1	1
Section 4: Sub-Total of Points Possible	20	20	20	20

City of Merced
Merit Based Selection Criteria for Commercial Cannabis Business Permits
Scoring for CCBP #18-17R ("Manzanita") at 1594 W 18th

<u>Description of Criteria:</u>	Selection Committee Scores			
	Points Possible	Reviewer #1	Reviewer #2	Reviewer #3
Section 5: Prior Experience in Business Ownership and Management				
a) Combined prior experience of proposed owners is more than 3 years of verified successful management of any non-cannabis legal retail facility	2	2	2	2
b) Combined prior experience of proposed owners is more than 1 year and up to 3 years with a verified Mutual Benefit Non-Profit Corporation for cannabis in compliance with California law and with proof of payment of taxes	2	2	2	2
c) Combined prior experience of proposed owners is more than 3 years and up with a verified Mutual Benefit Non-Profit Corporation for cannabis in compliance with California law and with proof of payment of taxes	3	3	3	3
d) Above prior experience was obtained within the City or County of Merced	3	3	3	3
e) Above prior experience was obtained within 100 miles of the City of Merced	1	1	1	1
Section 5: Sub-Total of Points Possible	11	11	11	11
Section 6: Qualifications of Principals/Business Plan				
a) At least one owner is a military veteran with an honorable discharge	1	0	0	0
b) At least one owner is a full-time resident of the County of Merced	1	1	1	1
c) At least one owner is a full-time resident of the City of Merced	2	2	2	2
d) Does the business qualify as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation?	1	0	0	0
e) Does the business have documented proof of access to at least \$150,000 in capital (or enough capital to pay all startup costs plus at least 3 months of operating costs)?	3	3	3	3
f) Does the business have documented proof of access to at least \$300,000 in capital (or enough capital to pay all startup costs plus at least 6 months of operating costs)?	3	3	3	3
g) Business Plan contain a valid pro forma for at least 3 years of operation	2	2	2	2
h) Business has documented agreements with cannabis distributors to supply products to their business	2	2	2	2
Section 6: Sub-Total of Points Possible	15	13	13	13

City of Merced
Merit Based Selection Criteria for Commercial Cannabis Business Permits
Scoring for CCBP #18-17R ("Manzanita") at 1594 W 18th

	Selection Committee Scores			
<u>Description of Criteria:</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Reviewer #1</u>	<u>Reviewer #2</u>	<u>Reviewer #3</u>
Section 7: Employee & Public Relations				
a) The business promotes local hiring or provides incentives for City/County of Merced residents to work with the business	2	2	2	2
b) The business provides employee health benefits for all employees	2	2	2	2
c) The business employs more than 5 people full-time, not counting the owners or security personnel	2	2	2	2
d) Proposal includes an ongoing public information program to inform City residents of cannabis issues and proper/safe/legal use of cannabis products	2	2	2	2
Section 7: Sub-Total of Points Possible	8	8	8	8
Section 8: Community Benefits				
a) Proposal includes benefits to the community, such as defined monetary contributions to local community organizations, or donating time to local community organizations, or any other proposed community benefit acceptable to the City. (0 to 5 points to be awarded at the discretion of the City Selection Committee.)	0 to 5	5	5	5
Section 8: Sub-Total of Points Possible	5	5	5	5
Section 9: Discretion of the City Selection Committee				
a) 0 to 20 additional points may be awarded to a proposal for outstanding features, measures, or programs (above and beyond the minimum requirements) proposed in the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Application at the discretion of the City Selection Committee.	0 to 20	20	20	18
Section 9: Sub-Total of Points Possible	20	20	20	18
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	100	97	97	95
TOTAL OF SELECTION COMMITTEE SCORES	289			
AVERAGE OF SELECTION COMMITTEE SCORES (Total ÷ 3)	96.333	RANKING 3		

Chapter VIII. Operations

A. Selling Floor - Operations

1. Overview

The selling floor section of this document is a summary of processes, tools, staffing and organizational behaviors concerning the sale of cannabis products within the store and the in-store experience that may be expected by all customers. These elements are broken into the following subsections:

- Customer Experience
- The Sales Process

Manzanita is open to the public from 9am – 9pm Monday-Saturday, and 9am – 8pm on Sunday. Manzanita is open for operations from 8am-10pm daily. This provides for an hour of opening and closing team.

Cannabis goods for inspection or sale may only be displayed in the retail area.

2. Customer Experience

The customer experience in our retail stores is differentiated from any other in the cannabis retail channel.

If the customer chooses to make an expedited convenience purchase, we support that experience with an express purchase process that completes the customer transaction and has the customer in and out (with full regulatory compliance) in less than 5 minutes.

Should the customer choose to participate in a fully immersive and educational experience they will be welcomed to a retail environment with concierge service, augmented reality “AR” and a multimedia theater sharing the history, origins and specifications of their considered purchase (the farm-to-table story “cannabis style”) told using multiple “4K” screens, live video microscopes, and cannabis experts as their guide.

The customer is also free to browse on their own as our stores should provide a cannabis shopping experience that rivals conventional retail leaders such as Apple or Bass Pro. These customer experiences are open to all our customers at all times (business hours only). We feel strongly that providing the customer with an exceptional and fun experience when they spend their hard-earned money is not exclusively for the affluent. Further, the customer will not be asked to pay higher product prices for a great place to shop.

3. The Sales Process

All customers are welcomed into a segregated foyer. The welcome foyer contains two podium stations for ID confirmation and express ordering if the customer chooses (no product is in this area). Security personnel are stationed at the front of the store just outside the foyer during all business hours.

Manzanita

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Book 2, Part 2: Operations & Policies

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Within the foyer the customer service podiums are flanked by product menus and pricing projected on to both walls in real time and in “HD”. These menus are roughly 10ft by 10ft in size each. Behind the podiums is the electronically controlled access door to the store. The door may be opened at the podium or remotely by security personnel. The projected menu walls serve three functions:

- Facilitate express ordering
- Keep the staff in the foyer current on the menu in real time
- Demonstrate to the customer that they are in for an awesome experience

The customer service person(s) at the check-in podium performs the following functions:

- Verifies customer ID and CA medical cannabis card (if applicable)
- Queues the customer in the POS system for assistance with their purchase.*
- Takes the customer’s express order if customer chooses

**Note: The customer service person shall collect as much personal data as the customer is willing to offer (i.e. address, phone, email). The company shall never pressure or require the customer to provide any personal data beyond that required by law.*

The customer is then allowed to pass through the podiums into the selling floor area of the store.

Browsing and Shopping – Upon entry to the selling floor the customer will be met by the first available sales person. The sales associate shall greet the customer and ascertain the customer’s preference:

- Be guided through the store and its experiences (choosing what interests them)
- Be guided directly to their desired purchases (with or without viewing samples)
- Be allowed to browse, experience displays and make purchase decisions un-aided

If browsing un-aided the customer is advised that they may engage any free sales associate for a question, sample viewing, or order placement. Our POS system facilitates the seamless assistance of any queued customer by any sales associate or manager.

Further, the customer is advised that the purchase process will require the assistance of a sales associate to both fulfill their order and complete the payment transaction.

B. Sales Floor - Layout

1. Overview of Physical Plant

The selling floor is configured and proportioned into boutique style shopping areas based upon general cannabis lifestyle categories:

- Flowers
- Edibles
- Concentrates, Extracts, Vape
- Health & Homeopathic

- Accessories & Equipment

A physical cash drawer may be created in any of the locked drawer locations on the selling floor. The number of POS devices in use will determine the number of cash drawers plus one additional for the express order drawer. There must be a “one to one” assignment of a POS device to a cash drawer. The drawers will generally be allocated by department to support activity in that area and prevent congestion in each area of the store. The flower area will see the greatest traffic; therefore, it will be the location for multiple drawers.

2. Flowers

This is the largest category in cannabis. As such, most of our experiential displays are housed in this boutique. This includes domed displays of available flower strains and three interactive stations where the customer may learn the genetics of strains, their characteristics and effects, the cultivation story of their selection, and see a live sample both at a viewing podium and via 200x live video microscope in “HD” on a 6ft screen. Saleable inventory shall be held in locked drawers on the selling floor.

3. Edibles

The edible category is the most controversial and requires added expertise and merchandising care. We display our baked goods and snacks “Patisserie” style with locked samples merchandised in abundance to create a shopping environment that invites education through dialogue with our highly trained staff. Beverages and other refrigerated edibles are stored in a locked 8ft glass refrigeration display. Customers may view all edibles through glass displays but access requires authorized assistance. Saleable inventory shall be held in locked drawers on the selling floor.

4. Concentrates, Extracts, Vape

This is the second most popular cannabis category at the time of this writing (behind flowers). We have created a boutique department similar to flowers with a single interactive display with a blend of floor and shelf displays. Currently most packaging does not facilitate sample viewing by the customer. This is the most potent THC category and is treated as such in our displays and inventory management. The individual package displays on the selling floor shall not contain product unless the packaging is transparent and product visible to the customer. Saleable inventory shall be held in locked drawers on the selling floor.

5. Health & Homeopathic

This category includes balms, salves, CBD specialty items, topicals and any items designed for external application. The display configuration features tables and shelving merchandised in the style of a farmer’s market. All packaging on display shall be empty of product. Saleable inventory shall be held in locked drawers on the selling floor.

6. Accessories & Equipment

Bongs, pipes, volcanoes, papers, trays, etc. shall be merchandised in this area. In addition, logoed items such as t-shirts and hats may also be found in this boutique shop. Inventory in this area is not locked and sold directly from the display. No tobacco or alcohol may be advertised or sold.

C. Special – Sample Handling and Customer inspection

1. Overview

The company shall display cannabis products in such ways as to provide education specification and differentiation for the customer. To accomplish, the following display methods shall be used:

- **Brand** - Displays of Brand packaging that do not contain cannabis product
- **Closed** - Displays of cannabis products that are not accessible by the customer at any time or sales associate during business hours (i.e. Flowers in Domes)
- **Sample** - Displays available for customer inspection (aroma, microscope, etc.)

2. Sample Handling

A select collection of products shall be made available for customer inspection outside of their manufacturer packaging. These include: flowers, select edibles and select concentrates.

- These sample items shall remain secured until inspection is requested by the customer
- At that time the sales associate may retrieve the item and allow inspection by the customer (at no time may the customer physically touch the product – container is OK).
- The customer may smell and visually examine the item with the assistance of the sales associate.
- The customer may also request to have the item displayed via the video microscope and the sales associate shall conduct that process.
- Upon completion of the inspection, the items are returned to their secured location

3. No unattended items

No item may be left with the customer unattended. The maximum number of items out simultaneously for a customer is three.

D. Check-Out

As the customer selects their items for purchase the sales associate is recording the selections in the POS order and retrieving the stock from secured/locked drawers. If the customer is selecting multiple items, the sales associate may collect the purchase selections in an “exit” bag (state compliant material with an opaque level of visibility).

When the customer selection process is complete, and the customer is ready to submit payment, the sales associate shall proceed to her/his assigned cash drawer and complete the transaction by accepting payment.

- The City of Merced requires no free samples of any cannabis or cannabis products may be distributed at any time

Prior to releasing the product to the customer, the sales associate shall execute the following:

- Verify the expiration date on all items
- Verify products are marked correctly as “A” or “M”
- Verify products are properly pre-packaged and pre-labelled for final sale
- Insert a Cannabis education sheet into the “exit” bag

Note: Prior to accepting payment POS system is set to alert sales associate of potential purchases that exceed the daily personal limits of: 28.5 grams of flowers, 8 grams of concentrate for adult use or 8 ounces of flower for medical.

E. Express Ordering

1. Overview

The customer has the option to place an express order at time of intake, digitally or over the phone. Below are the process steps for each express order method:

2. Order Intake

- The customer presents ID per regular store intake and advises the customer service person at the intake podium that they would like to place an express order from the menu projected on the wall.
- The customer service person creates an “express” order within the POS system. This order type will generate a “pick ticket” (similar to delivery) printed in the back office.
- The “pick ticket” is fulfilled and placed in compliant “exit” packaging. Back office personnel shall bring the order to the “express” pick up station on the selling floor (located near the exit in a locked drawer)
- The customer enters the store and may browse or proceed directly to the express pick up station
- The customer confirms the order, completes the transaction and exits the store. Any sales associate may queue up the customer’s order and complete the transaction at the express pick up station.

3. Phone orders

- A customer may place a phone order for express pick up. For phone orders the customer service person shall create the order in the POS system and designate an “express” order type.
- From this point the process is common with the intake express order previously outlined

4. Digital

- The customer may place an “express order” via digital platform. This order will queue in the POS system for the customer service person.
- From this point the process is common with the intake express order previously outlined.

F. Customer Product Returns

1. Overview

At Manzanita we believe that every customer should be thrilled with their purchase and that belief is on display in our return policy.

2. Policy

Should a customer be unhappy with your Manzanita purchase for any reason, Manzanita will accept the unused portion of the purchase for the choice of: exchange, credit toward a new purchase, or a full refund.

The original receipt is required for any return, with these additional restrictions:

- Multiple returns against the same original purchase are at manager's discretion
- The returned product may not be expired
- The original purchaser must be the person returning the product

3. Return Handling

Any sales associate or manager may accept a customer return through the POS system following these steps:

1. Escort the customer to the designated return area on the selling floor
2. Verify the purchase
 - a. Customer Name
 - b. Receipt in possession
 - c. Date purchased
 - d. Product being returned
3. Open a transaction in the POS system
4. Determine the reason for return and the customer's preferred resolution
5. Inspect the returned product
 - a. Note the reason in POS
 - b. Record the line item credit in POS
 - c. Place the returned product in the "secured" unsaleable container in the return area
 - d. Record the drop of product manually in the unsaleable log
6. If an exchange:
 - a. Assist the customer with their new purchase
 - b. complete the transaction in POS
7. If a refund – complete the transaction in POS
8. Wish the customer an extraordinary day

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, REPLACING 20.44.170 (“MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND CULTIVATION”); AMENDING SECTION 20.10.020 AND TABLE 20.10-1 (“COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICTS”), AND AMENDING SECTION 20.12.020 AND TABLE 20.12-1 (“INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICTS”) OF THE MERCED MUNICIPAL CODE; AND ADDING LAND USE TABLE 20.44-1 TO REGULATE ALL COMMERCIAL CANNABIS ACTIVITIES AND CULTIVATION FOR PERSONAL USE IN THE CITY OF MERCED

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Findings. The City Council finds and declares as follows:

- A. In 1996, the California electorate approved Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act which allows a patient, with a doctor’s recommendation, to use cannabis for medical purposes without the fear of prosecution or arrest; and
- B. In 2003, the California legislature passed Senate Bill 420 (Medical Marijuana Program Act) which amended the Health and Safety Code to permit the establishment of medical cannabis dispensaries for the distribution of cannabis for medical purposes; and
- C. In 2005, the California Board of Equalization began issuing seller’s permits for sales consisting of medical cannabis; and
- D. In 2008, the California Attorney General issued guidelines for the security and non-diversion of cannabis grown for medical use; and
- E. In 2015, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill 643, Assembly Bill 266, and Assembly Bill 243, collectively referred to as the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (“MMRSA”) further amended in 2016 as the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (“MCRSA”), which established regulations and a state licensing system for medical cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, delivery, and dispensing; and
- F. In 2016, the voters of the State of California approved and passed Proposition 64 also known as the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (“AUMA”); and
- G. In 2017, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill 94 also known as Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA); and
- H. Health & Safety Code Section 11362.83 provides that cities are free to adopt and enforce local ordinances that regulate the location, operation, or establishment of medical cannabis; and
- I. After studying various alternatives for the regulation of commercial cannabis considering input from stakeholders and a public hearing, and reviewing the legal status of cannabis under applicable law, the City Council finds that the regulation of commercial cannabis activities is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by mitigating the adverse secondary effects from the operations of these uses; and

- J. The City of Merced has a compelling interest in ensuring that cannabis is not distributed in an illicit manner, in protecting the public health, safety and welfare of its residents and businesses, in preserving the peace and quiet of the neighborhoods in which these uses may operate, and in providing access of cannabis to residents; and
- K. The proposed Ordinance has been reviewed by City staff in accordance with the Environmental Checklist Form (Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines) to determine if there would be any possibility that the proposed ordinance would create any significant environmental impacts, and City staff has determined that the establishment of regulations for commercial cannabis businesses do not meet any of the thresholds contained in the Checklist that would trigger a significant environmental impact, and thus according to the “general rule exemption” (Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, projects which have no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment are not subject to CEQA, no further environmental analysis is required.

SECTION 2: Authority

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted by the California Constitution and State law, including by not limited to, Article IX, Section 7 of the California Constitution, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.5), the Medical Marijuana Program (California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq.), the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (AB 266, AB 243, and SB 643; hereafter “MMRSA”), the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Proposition 64), and the Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (SB 94; hereafter “MAUCRSA”).

SECTION 3: Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this section is to regulate commercial cannabis business activities in order to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Merced by establishing regulations necessary for a commercial cannabis business to obtain and maintain a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit (CCBP). Any commercial cannabis businesses operating in the City of Merced shall at all times be in compliance with current State Law and this ordinance. All commercial cannabis facilities shall operate in accordance with the regulations in this ordinance and with the conditions of approval associated with the applicable zone for the parcel of real property upon which the commercial cannabis activities are conducted. Any commercial cannabis business shall qualify for and receive a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit from the City of Merced as provided by this ordinance and operate only in a zone in compliance with Title 20 of the Merced Municipal Code before commencing with any commercial cannabis activity. Any commercial cannabis business without a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit is in violation of this ordinance. The regulations in this article, in compliance with the Compassionate Use Act, the Medical Marijuana Program Act, SB 94, Proposition 64, and the California Health and Safety Code (collectively referred to as “State Law”) do not interfere with the right to use cannabis or medical cannabis as authorized under State Law, nor do they criminalize the possession or commercial activities of cannabis or medical cannabis as authorized under State Law. This ordinance also provides regulations for the cultivation of cannabis for personal use within the City of Merced to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Merced.

SECTION 4. Amendments of Chapters 20.10 and 20.12.

Table 20.10-1 “Permitted Land Uses in the Commercial Zoning Districts” in Section 20.10.020 of the Merced Municipal Code and Table 20.12-1 “Permitted Land Uses in the Industrial Zoning Districts” in Section 20.12.020 of the Merced Municipal Code under “Medical Marijuana Dispensaries” shall be amended to read as follows: “Refer to Table 20.44-1 in Section 20.44.170 for Permitted Land Uses for All Commercial Cannabis Business Activities.”

SECTION 5. Amendment of Chapter 20.44.170

The City of Merced hereby repeals Section 20.44.170 (“Medical Marijuana and Cultivation”) of the Merced Municipal Code in its entirety, and replaces it with the amended Section 20.44.170 as set forth below.

20.44.170 – REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL CANNABIS ACTIVITIES – COMMERCIAL CANNABIS BUSINESS PERMIT REQUIRED

20.44.170(A): Zoning Compliance and Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Requirements

Specific commercial cannabis businesses are allowed as a special use in the C-C, C-O, C-G, C-N, I-L and I-H Zoning Districts and Planned Developments which have the equivalent General Plan land use designations of those zones. Commercial cannabis activities are expressly prohibited in all other zones in the City of Merced. Commercial cannabis businesses shall apply for and conduct business only in the appropriate zones as described in Table 20.44-1 and the City of Merced’s zoning ordinance as a requisite for obtaining a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit (CCBP). No commercial cannabis business may operate in the City of Merced without a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit.

This Land Use Table 20.44-1 shall be used to determine whether a cannabis business is not permitted – “X”, or permitted – “P”. Any Commercial Cannabis business in the City of Merced shall also operate in compliance with the City’s zoning ordinance. If a Zoning District is not listed in the Land Use Table in this section then the use is expressly not permitted.

Commercial Cannabis Business Activities Use Type	City of Merced Municipal Code Table 20.44-1							Additional Specific Use Standards
	Land Use Classification [4] [5]	C-C Zone	C-O Zone	C-G Zone	C-N Zone	I-L Zone	I-H Zone	
Cultivator	Greenhouse, Type A	X	X	X	X	P	P	Sec. 20.44.170(I)
Cultivator	Greenhouse, Type B	X	X	X	X	P	P	Sec. 20.44.170(I)
Cultivator	Greenhouse, Type C	X	X	X	X	P	P	Sec. 20.44.170(I)
Nursery	Greenhouse, Type D	X	X	X	X	P	P	Sec. 20.44.170(I)
Manufacturing	Manufacturing, non-volatile	X	X	X	X	P	P	Sec. 20.44.170(H)
Manufacturing	Manufacturing, volatile	X	X	X	X	P	P	Sec. 20.44.170(H)
Dispensary [1][2]	Pharmaceutical, medical	P	P	P	P	P	X	Sec. 20.44.170(F)
Dispensary [1][2]	Retail, non-medical/combined	P	P	P	P	P	X	Sec. 20.44.170(F)
Testing Laboratory	No Retail	P	P	P	X	P	P	Sec. 20.44.170(J)
Distribution [3]	Freight/Transport	X	X	P	X	P	P	Sec. 20.44.170(K)

Footnotes

1. Only four (4) dispensaries shall operate within the Merced City Limits. At least one (1) of those dispensaries shall also dispense medicinal cannabis goods. If State law allows medical and adult use dispensaries on the same premises, the City of Merced would allow a combined use, but in no case shall more than four (4) dispensaries of any kind be allowed within the City of Merced at any one time.
2. Dispensaries (medical or adult use) are prohibited in the City Center area between 19th and 16th Streets and O Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way, including properties fronting on either side of each of the above streets.
3. Only allowed in General Commercial (C-G) zones if meet the provisions of Section 20.44.170 (K)(10).
4. If listed as "Permitted" in a specific zone above, then that use is also "Permitted" in Planned Development (P-D) zones that have the equivalent General Plan land use designation as that zone.
5. No cannabis dispensary may be located within a 1,000-foot radius from a school or within a 600-foot radius from a day care center, youth center, library or public park that is in existence at the time the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit is issued, as required by Section 11362.768 of the Health and Safety Code and as required in Merced Municipal Code Section 20.44.170 (E)(3)(f). No cultivation facility, manufacturing facility, testing facility or any other commercial cannabis business facility may be located within a 600-foot radius from a school, day care center, youth center, library, or public park that is in existence at the time the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit is issued, as required by Section 11362.768 of the Health and Safety Code and as required in Merced Municipal Code Section 20.44.170 (E)(3)(f). No Commercial Cannabis Businesses may be located within a 600 foot-radius from a school, day care center, recreational center, youth center, library or public park as required in Merced Municipal Code Section 20.44.170 (E)(3)(f).

Land Use Classifications:

- Greenhouse, Commercial A - Permitted cultivation area: 0 to 5,000 square feet
- Greenhouse, Commercial B – Permitted cultivation area: 5,001 to 10,000 square feet
- Greenhouse, Commercial C – Permitted cultivation area: 10,000 to 22,000 square feet
- Greenhouse, Commercial D – Permitted cultivation area: 22,000 square feet

20.44.170(B): Cultivation of Cannabis for Personal Use in Residential Zones

1. When authorized by State regulations, an authorized resident shall be allowed to cultivate cannabis only in a private residence in a residential zone, only indoors, and only for personal use, subject to the following regulations:
 - a. The cannabis cultivation area shall be located indoors within a residential structure and shall not exceed fifty square feet and not exceed ten feet in height, nor shall it come within twelve (12) inches of the ceiling or any cultivation lighting, nor shall it exceed the limits set forth in Section 20.44.170(B)(1)(i) below. Cultivation in a greenhouse or other legal accessory structure on the property of the residence, but not physically part of the home, is permitted as long as it is fully enclosed, secure, not visible from a public right-of-way, and meeting all requirements in this Chapter. Additionally, all structures must meet setback, height limitations, and be constructed in accordance with all local requirements as well as all applicable Building Codes.
 - b. If the resident is not the property owner, they must have the property owner's express written authorization to conduct cannabis cultivation. Nothing contained herein shall limit the property owner's right to deny or revoke permission to allow cannabis cultivation as set forth by State law.
 - c. The use of gas products such as, but not limited to CO₂, butane, methane, or any other flammable or non-flammable gas for marijuana or cannabis cultivation or processing is prohibited.
 - d. There shall be no exterior visibility or evidence of cannabis cultivation outside the private residence from the public right-of-way, including but not limited to any marijuana or cannabis plants, equipment used in the growing and Cultivation operation, and any light emanating from cultivation lighting.
 - e. The authorized resident shall reside full-time on the property where the cannabis cultivation occurs.
 - f. The residence shall include fully functional and usable kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom areas for their intended use by the resident authorized grower, and the premises shall not be used primarily or exclusively for cannabis cultivation.
 - g. The cannabis cultivation area shall be in compliance with the current adopted edition of the California Building Code including § 1203.4 Natural Ventilation or § 402.3 Mechanical Ventilation (or equivalent), as amended from time to time.
 - h. The Building Official may require additional specific standards to meet the California Building Code and Fire Code, including but not limited to, installation of fire suppression sprinklers.
 - i. The cannabis cultivation area shall not result in a nuisance or adversely affect the health, welfare, or safety of the resident or nearby residents by creating dust, glare, heat, noise,

noxious gasses, odors, smoke, traffic, vibration, or other impacts, or be hazardous due to use or storage of materials, processes, products or wastes.

- j. No more than six (6) cannabis plants, mature or immature, for personal use, are permitted per residence for indoor personal cultivation under this Chapter, unless permitted under State regulations.
 - k. Cannabis in excess of twenty-eight and one-half (28.5) grams produced by plants kept for indoor personal cultivation under this Chapter must be kept in a locked space on the grounds of the private residence not visible from the public right-of-way.
 - l. The authorized grower shall not provide any cannabis in any form to animals or any minors that are not authorized users under Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act or the Adult Use of Marijuana Act. Anyone found in violation shall be prosecuted pursuant to State regulations.
2. Outdoor cultivation of cannabis is expressly prohibited in all zones and districts of the City of Merced.

20.44.170(C): Definitions

The definitions are incorporated herein as fully set forth and are applicable to this ordinance. All definitions are intended to comply with those set forth by the State of California for all commercial cannabis activities.

1. **“Applicant”** means a person who is required to file an application for a permit under this chapter, including an individual owner, managing partner, officer of a corporation, or any other operator, manager, employee, or agent of a dispensary.
2. **“Cannabis”** means all parts of the Cannabis sativa Linnaeus, Cannabis Indica, or Cannabis ruderalis, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin, whether crude or purified, extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or resin. "Cannabis" also means the separated resin, whether crude or purified, obtained from marijuana. "Cannabis" also means marijuana as defined by Section 11018 of the California Health and Safety Code as enacted by Chapter 14017 of the Statutes of 1972. "Cannabis" does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination. For the purpose of this chapter, "cannabis" does not mean industrial hemp as that term is defined by Section 81000 of the California Food and Agricultural Code or Section 11018.5 of the California Health and Safety Code.
3. **“Cannabis waste”** means waste that is not hazardous waste, as defined in Public Resources Code section 40191, that contains cannabis and that has been made unusable and unrecognizable in the manner prescribed by the State.
4. **“Canopy”** means all of the following:

- a. The designated area(s) at a licensed premises that will contain mature plants at any point in time;
 - b. Canopy shall be calculated in square feet and measured using clearly identifiable boundaries of all area(s) that will contain mature plants at any point in time, including all of the space(s) within the boundaries;
 - c. Canopy may be noncontiguous but each unique area included in the total canopy calculation shall be separated by an identifiable boundary such as an interior wall or by at least 10 feet of open space; and
 - d. If mature plants are being cultivated using a shelving system, the surface area of each level shall be included in the total canopy calculation.
5. **"City"** means the City of Merced.
 6. **"Commercial cannabis business permit (CCBP)"** means a permit issued by the City pursuant to this chapter to a commercial cannabis business.
 7. **"Commercial cannabis activity"** includes the cultivation, possession, manufacture, processing, storing, laboratory testing, labeling, distribution, delivery, or sale of cannabis or a cannabis product, except as set forth in Section 19319 of the Business and Professions Code, related to qualifying patients and primary caregivers.
 8. **"Commercial vehicle"** means a vehicle as defined in Vehicle Code section 260.
 9. **"Concentrated cannabis product"** means a consolidation of cannabinoids made by dissolving cannabis in its plant form into a solvent.
 10. **"Cultivation"** means any activity involving the propagation, planting, growing, harvesting, drying, curing, grading, or trimming of cannabis.
 11. **"Customer"** means a natural person 21 years of age or over or a natural person 18 years of age or older who possesses a physician's recommendation.
 12. **"Day Care Center"** means any child day care facility other than a family day care home, and includes infant centers, preschools, extended day care facilities, and school age child care centers as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 1596.76, 1596.7915, 1576.750, and 1596.78.
 13. **"Delivery"** means the commercial transfer of marijuana or marijuana products to a customer. "Delivery" also includes the use by a retailer of any technology platform owned and controlled by the retailer, or independently licensed under this division, that enables customers to arrange for or facilitate the commercial transfer by a licensed retailer of marijuana or marijuana products.
 14. **"Delivery employee"** means an individual employed by a licensed dispensary who delivers cannabis goods from the permitted dispensary premises to a medical cannabis patient or primary caregiver or qualified purchaser at a physical address.

15. **“Dispensary”** means a premises where cannabis, cannabis products, or devices for the use of cannabis or cannabis products are offered, either individually or in any combination for retail sale, including an establishment that delivers cannabis or cannabis products as part of a retail sale.
16. **“Display”** means cannabis goods that are stored in the licensed dispensary’s retail area during the hours of operation.
17. **“Display case”** means container in the licensed dispensary retail area where cannabis goods are stored and visible to customers.
18. **“Distribution”** means the procurement, sale, and transport of cannabis or cannabis products between entities licensed pursuant to the Medical and Adult Use of Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act and any subsequent State of California legislation regarding the same.
19. **“Edible cannabis product”** means manufactured cannabis that is intended to be used, in whole or in part, for human consumption. An edible cannabis product is not considered food as defined by Section 109935 of the California Health and Safety Code or a drug as defined by Section 109925 of the California Health and Safety Code.
20. **“Fully Enclosed and Secure Structure”** means a fully-enclosed space within a building that complies with the California Building Code (“CBSC”), as adopted in the City of Merced, or if exempt from the permit requirements of the CBSC, that has a complete roof, a foundation, slab or equivalent base to which the floor is secured by bolts or similar attachments, is secure against unauthorized entry, is accessible only through one or more lockable doors, and is not visible from a public right-of-way. Walls and roofs must be constructed of solid materials that cannot be easily broken through such as two inch by four inch nominal or thicker studs overlaid with three-eighths inch or thicker plywood or the equivalent. Plastic sheeting, regardless of gauge, or similar products do not satisfy this requirement. If indoor lighting or air filtration systems are used, they must comply with the California building, electrical, and fire codes as adopted in the City of Merced.
21. **“Free sample”** means any amount of cannabis goods provided to any person without cost or payment or exchange of any other thing of value.
22. **“Indoors”** means within a fully enclosed and secure structure as that structure is defined above in 20.44.170(C), Subsection 19.
23. **“License”** means a state license issued under this division, and includes both an A-license and an M-license, as well as a testing laboratory license.
24. **“Limited-access area”** means an area in which cannabis goods are stored or held and which is only accessible to a licensee and the licensee’s employees and contractors.
25. **“Medical”** or **“Medicinal”** have the same meaning under the terms of this ordinance.
26. **“Medical cannabis goods”** means cannabis, including dried flower, and manufactured cannabis products.

27. **“Medical cannabis patient”** is a person whose physician has recommended the use of cannabis to treat a serious illness, including cancer, anorexia, AIDS, chronic pain, spasticity, glaucoma, arthritis, migraine, or any other illness for which cannabis provides relief.
28. **“Manufacturer”** means a licensee that conducts the production, preparation, propagation, or compounding of cannabis or cannabis products either directly or indirectly or by extraction methods, or independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis at a fixed location that packages or repackages cannabis or cannabis products or labels or relabels its container.
29. **“Manufacturing” or “manufacturing operation”** means all aspects of the extraction and/or infusion processes, including processing, preparing, holding, storing, packaging, or labeling of cannabis products. Manufacturing also includes any processing, preparing, holding, or storing of components and ingredients.
30. **“Nonvolatile solvent”** means any solvent used in the extraction process that is not a volatile solvent. For purposes of this chapter, a nonvolatile solvent includes carbon dioxide used for extraction, or as it may be defined and amended by the State.
31. **“Operating hours”** means the hours within a day during which a permitted retail sales outlet may allow qualified cannabis purchasers and primary caregivers to enter the dispensary premises and purchase cannabis goods.
32. **“Owner” or “Ownership interest”** means an interest held by a person who is an owner as defined by State of California commercial cannabis regulations or who has a financial interest in the commercial cannabis business of 5% or more.
33. **“Package” and “Packaging”** means any container or wrapper that may be used for enclosing or containing any cannabis goods for final retail sale. “Package” and “packaging” does not include a shipping container or outer wrapping used solely for the transport of cannabis goods in bulk quantity to a licensee.
34. **“Patient or qualified patient”** shall have the meaning given that term by California Health and Safety Code and possesses a valid physician’s recommendation.
35. **“Person”** includes any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, limited liability company, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, syndicate, or any other group or combination acting as a unit, and the plural as well as the singular.
36. **“Pest”** means undesired insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, bird, vertebrate, invertebrate, weed, virus, bacteria, or other microorganism that is injurious to human health.
37. **“Physician’s recommendation”** means a recommendation by a physician and surgeon that a patient use cannabis provided in accordance with the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (Proposition 215), found at Section 11362.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
38. **“Premises”** means the designated structure(s) and land specified in the application that are in possession of and used by the applicant or licensee to conduct the commercial cannabis activity.

39. **“Pre-roll”** means dried cannabis flower rolled in paper prior to retail sale.
40. **“Primary Caregiver”** has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 11362.7 of the Health and Safety Code.
41. **“Private security officer”** has the same meaning as that term as defined in the State of California Business and Professions Code section 7574.01.
42. **“Publicly owned land”** means any building or real property that is owned by a city, county, state, federal, or other government entity.
43. **“Purchase”** means obtaining cannabis goods in exchange for consideration.
44. **“Purchaser”** means a person who is engaged in a transaction with a licensee for purposes of obtaining cannabis goods.
45. **“Quarantine”** means the storage or identification of cannabis goods, to prevent distribution or transfer of the cannabis goods, in a physically separate area clearly identified for such use.
46. **“Retail area”** means a building, room, or other area upon the licensed dispensary premises in which cannabis or other goods are sold or displayed.
47. **“School”** means any public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, but does not include any private school in which education is primarily conducted in private homes or as otherwise provided in Health and Safety Code Section 11362.768(h).
48. **“Security monitoring”** means the continuous and uninterrupted attention to potential alarm signals that can be transmitted from a security alarm system for the purpose of summoning law enforcement.
49. **“Sell,” “sale,” and “to sell”** include any transaction whereby, for any consideration, title to cannabis is transferred from one person to another, and includes the delivery of cannabis goods pursuant to an order placed for the purchase of the same and soliciting or receiving an order for the same, but does not include the return of cannabis goods by a licensee to the licensee from whom such cannabis goods were purchased.
50. **“Sublet”** means to lease or rent all or part of a leased or rented property.
51. **“State”** means the State of California.
52. **“Testing Laboratory”** means a facility, entity, or site that offers or performs tests of cannabis or cannabis products, and that is accredited as operating to ISO standard 17025 by an accrediting body, and registered with the State Department of Public Health
53. **“Vehicle alarm system”** is a device or series of devices installed to discourage theft of the commercial vehicle or its contents and is intended to summon general attention or to summon law enforcement as a result of an indication of an attempted breach of the commercial vehicle.
54. **“Volatile solvent”** means any solvent that is or produces a flammable gas or vapor that, when present in the air in sufficient quantities, will create explosive or ignitable mixtures.

Examples of volatile solvents include but are not limited to, butane, hexane, propane, and ethanol, or as it may be defined and amended by the State.

55. **“Wholesale”** means the sale of cannabis goods to a distributor for resale to one or more dispensaries.
56. **“Youth Center”** means any public or private facility that is primarily used to host recreational or social activities for minors, including, but not limited to, private youth membership organizations or clubs, social service teenage club activities, video arcades with over 10 or more video games on the premises, or similar amusement park facilities, or as otherwise described in Health and Safety Code Section 11353.1(e)(2).

20.44.170(D): Compliance with State and Local Licensing Requirements

Any dispensary, cultivation facility, manufacturing facility, testing facility or any other commercial cannabis activity as defined by the State of California or the City of Merced shall operate in conformance with all regulations and standards set forth in this Section of the Municipal Code to assure that the operations of the dispensary, cultivation facility, manufacturing facility, distribution facility, testing facility or any other commercial cannabis activity as defined by the State of California or allowed by the City of Merced are in compliance with local and State law and are established to mitigate any adverse secondary effects from its operations.

Cannabis operators shall be required to obtain a State license once they become available, and shall comply with any applicable State licensing requirements, such as operational standards and locational criteria.

Multiple cannabis uses and licenses proposed on any one site shall occur only if authorized by the State and the City of Merced and only if all uses proposed are allowed pursuant to the City's Zoning Code.

20.44.170(E): General Provisions for Commercial Cannabis Activities in the City of Merced

1. Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Required

- a. Each business shall have a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit specific to the business activity defined by the State pertaining to that activity and whether the activity is medical or non-medical or any other commercial cannabis activity the State may define and as they may be amended. Following is a list of current license types:
- i. Cultivation
 - ii. Distribution
 - iii. Manufacturing
 - iv. Retail sales (Dispensary)
 - v. Testing
- b. It shall be unlawful for any person, association, partnership or corporation to engage in, conduct or carry on, in or upon any premises within the City of Merced any commercial cannabis business without a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit. A cannabis business shall register and obtain a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit from the City of Merced

prior to operation. The Commercial Cannabis Business Permit applicant shall pay an annual non-refundable regulatory fee in an amount and at a frequency established by the City Council by resolution.

- c. A copy of the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit shall be displayed at all times in a place visible to the public.
- d. A Commercial Cannabis Business Permit shall be valid for one (1) year or until December 31 each year, unless sooner revoked. No permit granted herein shall confer any vested right to any person or business for more than the above-referenced period.
- e. A Commercial Cannabis Business Permit shall not be issued to an individual or a business entity owned or managed in whole or in part by an individual or a business entity employing an individual who has a previous conviction for or has entered a plea of nolo contendere/no contest to any of the following:
 - i. A felony offense listed in California Health and Safety Code Section 11590.
 - ii. A felony offense listed in California Penal Code Section 667.5(c).
 - iii. A felony offense listed in California Penal Code Sections 1197.2(c) or Section 1192.8.
 - iv. A felony or misdemeanor offense that substantially relate to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession.
 - v. A felony conviction involving fraud, deceit, or embezzlement.
 - vi. A felony or misdemeanor offense involving the sale or giving to a minor of controlled substances, cannabis, alcohol, or tobacco.

A Commercial Cannabis Business Permit may be issued, at the discretion of the City, to an individual with a conviction listed above provided a period of ten (10) years has elapsed in which the individual has remained free of criminal convictions or violations of parole or probation, and the individual has either obtained a certificate of rehabilitation pursuant to Penal Code Section 4852.01 or received expungement pursuant to California Penal Code Section 1203.4.

- f. The Commercial Cannabis Business Permit shall be issued to the specific person or persons listed on the Cannabis Permit Application.
- g. A Commercial Cannabis Business Permit is not transferable except under the terms of Merced Municipal Code Section 20.44.170(L)(4)(c), and does not run with the land or with the business. Any change to the business location, organizational structure, or ownership may require a new application with associated fees at the discretion of the Director of Development Services or designee.

2. Maintenance of Records and Reporting

All records for the commercial cannabis business of the following activities shall be maintained and available to the City of Merced for at least 7 years. Records shall be produced within 24 hours of a request by an authorized City of Merced representative:

- a. The business shall obtain and maintain a valid Seller's Permit from the State Board of Equalization.

- b. Financial records include, but are not limited to: bank statements, sales invoices, receipts, tax records, and all records required by the California State Board of Equalization under Title 18 California Code of Regulations section 1968.
- c. Personnel records, including each employee's full name, address, phone number, social security, or individual tax payer identification number, date of beginning employment, and date of termination of employment if applicable.
- d. Training records, including but not limited to the content of the training provided and the names of the employees that received the training.
- e. Contracts with other licensees regarding commercial cannabis activity.
- f. Permits, licenses, and other local authorizations to conduct the licensee's commercial cannabis activity, including BOE sellers permit.
- g. Security records.
- h. Records shall be kept in a manner that allows the records to be produced for the City in either hard copy or electronic form, whichever the City requests.
- i. Proof of building ownership or landlord letter acknowledging business type.
- j. Proof of insurance.

3. Operational Standards for All Commercial Cannabis Business Activities

- a. Interior and exterior locations of the business property shall be monitored at all times by closed circuit cameras for security purposes. The cameras and recording system shall be of adequate quality, color rendition and resolution to allow the sufficient identification of any individual committing a crime on the location premises. Cameras shall record 24 hours a day at a minimum of 20 frames per second.
- b. The applicant shall conduct and pay for any required CEQA reviews and analyses, and pay for all costs, including those of the City, associated with project review under CEQA.
- c. The surveillance system storage device or cameras shall be transmission control protocol/TCP capable of being accessed through the internet by the Merced Police Department or their designee on request.
- d. All controlled access areas, security rooms and all points of ingress/egress to limited access areas and all point of sale (POS) areas shall have fixed camera coverage capable of identifying activity occurring within a minimum of twenty (20) feet. Camera video recordings shall be maintained unaltered in a secure location for a period of not less than thirty (30) calendar days, and be available for inspection at any time. The City of Merced or law enforcement may request the recordings in connection with an investigation. If the recordings are not voluntarily provided, the City or law enforcement may seek a warrant or court order for the recordings.

- e. All commercial cannabis businesses shall create and maintain an active account within the State's track and trace system prior to commencing any commercial cannabis activity. In the event of system failure, the business shall keep a hard copy record and transfer the information to the track and trace system within 24 hours of the system being available.
- f. No cannabis dispensary may be located within a 1,000-foot radius from a school or within a 600-foot radius from a day care center, youth center, library or public park that is in existence at the time the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit is issued, as required by Section 11362.768 of the Health and Safety Code. No cultivation facility, manufacturing facility, testing facility or any other commercial cannabis business facility may be located within a 600-foot radius from a school, day care center, youth center, library, or public park that is in existence at the time the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit is issued, as required by Section 11362.768 of the Health and Safety Code. For purposes of this subsection only, a public park shall not include any park designated in Merced Municipal Code Section 9.70.030 as a bike path. The distance specified in this section shall be the horizontal distance measured in a straight line from the property line of the sensitive use noted above to the closest property line of the lot on which the commercial cannabis business shall be located without regard to intervening structures.
- g. No physical modification of the permitted premises is allowed without written prior permission by the City of Merced and payment of any additional fees required by the City.
- h. All commercial cannabis activities shall provide adequate off-street parking and comply with the City of Merced Municipal Code requirements in Chapter 20.38 Parking and Loading, to service customers without causing negative impact.
- i. The commercial cannabis business shall provide adequate handicapped parking per the requirements in the California Building Code.
- j. The commercial cannabis business shall provide adequate interior and exterior lighting for safety and security as determined by the Police Chief or designee.
- k. The commercial cannabis business shall minimize nuisances such as trash, litter, and graffiti.
- l. Any and all signage, packaging, and facilities shall not be 'attractive', as it is defined by the State, to minors.
- m. All commercial cannabis facilities shall be required to provide an air treatment system that ensures off-site odors shall not result from its operations. This requirement at a minimum means that the facility shall be designed to provide sufficient odor absorbing ventilation and exhaust systems so that any odor generated inside the location is not detected outside the building, on adjacent properties or public rights-of-way, or within any other unit located within the same building as the facility if the use occupies only a portion of a building. The air treatment system must also prevent the build-up of mold within the facility.
- n. A permitted commercial cannabis business entity shall have 180 days after permit issuance by the City of Merced to begin initial operations, unless otherwise approved by the Development Services Director or designee. A permitted commercial cannabis

business entity that remains inoperative for more than 60 calendar days after initial operations begin shall be deemed “abandoned” and the permit shall be forfeited. A business may temporarily suspend operations for a period of time as may be reasonably required to affect upgrades, modifications, repairs, or other property issue mitigations as approved by the Development Services Director or designee.

- o. The cannabis business shall comply with all State and City of Merced regulations regarding testing, labeling and storage of all cannabis products.
- p. The cannabis business shall meet all State and local regulations for the disposal of all cannabis materials and materials used in conjunction with processing, distributing and cultivating of cannabis as well as any unsold cannabis or cannabis products.
- q. The cannabis business shall conform to all State regulations regarding the use of appropriate weighing devices.
- r. The cannabis business shall conform to all State and local regulations regarding water usage. No liquids of any kind shall be discharged into a public or private sewage or drainage system, watercourse, body of water or into the ground, except in compliance with applicable regulations of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (California Administrative Code, Title 23, Chapter 3).
- s. The cannabis businesses’ electrical and plumbing shall comply with State and local regulations.
- t. The cannabis business shall maintain a comprehensive general liability combined single occurrence insurance policy issued by an “A” rated insurance carrier in an amount no less than two million dollars and naming the City of Merced as additional insured.
- u. No free samples of any cannabis or cannabis product may be distributed at any time.
- v. All agents, private security officers or other persons acting for or employed by a licensee shall display a laminated identification badge at least 2” X 2” in size, issued by the licensee. The badge, at a minimum, shall include the licensee’s “doing business as” name and license number, the employees first and last name, and a color photo of the employee that shows the full front of the employee’s face.
- w. The commercial cannabis business shall have a centrally-monitored fire and burglar alarm system which shall include all perimeter entry points and perimeter windows.
- x. A licensee shall ensure a licensed alarm company operator or one or more of its registered alarm agents installs, maintains, monitors and responds to the alarm system. The alarm company shall obtain a City of Merced business license.
- y. Meet all State deadlines for applying for a State license and receive a State license within six (6) months after the date the State begins issuing licenses. This may be waived if the State has longer delays in issuing licenses of the type the commercial cannabis business seeks. The permittee must inform the City in writing within 10 days when the permittee applies for that initial permit or if the permittee applies for any additional State licenses. Said notification shall be addressed to the Director of Development Services or his designee at 678 W. 18th St., Merced, CA 95340.

- z. All persons hiring employees to engage in commercial cannabis activities shall document compliance with the following employee safety practices:
 - i. Emergency action response planning as necessary
 - ii. Employee accident reporting and investigation policies
 - iii. Fire prevention
 - iv. Hazard communication policies, including maintenance of material safety data sheets.
 - v. Materials storage and handling policies
 - vi. Personal protective equipment policies
 - vii. Operation manager contacts
 - viii. Emergency responder contacts
 - ix. Poison control contacts

- aa. All persons with ownership interest; and all employees agents, officers or other persons acting for or employed by a permittee must be at least 21 (twenty-one) years of age.

20.44.170(F): Additional Regulations for Dispensary and Retail Sales of Cannabis

1. Only four (4) dispensaries shall operate within the Merced City Limits, regardless of the location's compliance with any other Section specified in this ordinance.. At least one (1) of those dispensaries shall also dispense medicinal cannabis goods. If State law allows medical and adult use dispensaries on the same premises, the City of Merced would allow a combined use, but in no case shall more than four (4) dispensaries of any kind be allowed within the City of Merced.
2. No retail cannabis facility may engage in check cashing activities at any time.
3. Only one dispensary permit per person with ownership interest is allowed in the City of Merced. Any person with community property rights of an ownership interest is considered a person with ownership interest in this section.
4. Restrooms shall remain locked during business hours and not open to the public.
5. The total number of dispensaries in operation shall be determined based on the number of locations which have been issued a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit for a dispensary by the City.
6. Display of cannabis products shall be limited to only an amount necessary to provide a visual sample for customers.
7. At all times, the cannabis dispensary is open, the dispensary shall provide at least one security guard who is registered with Bureau of Security and Investigative Services, and possesses a valid and current security guard registration card on their person while on-duty.
8. Security guards are permitted, but not mandated, to carry firearms.
9. All cannabis products available for sale shall be securely locked and stored.

10. The security guard and cannabis dispensary personnel shall monitor the site and the immediate vicinity of the site to ensure that patrons immediately leave the site and do not consume cannabis in the vicinity of the dispensary or on the property or in the parking lot.
11. Medical Cannabis Dispensaries shall maintain the full name, address and telephone number(s) of all patient members to whom the business provides medical cannabis, and a copy of a physician-issued recommendation card or State-issued card for all patient members.
12. Dispensaries shall also record on the video surveillance system point-of-sale areas and areas where cannabis goods are displayed for sale.
13. Any commercial cannabis retail or medical retail sales facility shall be open to the public a minimum of 40 hours per week, unless otherwise specified in the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit.
14. Hours of operation in Commercial Office (C-O) zones shall be limited to no earlier than 8 a.m. Pacific Time and no later than 7 p.m. Pacific Time. Hours of operation in all other zones shall be limited to no earlier than 8 a.m. Pacific Time and no later than 9 p.m. Pacific Time, unless zoning regulations specify more restrictive hours.
15. Exterior signage shall be limited to one wall sign not to exceed twenty (20) square feet in area. Interior signage or advertising may not be visible from the exterior. No temporary signs (banners, A-frames, etc.) or window signs are allowed.
16. On-site consumption of cannabis or cannabis products is specifically prohibited on the premises at all times. The following information shall be provided on a sign posted in a conspicuous location inside the cannabis dispensary: "Smoking, ingesting or consuming cannabis on this property or within 100 feet of the business is prohibited."
17. An adult use license shall not sell cannabis products to persons under 21 years of age or allow any person under 21 years of age on its premises, unless such licensee also holds a medicinal license and the licensee holds a CCBP for both adult use and medicinal cannabis. A medicinal licensee may sell cannabis products to and allow on the premises, any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid government issued identification card, and either a valid county-issued identification card under Section 11362.712 of the Health and Safety Code or a valid physician's recommendation for himself or herself or for a person for whom he or she is a primary caregiver.
18. Adequate signage shall clearly state that the City of Merced has not tested or inspected any cannabis product for pesticides, or other regulated contaminants, distributed at this location.
19. No recommendations from a doctor for medical cannabis shall be issued on-site.
20. Shipments of cannabis goods may only be accepted during regular business hours.
21. There shall be no on-site sales of alcohol or tobacco products, and no on-site consumption of food, alcohol or tobacco by patrons.

22. Inventory shall be secured and locked in a room, safe, or vault, and in a manner reasonably designed to prevent diversion, theft, and loss during non-business hours.
23. No cannabis product shall be visible from the exterior of the business.
24. All required labelling shall be maintained on all product, as required by State regulations, at all times.
25. The business shall post signs that spell out the "Prohibited Conduct Involving Marijuana and Marijuana Products" contained in Health and Safety Code Section 11362.3 in a conspicuous manner on the business premises for the education of patrons. The City shall develop a standard format and content for such signs.
26. The use of vending machines (i.e. a machine that dispenses articles when a coin, bill, or token is inserted) to dispense cannabis is strictly prohibited.
27. No drive-through facilities shall be allowed and no cannabis shall be sold through a drive-through facility.

20.44.170(G): Additional Regulations for Commercial Cannabis Delivery Services

1. Commercial cannabis deliveries may be made only from a commercial cannabis dispensary permitted by the City in compliance with this ordinance, and in compliance with all State regulations.
2. All employees who deliver cannabis shall have valid identification and a copy of the dispensary's Commercial Cannabis Business Permit at all times while making deliveries.
3. All commercial cannabis businesses shall provide proof of insurance in a minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for any and all vehicles being used to transport cannabis goods.
4. Deliveries may only take place during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. daily.
5. A customer requesting delivery shall maintain a physical or electronic copy of the delivery request and shall make it available upon request by the licensing authority and law enforcement officers, only as required by State regulations.
6. The following applies to all deliveries of cannabis products:
 - a. May only be made to a physical address in California.
 - b. A licensed delivery employee shall not leave the State of California while possessing cannabis products.
7. A dispensary shall maintain a list of all deliveries, including the address delivered to, the amount and type of product delivered, and any other information and for the duration of time required by State regulations.

8. A cannabis business shall only deliver cannabis in aggregate amounts as ordered by the customer. A cannabis business shall ensure compliance with State delivery limits as they regard the amount of cannabis and cannabis products.
9. A manifest with all information required in this section shall accompany any delivery person at all times during the delivery process and delivery hours.
10. Any delivery method shall be made in compliance with State regulations and as it may be amended, including use of a vehicle that has a dedicated GPS device for identifying the location of the vehicle (cell phones and tablets are not sufficient).
11. The maximum limit of any cannabis goods carried by the delivery vehicle may not exceed \$3,000 at any time.
12. Each delivery request shall have a receipt prepared by the dispensary with the following information:
 - a. Name and address of the licensed dispensary
 - b. The name of the employee who delivered the order
 - c. The date and time the delivery request was made
 - d. The complete delivery address
 - e. A detailed description of the cannabis goods requested for delivery including the weight or volume, or any accurate measure of the amount of cannabis goods requested.
 - f. The total amount paid for the delivery including any fees or taxes.
 - g. At the time of the delivery, the date and time delivery was made, and the signature of the person who received the delivery.
13. The delivery business shall provide a flyer that spells out the "Prohibited Conduct Involving Marijuana and Marijuana Products" contained in Health and Safety Code Section 11362.3 to all delivery customers. The City shall develop a standard format and content for such flyers.

20.44.170(H). Additional Requirements for Manufactured Cannabis Businesses

1. A licensed cannabis manufacturing facility may conduct all activities permitted by the State. This includes, but is not limited to, volatile and non-volatile extractions, repackaging and relabeling, and infusions.
2. Any manufacturing activity that will be conducted by the licensee shall be included on the application. No additional manufacturing activity can be conducted without applying for and receiving written permission from the City of Merced for that additional activity.
3. At all times, the cannabis manufacturing facility will be compliant with all State regulations for cannabis manufacturing including Health and Safety Code 11362.775 and as it may be amended.
4. Inspections by the City Fire Chief or his designee may be conducting anytime during the business's regular business hours.

5. Cannabis manufacturing facilities shall not contain an exhibition or product sales area or allow for retail distribution of products at that location.
6. All cannabis manufacturing activities shall occur indoors within a fully enclosed and secured structure and also within a secure fence at least eight (8) feet in height that fully encloses the premises. The fence must include a lockable gate(s) that is locked at all times, except for during times of active ingress/egress. Said fence shall not violate any other ordinance, code section, or provision of law regarding the height, location, materials, or other fencing restrictions and shall not be constructed or covered with plastic or cloth. All screening shall conform to the requirements of applicable area, community, specific and design plans. Outdoor manufacturing of cannabis is expressly prohibited.

20.44.170(I). Additional Requirements for Cannabis Cultivation Businesses

1. The cannabis business shall register with the Department of Pesticide Regulation if using any pesticides.
2. From a public right-of-way, there shall be no exterior evidence of marijuana cultivation.
3. The Building Official may require additional specific standards to meet the California Building Code and Fire Code, including but not limited to installation of fire suppression sprinklers.
4. Compliance with Section 13149 of Water Code as enforced by the State Water Resources Control Board.
5. All outdoor lighting used for security purposes shall be shielded and downward facing.
6. The use of generators for cultivation is prohibited, except for temporary use in the event of a power outage or emergency.
7. Cannabis plants shall not be visible from offsite or the public right-of-way. All cannabis cultivation activities shall occur within a fully enclosed and secured structure and within a secure fence at least eight (8) feet in height that fully encloses the premises. The fence must include a lockable gate(s) that is locked at all times, except for during times of active ingress/egress. Said fence shall not violate any other ordinance, code Section, or provision of law regarding the height, location, materials, or other fencing restrictions and shall not be constructed or covered with plastic or cloth. All screening shall conform to the requirements of applicable area, community, specific and design plans. Outdoor cultivation of cannabis is expressly prohibited.

20.44.170(J). Additional Requirements for Cannabis Testing Laboratory Businesses

1. A licensed cannabis testing facility shall comply with all State regulations.
2. Any cannabis testing facility shall maintain all certifications required by the State.
3. A licensed cannabis testing facility business, it's owners and employees may not hold an interest in any other cannabis business except another testing business.

4. Inspections by the City Fire Chief or his designee may be conducting anytime during the business's regular business hours.

20.44.170(K). Additional Requirements for Cannabis Distribution Businesses

1. A licensed cannabis distribution facility shall comply with all State regulations.
2. Any cannabis distribution facility shall provide proof of a bond of at least five thousand dollars to cover the costs of destruction of cannabis or cannabis products if necessitated by a violation of licensing requirements.
3. Inspections by the City Police Chief or his designee may be conducting anytime during the business's regular business hours.
4. A distributor shall ensure that all cannabis goods batches are stored separately and distinctly from other cannabis goods batches on the distributor's premises.
5. A distributor shall ensure a label with the following information is physically attached to each container of each batch:
 - a. The manufacturer or cultivator's name and license number;
 - b. The date of entry into the distributor's storage area;
 - c. The unique identifiers and batch number associated with the batch;
 - d. A description of the cannabis goods with enough detail to easily identify the batch; and
 - e. The weight of or quantity of units in the batch.
6. A distributor shall store harvest batches and edible cannabis products that require refrigeration at 35 to 42 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition, a distributor shall store harvest batches in a darkened area with no more than 60% humidity.
7. A distributor shall store medical cannabis goods in a building designed to permit control of temperature and humidity and shall prevent the entry of environmental contaminants such as smoke and dust. The area in which medical cannabis goods are stored shall not be exposed to direct sunlight. A distributor may not store medical cannabis goods outdoors.
8. Employee breakrooms, eating areas, changing facilities, and bathrooms shall be completely separated from the storage areas.
9. All cannabis distribution activities shall occur within a fully enclosed and secured structure and within a secure fence at least eight (8) feet in height that fully encloses the distribution area. The fence must include a lockable gate(s) that is locked at all times, except for during times of active ingress/egress. Said fence shall not violate any other ordinance, code Section, or provision of law regarding the height, location, materials, or other fencing restrictions and shall not be constructed or covered with plastic or cloth. All screening shall conform to the requirements of applicable area, community, specific and design plans.
10. If located in a General Commercial (C-G) zone,
 - a. The cannabis distribution business shall be located on a parcel no less than 20,000 square feet in size,

- b. All loading and unloading activities shall take place within the secured fenced area required above.

20.44.170(L). Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Selection Process

1. Selection Process for Dispensaries/Retail Sales (Limited Number of Permits Available)

- a. The Commercial Cannabis Business Permit selection process will be conducted in two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2. In Phase 1, each Applicant interested in operating a commercial cannabis business will pay an application fee in an amount established by the City Council by resolution. The application will be reviewed for completeness by the Director of Development Services or designee.
- b. A pre-application conference with the Director of Development Services is strongly encouraged. A pre-application conference can be scheduled by calling 209-385-6858 during regular City of Merced business hours.
- c. The City of Merced has established a merit based scoring system to objectively award permits as described in the application documents in Phase 2 to be used in the event that there are more applications than there are Commercial Cannabis Business Permits for a specific license type, such as for retail dispensaries.
- d. The initial application period shall be 21 calendar days from the date the applications are released. Should the 21st day fall on a day when City Hall is closed, the application period shall be extended to the next open day at 4:00 p.m. Following the application period, the Director of Development Services or designee shall stop accepting applications and review all applications received as described in Phase 1. The Director of Development Services or designee will evaluate the applications received and determine the eligibility of each application. Each application that is complete and in compliance with the application requirements in Phase 1 shall be placed on the “Qualified Commercial Cannabis Business Application List—Dispensaries/Retail Sales” and shall be notified in writing that they are a “Qualified Commercial Cannabis Business Applicant—Dispensaries/Retail Sales”. The qualified applicants will be entered into the Phase 2 review process. The Director of Development Services shall maintain the “Qualified Application List”.
- e. If any of the items listed in the application process are not met, the Director of Development Services shall notify the applicant of the deficiency within 21 calendar days, after which the applicant will have 10 calendar days from receipt of notice to correct the deficiency. Should the 10th day fall on a day when City Hall is closed, the correction period shall be extended to the next open day at 4:00 p.m. If the deficiency is not corrected within 10 calendar days, the Director of Development Services may deny the permit and notify the applicant of this determination in writing within 10 calendar days following the Director of Development Services decision.
- f. All Cannabis applications received after the initial application period will be placed on the “Waitlist for Dispensaries/Retail Sales” in the order it is received. Applicants placed on the “Waitlist” shall be notified in writing of their “Waitlist” status.

g. Cannabis applications placed on the “Waitlist for Dispensaries/Retail Sales” will be moved to the “Qualified Applicant List for Dispensaries/Retail Sales” only if the application passes the Phase 1 review and when a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit for Dispensaries/Retail Sales becomes available, whether by creation of a new license, or the forfeiture of an existing one. Applicants moved to the “Qualified Applicant List for Dispensaries/Retail Sales” from the Waitlist will be notified of the change in writing. If the Director of Development Services or designee determines the application is incomplete, the Director of Development Services shall notify the applicant of the deficiency within 21 calendar days, after which the applicant will have 10 calendar days from receipt of notice to correct the deficiency. Should the 10th day fall on a day when City Hall is closed, the correction period shall be extended to the next open day at 4:00 p.m. If the deficiency is not corrected within 10 calendar days, the Director of Development Services may deny the permit and notify the applicant of this determination in writing within 10 calendar days following the Director of Development Services decision. A new application, with new fees, would then be required for any subsequent consideration of that same or similar proposal at the same location.

h. Commercial Cannabis Business Permit—Dispensaries/Retail Sales Selection - Phase 1 – Initial Review

The Director of Development Services or designee(s) shall determine whether each application demonstrates compliance with the minimum requirements and be placed on the “Qualified Applicant List for Dispensaries/Retail Sales” and entered into the Phase 2 review process. These requirements include but are not limited to:

- i. All Application documents required in the City’s Phase 1 application package.
- ii. Application was submitted during the application period.
- iii. Application forms are filled out completely.
- iv. Business Owner(s) / Applicant(s) referenced on the application provides a Live Scan that was conducted within 14 days prior to submitting the application.
- v. Phase 1 application fee is paid.
- vi. A signed statement that the proposed location of the commercial cannabis business on the application meets the zoning criteria established in this ordinance including, but not limited to, any and all sensitive use separation criteria required by this ordinance.

i. Commercial Cannabis Business Permit—Dispensaries/Retail Sales Selection - Phase 2 – Final Review and Scoring

The Director of Development Services or his designee, after reviewing the applications approved in Phase 1 and the aforementioned information, will convene a Selection Panel composed of the City Manager, Chief of Police, and the Director of Development Services, or their designees, to make the final decision, based on the merit-based scoring system, of successful applicants to recommend to the Planning Commission for the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit—Dispensaries/Retail Sales. The Selection Panel will review all application documents required in the City’s Phase 1 application package plus an additional background check of all owners conducted to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police as well as complete description of the merit based system and all merit based considerations shall be included with the application forms. Phase 2 requirements include, but are not limited to:

- i. Phase 2 application fee is paid and a comprehensive background check of anyone holding an ownership interest is completed to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police.
- ii. The Building Official or designee has inspected all structures in which the use is located to determine that all applicable standards and requirements are met. If a building permit is required for site improvements, Permit issuance will be deferred until a certificate of occupancy or other building permit approval is issued. Additionally, the Building Official has determined that there are no notices of nuisance or other code compliance issues recorded or on the property.
- iii. The Zoning Administrator or designee has issued a Zoning Clearance documenting compliance with the following:
 - a. The use is permitted in the Zoning District and meets the distance requirements from sensitive uses; and,
 - b. All land use permits, if any, have been approved and all conditions of approval have been met or are in good standing; and,
 - c. No zoning violations exist on the property; and,
 - d. A planning and/or building permit with a receipt proving payment for processing from the City of Merced Planning Department for the property location the commercial cannabis business will occupy.
- j. The Planning Commission will review all Commercial Cannabis Business Permit—Dispensaries/Retail Sales applications and all other relevant information and determine if a CCBP should be granted. Prior to issuing a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit—Dispensaries/Retail Sales, the Planning Commission will provide all public notices and conduct a public hearing as described in the City of Merced Municipal Code Section 20.70.010 through Sections 20.70.040. No Commercial Cannabis Business Permit—Dispensaries/Retails Sales shall be issued otherwise.

2. Selection Process for All Other Commercial Cannabis Business Permits (No Limits On the Number of Permits Available)

- a. The Commercial Cannabis Business Permit—All Other Cannabis Businesses selection process will be conducted in two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2. In Phase 1, each Applicant interested in operating a commercial cannabis business will pay an application fee in an amount established by the City Council by resolution. The application will be reviewed for completeness by the Director of Development Services or designee.
- b. A pre-application conference with the Director of Development Services is strongly encouraged. A pre-application conference can be scheduled by calling 209-385-6858 during regular City of Merced business hours.
- c. The initial application period shall be 21 calendar days from the date the applications are released. Should the 21st day fall on a day when City Hall is closed, the application period shall be extended to the next open day at 4:00 p.m. Following the application period, the Director of Development Services or designee shall stop accepting applications and review all applications received as described in Phase 1. The Director of Development Services or designee will evaluate the applications received and determine the eligibility of each application. Each application that is complete and in compliance with the application requirements in Phase 1 shall be placed on the “Qualified Commercial Cannabis Business Application List—All Other Cannabis Businesses” and shall be notified in writing that they are a “Qualified Commercial Cannabis Business

Applicant—All Other Cannabis Businesses”. The qualified applicants will be entered into the Phase 2 review process. The Director of Development Services shall maintain the “Qualified Application List for All Other Cannabis Businesses”.

- d. If any of the items listed in the application process are not met, the Director of Development Services shall notify the applicant of the deficiency within 21 calendar days, after which the applicant will have 10 calendar days from receipt of notice to correct the deficiency. Should the 10th day fall on a day when City Hall is closed, the correction period shall be extended to the next open day at 4:00 p.m. If the deficiency is not corrected within 10 calendar days, the Director of Development Services may deny the permit and notify the applicant of this determination in writing within 10 calendar days following the Director of Development Services decision. A new application, with new fees, would then be required for any subsequent consideration of that same or similar proposal at the same location.
- e. All Cannabis applications received after the initial application period will be placed on the “Waitlist for All Other Cannabis Businesses” in the order it is received. Applicants placed on the “Waitlist” shall be notified in writing of their “Waitlist” status.
- f. Cannabis applications placed on the “Waitlist for All Other Cannabis Businesses” will be moved to the “Qualified Applicant List for All Other Cannabis Businesses” on a one for one basis only if the application passes the Phase 1 review and when the number of applicants on the “Qualified Applicant List” falls below five, and will be notified of the change in writing. At any time, the Director of Development Services may suspend the requirement for a “Waitlist for All Other Cannabis Businesses” if the number of applications does not merit the need for the “Waitlist.” If the Director of Development Services or designee determines the application is incomplete, the Director of Development Services shall notify the applicant of the deficiency within 21 calendar days, after which the applicant will have 10 calendar days from receipt of notice to correct the deficiency. Should the 10th day fall on a day when City Hall is closed, the correction period shall be extended to the next open day at 4:00 p.m. If the deficiency is not corrected within 10 calendar days, the Director of Development Services may deny the permit and notify the applicant of this determination in writing within 10 calendar days following the Director of Development Services decision.

g. Commercial Cannabis Business Permit—All Other Cannabis Businesses Selection - Phase 1 – Initial Review

The Director of Development Services or designee(s) shall determine whether each application demonstrates compliance with the minimum requirements and be placed on the “Qualified Applicant List for All Other Cannabis Businesses” and entered into the Phase 2 review process. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- i. All Application documents required in the City’s Phase 1 application package.
- ii. Application was submitted during the application period.
- iii. Application forms are filled out completely.
- iv. Business Owner(s) / Applicant(s) referenced on the application provides a Live Scan that was conducted within 14 days prior to submitting the application.
- v. Phase 1 application fee is paid.

- vi. A signed statement that the proposed location of the commercial cannabis business on the application meets the zoning criteria established in this ordinance including, but not limited to, any and all sensitive use separation criteria required by this ordinance.

h. Commercial Cannabis Business Permit—All Other Cannabis Businesses Selection - Phase 2 – Final Review

The Director of Development Services or his designee, after reviewing the applications approved in Phase 1 and reviewing the information below will make a recommendation to the Planning Commission to approve or reject the application for the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit for All Other Cannabis Businesses.

- i. Phase 2 application fee is paid and a comprehensive background check of anyone holding an ownership interest is completed to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police.
- ii. The Building Official or designee has inspected all structures in which the use is located to determine that all applicable standards and requirements are met. If a building permit is required for site improvements, Permit issuance will be deferred until a certificate of occupancy or other building permit approval is issued. Additionally, the Building Official has determined that there are no notices of nuisance or other code compliance issues recorded or on the property.
- iii. The Zoning Administrator or designee has issued a Zoning Clearance documenting compliance with the following:
 - a. The use is permitted in the Zoning District and meets the distance requirements from sensitive uses; and,
 - b. All land use permits, if any, have been approved and all conditions of approval have been met or are in good standing; and,
 - c. No zoning violations exist on the property; and,
 - d. A planning and/or building permit with a receipt proving payment for processing from the City of Merced Planning Department for the property location the commercial cannabis business will occupy.
- i. The Planning Commission will review all Commercial Cannabis Business applications for All Other Cannabis Businesses and all other relevant information and determine if a CCBP should be granted. Prior to issuing a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit for All Other Cannabis Businesses, the Planning Commission will provide all public notices and conduct a public hearing as described in the City of Merced Municipal Code Section 20.70.010 through Sections 20.70.040. No Commercial Cannabis Business Permit shall be issued otherwise.

3. Appeal of Denial of Commercial Cannabis Business Permit (All Types)

The Planning Commission will review all Commercial Cannabis Business applications and all other relevant information, and determine if a CCBP should be granted. If the Planning Commission determines that the permit shall not be granted, the reasons for denial shall be provided in writing to the applicant. Any decision of the Planning Commission may be appealed to the City Council.

- a. A written appeal shall be filed within five (5) business days (excluding official city holidays) following a Planning Commission decision.
- b. When an appeal has been filed, the matter shall be scheduled for a public hearing before the City Council within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the appeal.

- c. Notice of the hearing of the appeal shall be provided to the applicant at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the public hearing.
- d. Any interested person may appear and be heard regarding the appeal.
- e. A matter being heard on appeal may be continued for good cause.
- f. The City Council's review of the appeal shall be limited to review of the Planning Commission decision and shall not be a de novo review. At the conclusion of the hearing, the City Council may affirm, reverse or modify the decision appealed. The decision of the City Council shall be the City's final decision in this regard and shall be dispositive of the matter subject to judicial review under the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Sections 1094.5 and 1094.6.

4. Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Annual Renewal (All Types)

- a. Applications for the renewal of a permit shall be filed with the Director of Development Services at least sixty (60) calendar days before the expiration of the current permit. Any permittee allowing their permit to lapse or which permit expired during a suspension shall be required to submit a new application, pay the corresponding original application fees and be subject to all aspects of the selection process.
- b. Any person desiring to obtain a renewal of their respective permit shall file a written application under penalty of perjury on the required form with the Director of Development Services who will conduct a review. The application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable filing fee established by the City Council to defray the cost of the review required by this Section. An applicant shall be required to update the information contained in their original permit application and provide any new and/or additional information as may be reasonably required by the Director of Development Services in order to determine whether said permit should be renewed. The Development Services Director, in consultation with the Selection Panel if they were involved in the original review, will review all Commercial Cannabis Business renewal applications and all other relevant information, and determine if a renewal CCBP should be granted.
- c. A Commercial Cannabis Business Permit holder may file a request to transfer ownership of the business. The request shall be made to the Director of Development Services. The request must be in writing and must be at least 60 days prior to the transfer. The Director of Development Services shall review the request and may require additional background material on the proposed new owner. The Director of Development Services shall notify the permit holder in writing along with the reason for approval or denial of the transfer. The original term of the Commercial Cannabis Business Permit shall stay in effect including the renewal date.
- d. The Director of Development Services or designee may deny the annual renewal of a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit if the permittee or the permittee's agent or employee has committed any one of the following acts:
 - i. Any act which would be considered a ground for denial of the permit in the first instance.
 - ii. Violates any other provision of this section or any City of Merced or State law, statute, rule or regulation relating to the business's permitted activity.
 - iii. Engages in or permits misconduct substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of the permittee.
 - iv. Conducts the permitted business in a manner contrary to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

- v. Fails to take reasonable measures to control patron conduct, where applicable, resulting in disturbances, vandalism, or crowd control problems occurring inside of or outside the premises, traffic control problems, or creation of a public or private nuisance, or obstruction of the operation of another business.
- vi. Violates or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit.
- vii. Fails to pay all applicable City, State, or Federal taxes and fees.

5. Appeal of Denial of Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Renewal (All Types)

- a. The Development Services Director, in consultation with the Selection Panel if they were involved in the original review, will review all Commercial Cannabis Business renewal applications and all other relevant information, and determine if a renewal CCBP should be granted. If the Development Services Director determines that the permit shall not be granted, the reasons for denial shall be provided in writing to the applicant. The applicant shall have fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the receipt of the written denial to correct the reasons for denial and request in writing reconsideration of permit issuance. Following review of the amended permit application, the Development Services Director will approve or deny the permit by providing written notice to the applicant.
- b. Any decision of the Development Services Director may be appealed to the Planning Commission. An appeal shall be filed within five (5) business days (excluding official city holidays) following a decision by the Director of Development Services.
 - i. When an appeal has been filed, the matter shall be scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning Commission within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the appeal.
 - ii. Notice of the hearing shall be provided to the applicant at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the public hearing.
 - iii. Any interested person may appear and be heard regarding the appeal.
 - iv. The Planning Commission's review of the appeal shall be limited to review of the Development Services Director decision and shall not be a de novo review.
 - v. A matter being heard on appeal may be continued for good cause.
 - vi. The decision of the Planning Commission may be appealed to the City Council.
 - a. A written appeal shall be filed within five (5) business days (excluding official city holidays) following a Planning Commission decision.
 - b. When an appeal has been filed, the matter shall be scheduled for a public hearing before the City Council within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the appeal.
 - c. Notice of the hearing of the appeal shall be provided to the applicant at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the public hearing.
 - d. Any interested person may appear and be heard regarding the appeal.
 - e. A matter being heard on appeal may be continued for good cause.
 - f. The City Council's review of the appeal shall be limited to review of the Planning Commission decision and shall not be a de novo review. At the conclusion of the hearing, the City Council may affirm, reverse or modify the decision appealed. The decision of the City Council shall be the City's final decision in this regard and shall be dispositive of the matter subject to judicial review under the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Sections 1094.5 and 1094.6.

6. Revocation of Commercial Cannabis Business Permit (All Types)

- a. The Director of Development Services or designee may suspend or revoke a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit when the permittee or the permittee's agent or employee has committed any one or more of the following acts:
 - i. Any act which would be considered a ground for denial of the permit in the first instance.
 - ii. Violates any other provision of this section or any City of Merced or State law, statute, rule or regulation relating to the business's permitted activity.
 - iii. Engages in or permits misconduct substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of the permittee.
 - iv. Conducts the permitted business in a manner contrary to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.
 - v. Fails to take reasonable measures to control patron conduct, where applicable, resulting in disturbances, vandalism, or crowd control problems occurring inside of or outside the premises, traffic control problems, or creation of a public or private nuisance, or obstruction of the operation of another business.
 - vi. Violates or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit.
 - vii. Fails to pay all applicable City, State, or Federal taxes and fees.
- b. Prior to suspension or revocation of the applicable permit, the Director of Development Services shall conduct a hearing. Written notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be served upon the permittee at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the date set for such hearing. The notice shall contain a brief statement of the grounds to be relied upon for revoking or suspending the permit. Notice may be given either by personal delivery or by certified U.S. mail, postage prepaid.
- c. Any decision of the Development Services Director may be appealed to the Planning Commission. An appeal shall be filed within five (5) business days (excluding official city holidays) following a decision by the Director of Development Services.
 - i. When an appeal has been filed, the matter shall be scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning Commission within (thirty) 30 days of receiving the appeal.
 - ii. Notice of the hearing shall be provided to the applicant at least (ten) 10 calendar days prior to the public hearing.
 - iii. Any interested person may appear and be heard regarding the appeal.
 - iv. The Planning Commission's review of the appeal shall be limited to review of the Development Services Director decision and shall not be a de novo review.
 - v. A matter being heard on appeal may be continued for good cause.
 - vii. The decision of the Planning Commission may be appealed to the City Council.
 - a. A written appeal shall be filed within five (5) business days (excluding official city holidays) following a Planning Commission decision.
 - b. When an appeal has been filed, the matter shall be scheduled for a public hearing before the City Council within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the appeal.
 - c. Notice of the hearing of the appeal shall be provided to the applicant at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the public hearing.
 - d. Any interested person may appear and be heard regarding the appeal.
 - e. A matter being heard on appeal may be continued for good cause.
 - f. The City Council's review of the appeal shall be limited to review of the Planning Commission decision and shall not be a de novo review. At the

conclusion of the hearing, the City Council may affirm, reverse or modify the decision appealed. The decision of the City Council shall be the City's final decision in this regard and shall be dispositive of the matter subject to judicial review under the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Sections 1094.5 and 1094.6.

20.44.170(M): Limitations on the City's Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the City shall not assume any liability whatsoever, with respect to approving any Commercial Cannabis Business Permit pursuant to this ordinance or the operation of any cannabis facility approved pursuant to this chapter. As a condition of approval of a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit as provided in this chapter, the applicant or its legal representative shall:

1. Execute an agreement indemnifying the City from any claims, damages, injuries or liabilities of any kind associated with the registration or operation of the commercial cannabis facility or the prosecution of the applicant or permittee or its members for violation of federal or State laws;
2. Maintain insurance in the amounts and types that are acceptable to the City Attorney or designee;
3. Name the city as an additionally insured on all City required insurance policies;
4. Agree to defend, at its sole expense, any action against the City, its agents, officers, and employees related to the approval of a Commercial Cannabis Business permit; and
5. Agree to reimburse the City for any court costs and attorney fees that the City may be required to pay as a result of any legal challenge related to the City's approval of a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit. The City may, at its sole discretion, participate at its own expense in the defense of any such action, but such participation shall not relieve the operator of its obligation hereunder.

20.44.170(N): Enforcement

1. A violation of the regulations in this ordinance by an act, omission, or failure of an agent, owner, officer or other person acting in concert with or employed by a permittee within the scope of their employment or office, shall be deemed the act, omission, or failure of the permittee.
2. A permitted Commercial Cannabis Business shall notify the Police Chief or designee of the City of Merced upon discovery of any of the following situations:
 - a. A discrepancy of more than \$1,000 in inventory over a period of 24 hours or \$3,000 over period of 7 days.
 - b. A reason to suspect diversion, loss, theft or any other criminal activity pertaining to the operation of the commercial cannabis business.
 - c. The loss or alteration of records related to cannabis goods, registered medical cannabis patients, caregivers or dispensary employees or agents.
 - d. Any other reason to suspect any other breach of security.

3. Each and every violation of this Section shall constitute a separate violation and shall be subject to all remedies and enforcement measures authorized by the Municipal Code. Additionally, as a nuisance per se, any violation of this article shall be subject to injunctive relief, revocation of the business's Commercial Cannabis Business Permit, disgorgement and payment to the City of any and all monies unlawfully obtained, costs of abatement, costs of investigation, attorney fees, and any other relief or remedy available at law or equity. The City may also pursue any and all remedies and actions available and applicable under local and state laws for any violations committed by the cannabis business and/or any owner, agent, officer, or any other person acting in concert with or employed by the cannabis business.
4. City Officials or their designees may enter and inspect the location of any commercial cannabis business during normal business hours to ensure compliance with this Section. In addition, law enforcement may enter and inspect the location of any cannabis business and the recordings and records maintained as required by this Section, except that the inspection and copying of private medical records shall be made available to law enforcement only pursuant to a properly executed search warrant, subpoena, or court order. A person engaging in commercial cannabis business without a permit and associated unique identifiers required by this chapter shall be subject to civil penalties of up to twice the amount of the permit fee for each violation, and the department, state or local authority, or court may order the destruction of cannabis associated with that violation. A violator shall be responsible for the cost of the destruction of cannabis associated with the violation, in addition to any amount covered by a bond required as a condition of licensure. Each day of operation shall constitute a separate violation of this section.

20.44.170(O): Fees and Taxes

All Cannabis Operations shall pay applicable fees and taxes, which may include one or more of the following:

1. Initial Application Fees. The Business Applicant shall submit a non-refundable fee to cover the cost of processing an initial application for the commercial cannabis business. These fees may be divided into two fees according to Initial Review (Phase 1) and Final Review (Phase 2).
2. Application Renewal Fees. The Business Owner shall submit a non-refundable fee to cover the cost of processing an application renewal annually.
3. Business License Fee. The Business Owner shall at all times maintain a current and valid business license and pay all business taxes required by the Merced Municipal Code.
4. Commercial Cannabis Regulatory Fee. The Business Owner shall pay an annual regulatory fee ("Regulatory Fee") to cover the costs of anticipated enforcement relating to the Cannabis Operation. The amount of the fee shall be set by Resolution of the City Council and be supported by the estimated additional costs of enforcement and monitoring associated with the Cannabis Operation. The Regulatory Fee shall be due and payable prior to opening for business and thereafter on or before the anniversary date. The Regulatory Fee may be amended from time to time based upon actual costs.
5. All required taxes including sales and use taxes, business, payroll etc.
6. Additional cannabis-specific gross receipts, excise, cultivation or any other tax approved by the voters of the City of Merced.

SECTION 6 : SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 7. PUBLICATION.

The City Clerk is directed to cause a summary of this Ordinance to be published in the official newspaper at least once within fifteen (15) days after its adoption showing the vote thereon.

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Merced on the 20th day of November, 2017, and was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of said City Council held on the 4th day of December, 2017, by the following called vote:

AYES: 5 Council Members: BLAKE, MARTINEZ, MCLEOD, PEDROZO, SERRATTO

NOES: 2 Council Members: BELLUOMINI, MURPHY

ABSTAIN: 0 Council Members: NONE

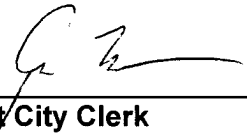
ABSENT: 0 Council Members: NONE

APPROVED:



MAYOR


**ATTEST:
STEVE CARRIGAN, CITY CLERK**

BY: 

Assistant City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM



City Attorney 11/28/2017
Date





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Cannabis Related Occupancies – Commercial Building Permit Application Submittal Requirements

The following regulations pertain to City of Merced Building Division and Fire Department requirements for the permit application, plan review, approval and inspection of cannabis-related occupancies. The requirements listed below are intended to assist the applicant with some of the requirements applicable to a Building Division permit submittal, and are not to be considered an all-inclusive listing of Building or Fire Department requirements for plan approval or permit issuance. Only items pertinent to each specific submittal are to be included. Every listed item will not necessarily be applicable to all projects.

General Requirements

1. A building permit is required to verify occupancy for a cannabis facility, even if no improvements to the property are proposed. The building permit application must meet the City's general building permit submittal requirements.
2. Construction plans and building permits are required per the California Building Code Section 105 when the owner or occupant intends to construct, enlarge, alter, remove, repair, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace an electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by the Building and/or Fire Code, or to cause this work to be done.
3. The plans must be prepared by a licensed professional registered with the State of California and must address specific requirements for the use as outlined in the codes and standards adopted by the City of Merced and the State of California.
4. An application for a building permit will not be accepted for a cannabis related business without approval for concurrent review or approval of a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit (CCBP). The CCBP process must be completed and approved prior to the issuance of the building permit.
5. All building permit design and supporting documentation is required to be prepared, stamped and signed by qualified design professionals licensed and registered by the State of California.
6. All construction and related work must be performed by contractors licensed by the State of California as general and/or specialty contractors for the specific discipline of work to be performed.
7. All design and construction shall be consistent with the provisions of the Merced Municipal Code and the current edition of the California Code of Regulations Title 24 as adopted by the California Building Standards Commission, and as amended by the City of Merced Municipal Code.
8. A City of Merced Building Permit Application form must be completed in its entirety and included with each submittal. <https://www.cityofmerced.org/depts/cd/building/applications/default.asp>
9. Codes and Standards regulating cannabis facilities currently adopted by the City of Merced include, but are not limited to:
 - A. *California Building Code (CBC)*
 - B. *California Electrical Code (CEC)*
 - C. *California Mechanical Code (CMC)*
 - D. *California Plumbing Code (CPC)*
 - E. *California Energy Code(CEC)*



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- F. *California Fire Code (CFC)*
- G. *California Existing Building Code (CEBC)*
- H. *California Green Building Standards Code (CalGreen)*
- I. *California Health and Safety Code (HS&C)*
- J. *California Existing Building Code (CEBC)*
- K. *National Fire Protection Association Standards (NFPA)*
- L. *Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA)*
- M. *City of Merced Municipal Code (CMMC)*

10. A location specific building permit application package is required for each individual building and building address. For a detail of commercial submittal package content review Commercial Plan Submittal Checklist https://www.cityofmerced.org/depts/cd/building/download_information.asp . Additional documentation may be required for structural modifications and/or additions to existing buildings or structures. All submittals are electronic. Electronic plan review instructions can be found on the city website https://www.cityofmerced.org/depts/cd/building/electronic_plan_review/default.asp .
11. The plan review fees will be calculated after the city is in receipt of a full complete submittal. Applicant will be contacted with the amount due. Fees must be paid in full before the plans will be accepted for plan review.
12. Construction or work for which the permit is required shall be subject to inspection by the Building Official and such construction or work shall remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes until approved. No construction shall commence prior to the issuance of a building permit.
13. No building or structure shall be used or occupied, and no change in the existing occupancy classification or the use in the same occupancy classification, of the building or structure or portion thereof shall be made, until the Building Official has issued a certificate of occupancy. Issuance of a certificate of occupancy shall not be construed as an approval of a violation of the provisions of applicable codes and standards or the other regulations of the City of Merced.
14. The owner/occupant is required to keep all City approved plans, specifications and related documents on the premises, in an easily accessible location for City inspection staff for the required inspections.
15. A copy of the approved plans shall be maintained on site for any future operational, or other related inspections after a Certificate of Occupancy is given.

Building Code Requirements

(Applicable to all occupancies and MAUCRSA permit types)

1. The Occupancy and Construction Type of the proposed facility shall comply with the applicable provisions of CBC Chapters 3 and 6.
2. Means of egress shall comply with CBC Chapter 10.
3. The design for the occupant load is based on CBC Chapter 10, § 1004. Growing, storage and shipping areas are 300 sq. ft. per person; cannabis infused products, testing and business areas are 100 sq. ft. per person.
4. Interior finishes shall comply with CBC Chapter 8.
5. Access for persons with disabilities shall comply with the applicable provisions of CBC Chapter 11B.



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Fire Code Requirements

(Applicable to all occupancies and MAUCRSA permit types)

All applicants will need to provide a detailed scope of work related to all business activities and products utilized in their business model or process. List license type proposed, storage configurations and hazardous materials to be utilized. Prior to finalization of building permit, operational permits will need to be secured with the Fire Department.

1. The smoking or carrying of a lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette or any other type of smoking paraphernalia or material is prohibited in the areas indicated in CFC § 310.
2. Storage of combustible materials in buildings shall be orderly. Storage shall be separated from heaters or heating devices by distance or shielding so that ignition cannot occur per CFC § 315.
3. Any security device or system that emits any medium that could obscure a means of egress in any building, structure or premise shall be prohibited per CFC § 316.5.
4. Reporting of emergencies, coordination with emergency response forces, emergency plans and procedures for managing or responding to emergencies shall comply with the provisions of CFC § 401.
5. Emergency evacuation drills complying with provisions of this section shall be conducted at least annually for Group F occupancies listed in section 404 or when required by the fire code official. Drills shall be designed in cooperation with the California Fire Code and local authorities per CFC § 405.
6. The provisions of CFC § 407 shall be applicable where hazardous materials subject to permits under CFC §5001.5 are used and/or stored on the premises or where required by the fire code official.
7. Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the Fire Code Official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an approved location. The key box shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys to gain necessary access as required by the fire code official per CFC §506.1
8. Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in the locations described in CFC § 903 and as amended by the Merced Municipal Code. A change in the occupancy of the space or an expansion of square footage could require the installation of a fire suppression system for the building.
9. Automatic fire-extinguishing systems, other than automatic sprinkler systems, shall be designed, installed, inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with the provisions of CFC § 903 and the applicable referenced standards.
10. Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in F, B and U occupancy groups per CFC § 906. The size and distribution of portable fire extinguishers shall be in accordance with CFC § 906 and *California Code of Regulations, Title 19*.
11. Duct smoke detectors complying with UL 268A shall be installed in accordance with the CBC, CFC, CMC and NFPA 72 in the main supply air duct of each air-conditioning system having a capacity greater than 2,000 CFM.
12. An approved fire alarm system installed in accordance with the provisions of the CFC and NFPA 72 shall be provided in new buildings and structures in accordance with CFC § 907.2 and provide occupant notification in accordance with CFC § 907.6, unless other requirements are provided by another section of this code.
13. High-piled storage or rack storage in any occupancy group shall comply with CFC Chapter 32.
14. Storage, use and handling of compressed gases in compressed containers, cylinders, tanks, and systems shall comply with CFC Chapter 53 including those gases regulated elsewhere in the CFC. Partially full compressed gas container, cylinders or tanks containing residual gases shall be considered as full for purposes of the controls required.



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15. Compressed gases classified as hazardous materials shall also comply with CFC Chapter 50 for general requirements and the applicable sections of Chapters 58 (Flammable Gases), 60 (Highly Toxic and Toxic Materials), 63 (Oxidizer, Oxidizing Gases and Oxidizing Cryogenic Fluids) and 64 (Pyrophoric Materials).
16. The storage, use and handling of all hazardous materials shall be in accordance with CFC Chapter 50 (Hazardous Materials) and the applicable sections of Chapter 54 (Corrosive Materials), Chapter 55 (Cryogenic Fluids), Chapter 57 (Flammable and Combustible Liquids) and Chapter 58 (Flammable Gases and Flammable Cryogenic Fluids). The maximum allowable quantity of hazardous materials per control area will be established using CFC § 5003.1. Applicant will need to contact the Fire Department for hazardous materials storage, use and handling requirements.
17. Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement (HMIS) per CFC § 5001.5.2. An application for building permit shall include an HMIS. The HMIS shall include the following information:
 - A. Product name.
 - B. Component.
 - C. Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) number.
 - D. Location where stored or used.
 - E. Container size.
 - F. Hazard classification.
 - G. Amount in storage.
 - H. Amount in use-closed systems.
 - I. Amount in use-open systems.

The business will also need to comply with electronic reporting requirements specific to the California Environmental Reporting System. Applicants will need to contact the Fire Department for direction and permitting related to hazardous materials inventory reporting amounts.

18. Fumigation and insecticidal fogging operations within buildings, structures and spaces shall comply with CFC Chapter 26.

Electrical Code Requirements

(applicable to all occupancies and MAUCRSA permit types)

1. All electrical system design and permitting is required to be performed by licensed engineers or architects registered in the State of California or qualified and experienced licensed electrical contractors if they are performing the actual installations (design-build).
2. All electrical system(s) installation is required to be completed by licensed electrical contractors.
3. The electrical system must be sized and installed in accordance with the California Electrical Code.
4. A single line diagram of the existing and proposed electrical system, including the main electrical service shall be provided in the submittal along with panel schedules and load calculations. CEC Article 215.5.
5. Electrical services which are 400 amps or greater must be designed by licensed electrical engineers registered in the State of California or qualified and experienced licensed electrical contractors if they are performing the actual installations (design-build).
6. All electrical equipment must be listed and labeled by an approved testing agency, CEC Article 110.3.



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Mechanical Code Requirements

(applicable to all occupancies and MAUCRSA permit types)

1. The provisions of the CMC shall apply to the erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to or the maintenance of mechanical systems.
A ventilation system shall be required to filter contaminants to the exterior of the building and any adjoining property. The mechanical ventilation of exhaust system shall be installed to control, capture and remove emissions or other odors generated from product use or handling where required in accordance with the Building or Fire Code. The design of the system shall be such that the emissions or other odors are confined to the area in which they are generated by air currents, hoods, or enclosures and shall be exhausted by a duct system to a safe location or treated by removing contaminants.
2. Provide an exhaust system designed and constructed to capture sources of contaminants to prevent spreading of contaminants to other parts of the occupied spaces of the building (CMC Chapter 5).
3. Building elements separating the cannabis agricultural area from other occupied portions of the building must be air sealed to prevent odor migration into adjacent spaces.
4. The inlet for the ventilation system must be located in the area(s) of the highest contaminant concentration per CMC § 505.6.
5. Ventilation required. Every occupied space shall be ventilated by natural means in accordance with CMC §402.2 or by mechanical means in accordance with CMC § 402.3.
6. Label information. A permanent factory-applied nameplate shall be affixed to appliances on which shall appear in legible lettering, the manufacturer's name or trademark, the model number, serial number and the seal or mark of the approved agency. A label shall also include all applicable information per CMC § 307.

Plumbing Code Requirements

(applicable to all occupancies and MAUCRSA permit types)

1. New plumbing installations and alteration must meet requirements of the California Plumbing Code (CPC).
2. The number of required fixtures shall be calculated using CPC § 422.1, Table 422.1 and Table A.
3. The provisions of the CPC shall apply to the erection, installation, alteration, repairs, relocation, replacement, addition to or the maintenance of plumbing systems, nonflammable medical gas, carbon dioxide extraction systems, inhalation, anesthetic, vacuum piping, nonmedical oxygen systems, sanitary and condensate systems, vacuum collection systems, fuel gas distribution piping and equipment, gas water heaters and water heater venting.
4. Plan documents must identify the locations of plumbing fixtures and fixture types.
5. Plans shall identify the locations of water heater(s), water supply and distribution, indirect and special waste, sanitary discharge, vents, traps, backflow preventers and interceptors and separators.
6. Plumbing fixtures and fixture fittings must be designed for individuals with disabilities and with the appropriate standards.
7. Installed appliances regulated by this code shall be listed and labeled for the application in which they are installed and used, unless otherwise approved in accordance with the CPC.



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Energy Code Regulations

(applicable to all occupancies and MAUCRSA permit types)

New, modified and altered building envelope, lighting and mechanical systems must be designed to comply with California Energy Code Nonresidential requirements. The City of Merced is located in Climate Zone 12. For purposes of energy design, the designer is responsible for specifying the building features that determine compliance with Building Energy Efficiency Standards and other applicable building codes. Alterations must comply with mandatory measures for the altered components.

1. The energy documents will be required for lighting, cooling, heating, water heating and building envelope modifications.
2. Building envelope, lighting and mechanical systems shall comply with the applicable requirements of the California Energy Code.

CalGreen Code Requirements

(applicable to all occupancies and MAUCRSA permit types)

California Green Building Standards Code provides provisions to outline planning design and development methods for environmentally responsible site and building design to protect, restore and enhance the environmental quality of the site, building and respect the integrity of adjacent properties. Alterations and additions to existing buildings must include a Green Building Check List for non-residential construction if the valuation is \$200,000 or greater or if the addition is 1,000 square feet or larger.

MAUCRSA Permit Specific Requirements

The requirements in this section are related to specific permit types as outlined in the *California State Medicinal and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act* (MAUCRSA)

Cultivation Facilities

(MAUCRSA permit types 1-4)

1. Mixed use grow facilities are to meet CBC, Chapter 3 requirements based upon Use and Occupancy Classification for a Factory Industrial, F-1, Moderate-hazard Occupancy. CBC § 306.2.
2. Grow facilities such as greenhouses for the exclusive use of plant production may be classified as a U occupancy and shall be consistent with the requirements of CBC Appendix C.
3. Grow lights must be installed per the manufacturer's instructions and wired per CEC article 410.
4. NM cable (Romex) is not allowed for use in damp locations (grow rooms) (CEC § 334.10). Approved wiring methods utilized in grow facilities shall be in accordance with wet use "Wiring Methods and Materials", (CEC Chapter 3).
5. Cultivation facility exhaust outlets must be located 10' from the property lines, operable openings into the building and from mechanical air intakes (CMC § 506.9).



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Manufacturer Facility

(MAUCRSA permit type 6-7)

1. Type 6 Manufacturing facilities are to meet CBC, Chapter 3 requirements based upon Use and Occupancy Classification for a Factory Industrial, F-1, Moderate-hazard Occupancy. CBC § 306.2.
2. Portions of the cannabis Infused Product facilities may be considered a Hazardous Location based on the method used for the THC extraction and the amount of hazardous material stored. Full disclosure of the extraction process will be required at the time of building permit submittal.
3. Cannabis manufacturing facilities shall submit as a part of their permit application a comprehensive description of the program and process proposed for the operation and production at the facility. The documentation shall, as applies, include all of the following:
 - A. A plan that specifies all means to be used for extracting, heating, washing, or otherwise changing the form of the cannabis plant or for testing any cannabis or cannabis product and safety measures for each such process.
 - B. A description of all toxic, flammable, or other materials regulated by a federal, state, or local government that will be used, kept, or created at the facility, the quantities and location of such materials, and the manner in which such materials will be stored.
 - C. A description of the processes used to extract or distill cannabis derivatives from their source and the processes used to incorporate cannabis derivatives into all retail cannabis products produced.
4. Concentrations of grease, smoke, heat, steam or products of combustion created when cannabis is manufactured into products including, but not limited to, foods, beverages, salves, inhalants and tinctures are to be contained as detailed in the CMC §§ 506 and 507 (Type I and Type II hoods).
5. Facilities used for processing cannabis into foods, beverages, salves, inhalants, tinctures or other forms for human consumption or use are subject to review and approval by the [California Department of Public Health, Manufactured Cannabis Safety Branch](#). A separate license application is required through their office.
6. Sanitation requirements for facilities used for processing cannabis into foods, beverages, salves, inhalants and tinctures shall meet the California Department of Public Health guidelines that are to be detailed on the drawings.
7. Infused product extraction and hazard containment equipment must be listed, labeled and installed per NEC 110.3.
8. Storage, use and handling of compressed gases in compressed gas containers, cylinders, tanks and systems shall comply with CFC, NFPA Standards, H&SC and CCR, including those gases regulated elsewhere in this code. Partially full compressed gas containers, cylinders or tanks containing residual gases shall be considered as full for the purposes of the controls required.

Compressed gases classified as hazardous materials shall also comply with CFC Chapters 50 and 53 for general requirements and chapters addressing specific hazards, including Chapters 58 (Flammable Gases), 60 (Highly Toxic and Toxic Materials), 63 (Oxidizers, Oxidizing Gases and Oxidizing Cryogenic Fluids) and 41 (Pyrophoric Materials).



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Testing/Laboratory

(MAUCRSA permit type 8)

1. Type 8 Testing/Laboratory facilities are to meet CBC, Chapter 3 requirements based upon Use and Occupancy Classification for a Business Group, B, Occupancy. CBC § 304.1.
2. Required hoods shall meet the requirements of CMC §§ 506, 507 and 508.
3. Hazardous materials storage, use, handling and wastes shall be permitted and reported through the Fire Department prior to operation.

Dispensaries

(MAUCRSA permit type 10)

Type 10 Dispensary facilities are to meet CBC, Chapter 3 requirements based upon Use and Occupancy Classification for a Mercantile Group, M, Occupancy. CBC § 309.1

CITY OF MERCED
Planning Commission

Resolution #_____

WHEREAS, the Merced City Planning Commission at its scheduled meetings of September 18 and September 19, 2018, held a public hearing and considered **Commercial Cannabis Business Permit #18-17R**, initiated by Merced Business Ventures, Inc., DBA Manzanita, on property owned by Robert Gray. This application is a request to permit the operation of a retail dispensary for both medicinal and adult-use cannabis, including delivery services, on a 0.3-acre parcel at 1594 W. 18th Street within a General Commercial (C-G) Zone; also known as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 031-351-031; and,

WHEREAS, the Merced City Planning Commission concurs with Findings A through O of Staff Report #18-25; and,

NOW THEREFORE, after reviewing the City's Draft Environmental Determination, and discussing all the issues, the Merced City Planning Commission does resolve to hereby adopt a Categorical Exemption regarding Environmental Review #18-30 and approve Commercial Cannabis Business Permit #18-17R, subject to the Conditions set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

Upon motion by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner(s)

NOES: Commissioner(s)

ABSENT: Commissioner(s)

ABSTAIN: Commissioner(s)

PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION # _____

Page 2

September 18 and 19, 2018

Adopted this 19th day of September 2018

Chairperson, Planning Commission of
the City of Merced, California

ATTEST:

Secretary

Attachment:

Exhibit A – Conditions of Approval

Conditions of Approval
Planning Commission Resolution # _____
Commercial Cannabis Business Permit #18-17R

1. The proposed project shall be constructed/designed as shown on Exhibit 1 (site plan), Exhibit 2 (floor plan), and Exhibit 3 (elevations) -- Attachments C, D, and E of Staff Report #18-25, except as modified by the conditions.
2. All conditions and requirements contained in Merced Municipal Code (MMC) Section 20.44.170/Ordinance #2480 (Attachment J of Staff Report #18-25) shall apply. Particular attention shall be paid to MMC 20.44.170(F) “Additional Regulations for Dispensary and Retail Sales of Cannabis” and MMC 20.44.170(G) “Additional Regulations for Commercial Cannabis Delivery Services.”
3. The proposed project shall comply with all standard Municipal Code and Subdivision Map Act requirements as applied by the City Engineering Department.
4. All other applicable codes, ordinances, policies, etc. adopted by the City of Merced shall apply.
5. The developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend (with counsel selected by the City), and hold harmless the City, and any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof, from any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof to attack, set aside, void, or annul, an approval of the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, advisory agency, appeal board, or legislative body, including actions approved by the voters of the City, concerning the project and the approvals granted herein. Furthermore, developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend (with counsel selected by the City), and hold harmless the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, against any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against any governmental entity in which developer/applicant’s project is subject to that other governmental entity’s approval and a condition of such approval is that the City indemnify and defend such governmental entity. City shall promptly notify the developer/applicant of any claim, action, or proceeding. City shall further cooperate fully in the defense of the

action. Should the City fail to either promptly notify or cooperate fully, the developer/applicant shall not thereafter be responsible to indemnify, defend, protect, or hold harmless the City, any agency or instrumentality thereof, or any of its officers, officials, employees, or agents.

6. The developer/applicant shall construct and operate the project in strict compliance with the approvals granted herein, City standards, laws, and ordinances, and in compliance with all State and Federal laws, regulations, and standards. In the event of a conflict between City laws and standards and a State or Federal law, regulation, or standard, the stricter or higher standard shall control. State Law shall prevail in regards to cannabis activities as permitted by State Law.
7. The proposed project shall comply with all applicable regulations of the State of California including, but not limited to, those found in the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA).
8. The details of the property's fencing (if any), security, and screening are to meet the approval of the Director of Development Services and Chief of Police prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Key access and/or a Knox Box to any perimeter fencing shall be provided to the City Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments.
9. The applicants shall meet the standards of the City of Merced's "Commercial Building Permit Application Submittal Requirements" (Attachment K of Staff Report #18-25) at the time of submittal for building permits for tenant improvement.
10. The applicants shall keep on the premises of the proposed project site a physical copy of the approved plans, to be annotated and updated accordingly with any notes, changes, or requirements determined to be necessary by representatives of the City of Merced or any contractors that the City of Merced may employ for the purpose of site inspections. These plans shall be made available to the City's representatives, employees, agents, inspectors, or contractors upon request.
11. Any non-public areas, including cannabis inventory storage room, restrooms, etc., within the facility shall be secured from intentional or accidental access by any person not employed, contracted, or otherwise authorized on the premises.

12. Fire sprinklers shall be modified or installed to accommodate the building configuration and process configuration prior to occupancy if required by the Chief Building Official.
13. Regulatory Fees, as per Resolution #2017-67, are to be paid prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy and annually thereafter on or before the anniversary date. The Regulatory Fee may be amended from time to time based upon actual costs. The amount of the fees shall be adjusted annually (starting on January 1, 2019) to account for inflation by using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In no event, shall the fees in any year be less than the preceding year.
14. A Commercial Cannabis Business Permit is valid for one year or until December 31 of each year, unless sooner revoked. Applications for the renewal of a permit shall be filed with the Director of Development Services, in accordance with MMC 20.44.170(L).4, "Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Renewal (All Types)", at least sixty (60) calendar days before the expiration of the current permit. If the permittee allows their permit to lapse, they shall be required to submit a new application, pay corresponding fees, and be subject to all aspects of the selection process.
15. If the applicants are unable to provide a FEMA flood elevation certificate showing that the top of the bottom floor and all equipment are at the required height as to not mandate mitigation measures (if applicable), flood mitigation measures shall be required to meet the approval of the City flood plain manager and City Engineer.
16. As required by Merced Municipal Code Section 17.04.050 and 17.04.060, full public improvements shall be installed/repared if the permit value of the project exceeds \$100,000.00. Public improvements may include, but not be limited to, repairing/replacing the sidewalk, curb, gutter, and street corner ramp(s), so that they comply with ADA standards and other relevant City of Merced/State/Federal standards and regulations.
17. The applicants shall provide a trash enclosure on the property such that all waste is securely stored until it is removed from the premises with access to the enclosure to be provided to the Refuse Division. The proposed enclosure as shown on the Site Plan is located at the southwest corner of the parcel, but per the Refuse Division, it should be relocated closer to the northwest corner of the parcel. The final location and design

shall be approved by the Refuse Division prior to issuance of a building permit. The applicants have also agreed to post a sign on the enclosure making clear there is no cannabis product inside of it, and it will be locked.

18. Future modifications to the scale, scope, activities, implementation, processes, materials, design, layout, or other factors pertaining to the operation of the project that are consistent with permits to perform activities related to operation of a retail dispensary of cannabis and cannabis-based products may be authorized with the approval of the City's Chief Building Official, Fire Chief, and Director of Development Services.
19. A joint parking and cross access agreement shall be recorded by the property owner to ensure that the dispensary has access to the parking, trash enclosure, and any other required facilities on the adjacent parcel to the east (APN #031-351-028).
20. The parking areas shall be repaved and striped to City Standards prior to obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy.
21. The final design of the exterior elevations and any signage shall be approved by Planning staff prior to obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy. Details to be worked out with staff.

n:\shared\planning\PC Resolutions: CCBP #18-17R Exhibit A