

Updated Advisory Air Quality & Cannabis Operations

South Central Coast
Basinwide Control Council

Aeron Arlin Genet
Executive Director / Air Pollution Control Officer

October 5, 2023

@OurAirSBC  



ADVISORY

Air Quality and Cannabis Operations

DATE: July 10, 2023

The purpose of this Advisory is to provide guidance regarding the air quality aspects of this industry that may be restricted by or regulated by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District). This Advisory describes the rules and regulations that apply to cannabis operations¹, clarifies the District's regulatory authority over cannabis agricultural operations², and makes recommendations for addressing air quality impacts from cannabis operations for planning and code enforcement processes. Additional information can be found at www.ourair.org/land-use.

The District has primary responsibility for control of air pollution from all stationary sources. The District is an independent local agency, separate from the County of Santa Barbara, and the District's regulatory authority is not bound by the County or City requirements or their permitting process. The District coordinates with the County, and local cities, related to their land use permitting processes, as certain projects undergoing lead agency permitting also require District permits and/or potentially have air quality impacts. **This advisory provides general information, but cannabis operators/applicants should contact the District to discuss potential permit and regulatory requirements as early as possible.**

The following important air quality issues related to cannabis operations are covered in this advisory: 1) Odors and Air Quality Nuisance, 2) Recommended Odor Abatement, 3) Use of Prime Electrical Generators, and 4) Operations that Require District Permits.

Santa Barbara County APCD Cannabis Permitting Requirements & Nuisance Enforcement

Operation(s)	Permit Required ^{1, 2}	Odor Nuisance Enforced
Agricultural Operations (cultivation, planting, growing, harvesting) ⁴	No	No ⁴
Processing (drying, trimming, curing, flash freezing, etc.)	Yes	Yes
Manufacturing (extraction, refinement, etc.)	Yes	Yes
Distribution, Storage, and/or Packaging	Yes	Yes
Retail (storefronts, smoking lounges, etc.)	No	Yes
Residential (cultivation, planting, growing, harvesting, drying, baking, etc.)	No	Yes



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Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Updated Advisory - Air Quality and Cannabis Operations

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) recently updated its [Advisory on Air Quality and Cannabis Operations](#). The updated *Advisory* clarifies the District's role in reviewing, permitting, and enforcing regulations on cannabis operations. **Importantly, the District is now requiring permits for all post-harvest cannabis processing operations, including drying, trimming, curing, and flash-freezing.** In addition to the *Advisory*, an updated [Cannabis Permitting Requirements & Nuisance Enforcement Table](#) has been created, which reflects this change in our requirements. These documents and District permit applications for cannabis operations are available on the District's website: www.ourair.org/cannabis/.

Cannabis operations that have already received land use approval and that are currently operating with processing activities will be given a grace period until December 1, 2023 to apply for a District permit. The District is sending this targeted outreach to cannabis owners, operators, project developers, consultants, and other community members who we are aware of to inform you of the new permitting requirements and grace period. Owners/Operators of existing unpermitted post-harvest cannabis processing operations must submit a permit application to the District on or before December 1, 2023 and prior to commencing any new operations, or modifying any existing operations. Owners/Operators that do not submit a permit application by the deadline may be in violation of District Rules and subject to enforcement action.

2023 Cannabis Advisory Updates

APCD permits are now required for all post-harvest cannabis processing operations, including drying, trimming, curing, and flash-freezing.

More information:
OurAir.org/cannabis



- Existing post-harvest cannabis processing operations with land use approval will be given a grace period and must submit a permit application to APCD on or before **December 1, 2023**.
- APCD permits are also required prior to commencing any new operations or modifying any existing operations.
- Owners/Operators that do not submit a permit application by the deadline may be in violation of APCD Rules and subject to enforcement action.

Questions?

Permitting: enr@sbcapcd.org
Compliance: enfr@sbcapcd.org



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For More Information...



Planning Division: CEQA@sbcapcd.org

Engineering Division: ENGR@sbcapcd.org

District Complaint Form (English): www.ourair.org/complaint-form/

District Complaint Form (Spanish): www.ourair.org/forma-de-reclamo/?lang=es

Complaint Phone Number (English & Spanish): (805) 979-8266

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