

Notice to Post-Harvest Cannabis Operators – January 2026

District Permitting Requirements

Post-harvest cannabis operations and equipment require Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) permits due to the potential for issuance of air contaminants. See <https://www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/APCDCannabisAdvisory.pdf> for more information regarding the scope of District permitting and regulatory authority. District permits are required prior to installation and operation of equipment, including new odor control systems.

To minimize the time to obtain a required District permit, operators proposing new or revised odor control equipment are strongly encouraged to submit their Authority to Construct (ATC) permit application(s) to the District *as soon as possible*. Note that the District is able to process permits in conjunction with the land use agency, and permit applications may be submitted concurrently. See <https://www.ourair.org/cannabis/> to download the necessary permit application form(s) and contact us at engr@sbcapcd.org for more information or assistance.

Advisory on the Use of Photocatalytic Oxidation (PCO) Devices for Odor Abatement

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) recommends against the use of photocatalytic oxidation (PCO) air cleaners for cannabis odor abatement due to safety concerns, namely, the potential for ozone formation and secondary, toxic chemical byproduct formation.¹ If the use of PCO air cleaners is proposed for odor abatement, the District recommends (but does not require) that the equipment be equipped with carbon filters. All proposed odor mitigation devices should be CARB-certified to meet state ozone emission concentration limits regardless of whether the device is located in an unoccupied space. See the searchable list of certified devices at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/list-carb-certified-air-cleaning-devices>.

¹ OEHHA. 2025. Memorandum. PCO Technology for Cannabis Odor Control. <https://www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/PCO-Memo-OEHHA-final.pdf>