

**RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT  
Resolution Number 20-30  
Record Number: PLN-11207-CUP  
Assessor Parcel Number: 210-191-059**

**Makes the required findings for certifying compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and conditionally approves the Tree Pharms, LLC Conditional Use Permit and Special Permit request.**

**WHEREAS**, Tree Pharms, LLC, submitted an application and evidence in support of approving a Conditional Use Permit for 23,693 square feet (SF) of existing outdoor cannabis cultivation operation within 10 hoop houses and two area composed of open-air cultivation with appurtenant propagation area and processing facility. The project includes a Special Permit for development within the Streamside Management Area that would allow the use of a point of diversion from a spring, used for irrigation. The Special Permit is also to facilitate an encroachment within a Streamside Management Area for remediation.

**WHEREAS**, the County Planning Division has reviewed the submitted application and evidence and has referred the application and evidence to involved reviewing agencies for site inspections, comments and recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Planning Division, the lead agency, prepared an Addendum to the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Commercial Medical Land Use Ordinance (CMMLUO) adopted by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on January 26, 2016. The proposed project does not present substantial changes that would require major revisions to the previous Mitigated Negative Declaration, and no new information of substantial importance that was not known and could not be known at the time was presented as described by Section 15162 (c) of the State CEQA Guideline; and

**WHEREAS**, Attachment 2 in the Planning Division staff report includes evidence in support of making all of the required findings for approving the proposed Conditional Use Permit and Special Permit (Case Number PLN-11207-CUP); and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on the matter before the Humboldt County Planning Commission on June 4, 2020; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved, determined, and ordered by the Humboldt County Planning Commission that:

1. The Planning Commission considered the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted for the Commercial Medical Marijuana Land Use Ordinance; and
2. Planning Commission makes all the required findings in Attachment 2 of the Planning Commission staff report for Case Number PLN-11207-CUP based on the submitted substantial evidence; and

3. The Conditional Use Permit and Special Permit (Case Number PLN-11207-CUP) is approved as recommended and conditioned in Attachment 1.

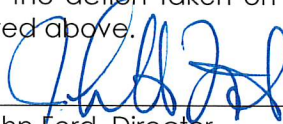
Adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on June 4, 2020.

The motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Pellegrini.

AYES: Commissioners Mitchell, Levy, Newman, Bongio, McCavour, O'Neill and Pellegrini.

DECISION: Motion carries 7/0.

I, John Ford, Secretary to the Planning Commission of the County of Humboldt, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct record of the action taken on the above entitled matter by said Commission at a meeting held on the date noted above.



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John Ford, Director  
Planning and Building Department

## ATTACHMENT 1

### RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

**APPROVAL OF THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT IS CONDITIONED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS WHICH MUST BE SATISFIED BEFORE THE PROVISIONAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION PERMIT CAN BE FINALIZED.**

1. Within 60 days of the effective date of project approval, the applicant shall execute a Compliance Agreement with the Humboldt County Planning Department detailing all necessary permits and infrastructure improvements described under Conditions of Approval #2 – 16. The agreement shall provide a timeline for completing all outstanding items. All activities detailed under the agreement must be completed to the satisfaction of the Planning and Building Department before the permit may be finalized and no longer considered provisional.
2. The applicant shall secure permits for all structures (including, but not limited to greenhouses, and accessory structures) and grading (including road improvements, graded flats) related to the cannabis cultivation and other commercial cannabis activity. The plans submitted for building permit approval shall be consistent with the project description and approved project site plan. A letter or similar communication from the Building Division verifying that all structures related to the cannabis cultivation are permitted will satisfy this condition. Existing structures used in the cannabis operation shall not be used/occupied until all required permits have been obtained.
3. The applicant is to adhere to recommendations made in the Cannabis Remediation Report for onsite relocation and Updated Grading Plan prepared by Natural Resources Management Corporation, dated February and April 2020. The applicant must submit a monitoring report to the Planning Department.
4. The applicant shall secure permits and install an on-site sewage disposal system and restroom facility prior to processing on-site. Portable toilet and handwashing facilities may be utilized during the construction of these permanent improvements. The applicant shall furnish receipts or other documentation to the DEH for the continual use of portable toilets for employees either through 2019 or until a permanent septic system is installed to their satisfaction. A letter or similar communication from DEH verifying that all their requirements have been met will satisfy this condition.
5. The applicant shall implement all corrective actions detailed within the Water Resource Protection Plan developed for the parcel, prepared pursuant to Tier 2 enrollment under the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Cannabis Waste Discharge Regulatory Program, including those measures later determined necessary during annual and periodic site inspections in accordance with the monitoring element until the applicant has demonstrated enrollment in the State Cannabis Cultivation Discharge Program.
6. The applicant to submit evidence of enrollment into the State Cannabis Cultivation Discharge program by submitting copies of all documents filed with the State Water Resources Control Board, including, but not limited to, a Notice of Applicability and a Site Management Plan. The applicant is required to adhere to and implement the requirements contained in the SWRCB's Cannabis Cultivation Policy, the General Order and the Notice of Applicability. A copy of the reporting form portion of the Mitigation and Reporting Program (MRP) shall be submitted annually to the Planning and Building Department concurrent with the submittal to the SWRCB.
7. The applicant shall adhere to and comply with all applicable terms of the Streambed Alteration Agreement issued by CDFW and submit a Bullfrog Management Plan for review and approval by CDFW. Reporting requirements shall be submitted to the Planning Department and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at 619 Second Street, Eureka, CA 95501, no later than December 31 of each year.

8. The approved building plans shall meet all applicable fire codes, including fire suppression infrastructure requirements deemed necessary for the project by the Building Inspection Division. Sign off on the Occupancy Permit by the Building Division shall satisfy this requirement.
9. The applicant shall submit compliance with the requirements of the County's Fire Safe Regulations and to provide evidence of emergency access turnarounds, signing & building numbers, emergency water standards, a designated water storage for fire, and fuel modification standards.
10. The applicant shall be compliant with the County of Humboldt's Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) requirements regarding any hazardous materials. A written verification of compliance shall be required before any provisional permits may be finalized. Ongoing proof of compliance with this condition shall be required at each annual inspection in order to keep the permit valid.
11. The applicant shall install and utilize a water meter to demonstrate that there is sufficient water supply to meet the demands of the project without having to rely on surface water diversion during the forbearance period. The water use for cultivation is limited to the amount of water available in storage tanks and shall be provided annually prior to or during the annual inspection.
12. The applicant shall obtain an encroachment permit from the California Department of Transportation and provide a copy to the Planning Department and to adhere to recommendations made in the Road Evaluation Report for the access road, Evaluation prepared by David Nicoletti, dated May 2018.
13. Applicant shall secure permits from the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, as applicable. A letter or similar communication from the North Coast Air Quality Management District verifying that all their requirements have been met and/or no additional permitting is required will satisfy this condition.
14. The applicant shall execute and file with the Planning Division the statement titled, "Notice and Acknowledgment regarding Agricultural Activities in Humboldt County," ("Right to Farm" ordinance) as required by the HCC and available at the Planning Division.
15. All mixed light from the propagation areas shall comply with International Dark Sky Association standards for Lighting Zone 0 and Lighting Zone 1 and be designed to regulate light spillage onto neighboring properties resulting from backlight, up light, or glare (BUG). International Dark Sky Association standards exceed the requirements of Scenic Resources Standard SR-S4, Light and Glare, that lighting be fully shielded, and designed and installed to minimize off-site lighting and direct light within the property boundaries. The applicant must demonstrate and submit evidence that no light will escape from the propagation structures.
16. The applicant is required to pay for permit processing on a time and material basis as set forth in the schedule of fees and charges as adopted by ordinance of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. The Department will provide a bill to the applicant after the decision. Any and all outstanding Planning fees to cover the processing of the application to decision by the Hearing Officer shall be paid to the Humboldt County Planning Division, 3015 "H" Street, Eureka.

**Ongoing Requirements/Development Restrictions Which Must be Satisfied for the Life of the Project:**

1. All components of project shall be developed, operated, and maintained in conformance with the Project Description, the approved Site Plan, the Plan of Operations, and these conditions of approval. Changes shall require modification of this permit except where consistent with Humboldt County Code Section 312-11.1, Minor Deviations to Approved Plot Plan.
2. Cannabis cultivation and other commercial cannabis activity shall be conducted in compliance with all laws and regulations as set forth in the CMMLUO and MAUCRSA, as applicable to the permit type.

3. The applicant shall not use any erosion control measures that contain synthetic (e.g. plastic or nylon) monofilament netting, including photo- or biodegradable plastic netting, on a regular and on-going basis. Geotextiles, fiber rolls, and other erosion control measures shall be made of loose-weave mesh, such as jute, hemp, coconut (coir) fiber, or other products without weaves.
4. All refuse shall be contained in wildlife proof containers, at all times, and relocated to an authorized waste management facility, in compliance with State and local laws, on a regular and on-going basis.
5. No fish stocking shall be permitted without written permission from the California Department of Fish and Game pursuant to Section 6400 of the Fish and Game Code.
6. If operating pursuant to a written approved compliance agreement, permittee shall abate or cure violations at the earliest feasible date, but in no event no more than two (2) years from the date of issuance of a provisional clearance or permit. Permittee shall provide plans for curing such violations to the Planning & Building Department within one (1) year of issuance of the provisional clearance or permit. If good faith effort towards compliance can be shown within the two years following the issuance of the provisional clearance or permit, The Planning Department may, at the discretion of the Director, provide for extensions of the provisional permit to allow for additional time to meet the outstanding requirements.
7. Possession of a current, valid required license, or licenses, issued by any agency of the State of California in accordance with the MAUCRSA, and regulations promulgated thereunder, as soon as such licenses become available.
8. Compliance with all statutes, regulations and requirements of the California State Water Resources Control Board and the Division of Water Rights, at a minimum to include a statement of diversion of surface water from a stream, river, underground stream, or other watercourse required by Water Code Section 5101, or other applicable permit, license, or registration, as applicable.
9. Confinement of the area of cannabis cultivation, processing, manufacture or distribution to the locations depicted on the approved site plan. The commercial cannabis activity shall be set back at least 30 feet from any property line, and 600 feet from any School, School Bus Stop, Church or other Place of Religious Worship, or Tribal Cultural Resources, except where a reduction to this setback has been approved pursuant to Section 55.4.11 (d).
10. Maintain enrollment in Tier 1, 2 or 3, certification with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) Order No. R1-2015-0023, if applicable, or any substantially equivalent rule that may be subsequently adopted by the County of Humboldt or other responsible agency.
11. Comply with the terms of any applicable Streambed Alteration (1600) Permit obtained from the Department of Fish & Wildlife.
12. Comply with the terms of a less-than-3-acre conversion exemption or timberland conversion permit, approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE), if applicable.
13. Consent to an annual on-site compliance inspection, with at least 24 hours prior notice, to be conducted by appropriate County officials during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, excluding holidays).
14. Refrain from the improper storage or use of any fuels, fertilizer, pesticide, fungicide, rodenticide, or herbicide.
15. Pay all applicable application and annual inspection fees.

16. The noise produced by a generator used on an emergency-only basis for cannabis drying, curing, and processing shall not be audible by humans from neighboring residences. The decibel level for generators measured at the property line shall be no more than 60 decibels.
17. Storage of Fuel - Fuel shall be stored and handled in compliance with applicable state and local laws and regulations, including the County of Humboldt's CUPA program, and in such a way that no spillage occurs.
18. The Master Log Books maintained by the applicant to track production and sales shall be maintained for inspection by the County.
19. Pay all applicable taxes as required by the Humboldt County Commercial Marijuana Cultivation Tax Ordinance (Humboldt County Code Section 719-1 et seq.).
20. The operation shall participate in the Medical Cannabis Track and Trace Program administered by the Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner, when available.

#### Performance Standards for Cultivation and Processing Operations

21. Pursuant to the MAUCRSA, Health and Safety Code section 19322(a)(9), an applicant seeking a cultivation license shall "provide a statement declaring the applicant is an 'agricultural employer,' as defined in the Alatorre-Zenovich-Dunlap-Berman Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975 (Part 3.5 commencing with Section 1140) of Division 2 of the Labor Code), to the extent not prohibited by law."
22. Cultivators shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing California Agricultural Employers, which may include: federal and state wage and hour laws, CAL/OSHA, OSHA, California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, and the Humboldt County Code (including the Building Code).
23. Cultivators engaged in processing shall comply with the following Processing Practices:
  - i. Processing operations must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition including all work surfaces and equipment.
  - ii. Processing operations must implement protocols which prevent processing contamination and mold and mildew growth on cannabis.
  - iii. Employees handling cannabis in processing operations must have access to facemasks and gloves in good operable condition as applicable to their job function.
  - iv. Employees must wash hands sufficiently when handling cannabis or use gloves.
24. All persons hiring employees to engage in commercial cannabis cultivation and processing shall comply with the following Employee Safety Practices:
  - I. Cultivation operations and processing operations must implement safety protocols and provide all employees with adequate safety training relevant to their specific job functions, which may include:
    - (a) Emergency action response planning as necessary;
    - (b) Employee accident reporting and investigation policies;
    - (c) Fire prevention;
    - (d) Hazard communication policies, including maintenance of material safety data sheets (MSDS);
    - (e) Materials handling policies;
    - (f) Job hazard analyses; and
    - (g) Personal protective equipment policies, including respiratory protection.

- II. Cultivation operations and processing operations must visibly post and maintain an emergency contact list which includes at a minimum:
  - (a) Operation manager contacts;
  - (b) Emergency responder contacts;
  - (c) Poison control contacts.
- III. At all times, employees shall have access to safe drinking water and toilets and handwashing facilities that comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Plumbing facilities and water source must be capable of handling increased usage without adverse consequences to neighboring properties or the environment.
- IV. On site-housing provided to employees shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

25. All cultivators shall comply with the approved Processing Plan as to the following:

- I. Processing Practices.
- II. Location where processing will occur.
- III. Number of employees, if any.
- IV. Employee Safety Practices.
- V. Toilet and handwashing facilities.
- VI. Plumbing and/or septic system and whether or not the system is capable of handling increased usage.
- VII. Drinking water for employees.
- VIII. Plan to minimize impact from increased road use resulting from processing.
- IX. On-site housing, if any.

26. Term of Commercial Cannabis Activity Special Permit. Any Commercial Cannabis Cultivation SP issued pursuant to the CMMLUO shall expire one (1) year after date of issuance, and on the anniversary date of such issuance each year thereafter, unless an annual compliance inspection has been conducted and the permittees and the permitted site have been found to comply with all conditions of approval.

27. If the inspector or other County official determines that the permittees or site do not comply with the conditions of approval, the inspector shall serve the SP or permit holder with a written statement identifying the items not in compliance, and the action that the permit holder may take to cure the non-compliance, or file an appeal within ten (10) days of the date that the written statement is delivered to the permit holder. Personal delivery or mailing the written statement to the mailing address listed on the application by regular mail, plus three (3) days after date of mailing, shall constitute delivery. The permit holder may request a reinspection to determine whether or not the permit holder has cured all issues of non-compliance. Failure to request reinspection or to cure any items of non-compliance shall terminate the Special Permit, immediately upon the expiration of any appeal period, or final determination of the appeal if an appeal has been timely filed pursuant to section 55.4.13.

28. Permit Renewals to comply with Updated Laws and Regulations. Permit renewal per Ongoing Condition of Approval #23 above is subject to the laws and regulations effective at the time of renewal, which may be substantially different than the regulations currently in place and may require the submittal of additional information to ensure that new standards are met.

29. Acknowledgements to Remain in Full Force and Effect. Permittee Acknowledges that the County reserves the right to reduce the size of the area allowed for cultivation under any clearance or permit issued in accordance with this Section in the event that environmental conditions, such as a sustained drought or low flows in the watershed in which the cultivation area is located will not support diversions for irrigation.

30. Permittee further acknowledges and declares that:

- I. All commercial cannabis activity that I, my agents, or employees conduct pursuant to a permit from the County of Humboldt shall be solely for medical purposes and all commercial cannabis products produced by me, my agents, or employees are intended to be consumed solely by qualified patients entitled to the protections of the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (codified at Health and Safety Code section 11362.5); and
- II. All cannabis or cannabis products under my control, or the control of my agents or employees, and cultivated or manufactured pursuant to local Ordinance and the California Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act will be distributed within the State of California; and
- III. All commercial cannabis activity conducted by me, or my agents or employees pursuant to a permit from the County of Humboldt will be conducted in compliance with the California Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act.

31. Transfers. Transfer of any leases or permits approved by this project is subject to the review and approval of the Planning Director for conformance with CMMLUO eligibility requirements, and agreement to permit terms and acknowledgments. The fee for required permit transfer review shall accompany the request. The request shall include the following information:

- a. Identifying information for the new Owner(s) and management as required in an initial permit application;
- b. A written acknowledgment by the new Owner in accordance as required for the initial Permit application;
- c. The specific date on which the transfer is to occur; and
- d. Acknowledgement of full responsibility for complying with the existing Permit; and
- e. Execution of an Affidavit of Non-diversion of Medical Cannabis.

32. Inspections. The permit holder and subject property owner are to permit the County or representative(s) or designee(s) to make inspections at any reasonable time deemed necessary to assure that the activities being performed under the authority of this permit are in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed herein.

#### **Informational Notes:**

1. Pursuant to Section 314-55.4.11(a) of the CMMLUO, if upon inspection for the initial application, violations of any building or other health, safety, or other state of county statute, ordinance, or regulation are discovered, the Planning and Building Department may issue a provisional clearance or permit with a written approved Compliance Agreement. By signing the agreement, the permittee agrees to abate or cure the violations at the earliest opportunity but in no event more than two (2) years of the date of issuance of the provisional clearance or permit. Plans for curing the violations shall be submitted to the Planning and Building Department by the Permittee within one (1) year of the issuance of the provisional certificate or permit. The terms of the compliance agreement may be appealed pursuant to section 314-55.4.13 of the CMMLUO.
2. This provisional permit approval shall expire and become null and void at the expiration of one (1) year after all appeal periods have lapsed (see "Effective Date"); except where the Compliance Agreement per Condition of Approval #1 has been executed and the corrective actions pursuant to the agreement are being undertaken. Once building permits have been secured and/or the use initiated pursuant to the terms of the agreement, the use is subject to the Permit Duration and Renewal provisions set forth in Conditions of Approval #23 of the On-Going Requirements /Development Restrictions, above.
3. If cultural resources are encountered during construction activities, the contractor on site shall cease all work in the immediate area and within a 50-foot buffer of the discovery location. A qualified



archaeologist as well as the appropriate Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s) are to be contacted to evaluate the discovery and, in consultation with the applicant and lead agency, develop a treatment plan in any instance where significant impacts cannot be avoided.

Prehistoric materials may include obsidian or chert flakes, tools, locally darkened midden soils, groundstone artifacts, shellfish or faunal remains, and human burials. If human remains are found, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that the County Coroner be contacted immediately at 707-445-7242. If the Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission will then be contacted by the Coroner to determine appropriate treatment of the remains pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Violators shall be prosecuted in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.99.

4. The applicant is required to pay for permit processing on a time and material basis as set forth in the schedule of fees and charges as adopted by ordinance of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. The Department will provide a bill to the applicant after the decision. Any and all outstanding Planning fees to cover the processing of the application to decision by the Hearing Officer shall be paid to the Humboldt County Planning Division, 3015 "H" Street, Eureka.
5. The Applicant is responsible for costs for post-approval review for determining project conformance with conditions on a time and material basis as set forth in the schedule of fees and charges as adopted by ordinance of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. The Department will send a bill to the Applicant for all staff costs incurred for review of the project for conformance with the conditions of approval. All Planning fees for this service shall be paid to the Humboldt County Planning Division, 3015 "H" Street, Eureka.
6. A Notice of Determination (NOD) will be prepared and filed with the County Clerk for this project in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines. **Within three days of the effective date of permit approval**, it is requested that the applicant submit a check or money order for the required filing fee in the amount of \$50 payable to the Humboldt County Clerk/Recorder. If this payment is not received within this time period, the Department will file the NOD and will charge this cost to the project.
7. The Applicant is responsible for costs for post-approval review for determining project conformance with conditions prior to release of building permit or initiation of use and at time of annual inspection. In order to demonstrate that all conditions have been satisfied, applicant is required to pay the conformance review deposit as set forth in the schedule of fees and charges as adopted by ordinance of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (currently \$750) within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the permit or upon filing of the Compliance Agreement (where applicable), whichever occurs first. Payment shall be made to the Humboldt County Planning Division, 3015 "H" Street, Eureka.
8. The operator shall provide information to all employees about the potential health impacts of cannabis use on children. Information shall be provided by posting the brochures from the Department of Health and Human Services titled *Cannabis Palm Card* and *Cannabis Rack Card*. This information shall also be provided to all employees as part of the employee orientation.