

ORDINANCE NO. 4558

URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA  
TEMPORARILY PROHIBITING THE OUTDOOR PLANTING  
OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP WITHIN CERTAIN PARTS  
OF THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF VENTURA COUNTY

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1. Temporary Prohibition.**

A. For the duration of this ordinance and any extension thereof, the outdoor planting of industrial hemp (as defined in Food and Agricultural Code section 81000, as such may be amended from time to time) shall be prohibited in any part of the unincorporated area of Ventura County that is within one-half mile of (i) any land within a city zoned for residential use, (ii) any existing residential community in the unincorporated area of Ventura County or (iii) any school, and no person or entity shall engage in or cause the outdoor planting of any industrial hemp in those parts of the unincorporated area of Ventura County.

B. For purposes of this ordinance, "outdoor planting" means any planting other than propagative plants, in containers, that are not flowering. "Propagative plants" include live plants, seeds, seedlings, clones, cuttings, transplants or other propagules used to establish plants for planting.

C. For purposes of this ordinance, "existing residential community" means any area designated as "urban," "existing community" or "existing community-urban reserve" on the Ventura County General Plan land use maps.

D. For purposes of this ordinance, "school" means any licensed day care center, public and private schools, colleges and universities.

**SECTION 2. Authority.**

A. Sections 25123 and 25131 of the Government Code provide that an urgency ordinance for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, which contains a declaration of the facts constituting the urgency, may be adopted, by a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors, immediately upon introduction and shall take effect immediately.

B. Section 65858 of the Government Code also provides that, without following the procedures otherwise required prior to the adoption of a zoning ordinance, an urgency measure in the form of an interim ordinance may be adopted, by a four-fifths vote of the

Board of Supervisors, to protect the public from a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety or welfare resulting from the approval of an entitlement for use. Government Code section 65858 further provides that such an urgency measure shall be effective for only 45 days following its adoption but may be extended, following compliance with that section, for up to an additional 22 months and 15 days beyond the original 45-day period.

C. This ordinance is adopted as an urgency ordinance pursuant to the provisions of Government Code sections 25123, 25131 and 65858.

**SECTION 3. Declaration of Purpose, Facts Constituting Urgency, and Determination of Current and Immediate Threat.**

A. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the residents of Ventura County from the detrimental effects of the strong, skunk-like odor produced by the growing of industrial hemp in parts of the unincorporated area while the County of Ventura studies potential regulations to eliminate or mitigate to an acceptable level the effects of the odor.

B. Facts Constituting Urgency.

1. At meetings of the Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2019, and December 10, 2019, the Agricultural Commissioner for the County of Ventura presented reports on hemp cultivation in Ventura County (agenda item No. 35 and agenda items Nos. 49 and 50, respectively). He reported that an issue of concern regarding hemp is the strong, skunk-like odor produced by flowering hemp, which exists for approximately six weeks with each crop. He reported that while industrial hemp is a warm-weather crop, it generally could be planted and cultivated year-round in Ventura County, and that some growers are anticipated to plant crops as early as February 2020.

2. At the meetings of the Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2019, and December 10, 2019, more than 40 members of the public orally testified to the detrimental effects of the strong odor produced by the cultivation of industrial hemp in the unincorporated area, including the disruption of the peaceful use and enjoyment of the outdoor areas around their homes; the disruption of the peaceful use and enjoyment of their homes themselves, due to the infiltration of the odor into their homes; and stress, headaches, nausea, coughing and other respiratory problems, eye irritation, sore throats and allergic reactions attributed to the persistent odor. More than 85 additional members of the public submitted written comment cards at the at the November 19, 2019, meeting objecting to the cultivation of industrial hemp in the unincorporated area.

3. At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2019, the mayors of the cities of Camarillo and Moorpark and the city managers of the cities of Camarillo,

Moorpark and Ojai testified to detrimental effects on the residents of those cities from hemp cultivation in the unincorporated area. This testimony supplemented letters previously received by the Board of Supervisors from the mayors of the cities of Camarillo and Ojai concerning the detrimental effects of hemp cultivation, including reports by residents of the City of Camarillo of headaches, nausea and allergic reactions. At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on December 10, 2019, the mayor and city manager of the city of Camarillo and representatives from the cities of Moorpark and Ojai testified in favor of a prohibition on industrial hemp cultivation in the unincorporated area or the adoption of buffer zones around their cities in which industrial hemp cultivation would be prohibited to protect the residents of those cities from the detrimental effects of hemp cultivation.

C. Determination of Current and Immediate Threat. Based on the foregoing facts, the record of agenda item No. 35 at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2019, the record of agenda items Nos. 49 and 50 at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on December 10, 2019, and the record of the item at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors at which this ordinance is adopted, the Board of Supervisors finds and determines that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare from the detrimental effects of the strong, skunk-like odor produced by the growing of industrial hemp in the unincorporated area of Ventura County and this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety. The Board of Supervisors further finds and determines that the current entitlement to engage in industrial hemp cultivation as of right in agricultural zones under the County of Ventura's current zoning ordinances is resulting in a current and immediate threat to public health, safety and welfare.

#### **SECTION 4. Study and Report.**

At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2019, the Board of Supervisors directed County of Ventura staff to study and report back on measures to mitigate the impact of odor produced by hemp cultivation, including, but not limited to, buffer zones (around cities and/or sensitive sites) and setbacks, with a potential exemption for indoor cultivation, in accordance with federal and state law. At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on December 10, 2019, the Board of Supervisors further directed County of Ventura staff to study and report back on recommendations for establishing schedules or "windows" for the planting of industrial hemp in the unincorporated area and exempting from regulation industrial hemp cultivation in greenhouses with adequate odor filtration systems and nurseries where industrial hemp is grown solely for the purpose of producing propagative material. The Board of Supervisors hereby confirms those directions and finds that the prohibition of the outdoor planting of industrial hemp in section 1 prohibits uses that may be in conflict with the above studies directed by the Board of Supervisors.

**SECTION 5. Abatement and Penalties.**

A. Any industrial hemp planted in violation of section 1 of this ordinance is a public nuisance, and the Agricultural Commissioner may abate or order the violator to abate it.

B. Any person or entity that violates section 1 of this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor/infraction, which is enforceable pursuant to sections 13 through 13-4 of the Ventura County Ordinance Code.

**SECTION 6. Severability.**

If any provision or any part of any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person, property or circumstance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or parts of a provision or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision, provision part or application, and, to this end, the provisions and the parts of the provisions of the ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

**SECTION 7. Duration.**

This ordinance shall take effect and be operative immediately upon adoption and shall be of no further force and effect 45 days following the date of its adoption unless extended in accordance with law.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 14th day of January 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Long, Parks, Huber and Zaragoza

NOES: none

ABSENT: Supervisor Bunnell

Keen Long  
CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

MICHAEL POWERS  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura, State of California

By: Yan Shuen  
Deputy Clerk of the Board



ORDINANCE NO. 4560

URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA  
EXTENDING FOR 10 MONTHS AND 15 DAYS  
URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 4558 PROHIBITING THE OUTDOOR PLANTING  
OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP WITHIN CERTAIN PARTS OF  
THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF VENTURA COUNTY

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1. Determination of Current and Immediate Threat.**

The Board of Supervisors of Ventura County (Board) hereby incorporates by this reference the determination of current and immediate threat to public health, safety and welfare and the necessity for the immediate preservation of public peace, health and safety as stated in section 3 of Urgency Ordinance No. 4558, which the Board hereby determines to continue to exist, warranting the extension of Urgency Ordinance No. 4558 as set forth herein. In particular, the Board finds and determines that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare from the detrimental effects of the strong, skunk-like odor produced by the growing of industrial hemp in the unincorporated area of Ventura County and the extension of Urgency Ordinance No. 4558 is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety; and further finds and determines that the current entitlement to engage in industrial hemp cultivation as of right in agricultural zones under the County of Ventura's current zoning ordinances constitutes a current and immediate threat to public health, safety and welfare.

**SECTION 2. Urgent Need.**

Urgency Ordinance No. 4558 continues to be urgently needed for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare and the necessity for the immediate preservation of public peace, health and safety based on the determination referenced and stated in section 1 above.

**SECTION 3. Severability.**

If any provision or any part of any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person, property or circumstance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or parts of a provision or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision, provision part or application, and, to this end, the provisions and the parts of the provisions of the ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date; Extension of Urgency Ordinance No. 4558.**

This urgency ordinance shall take effect and be operative immediately upon adoption and shall extend Urgency Ordinance No. 4558, as amended by this ordinance, for a period of 10 months and 15 days, after which date Urgency Ordinance No. 4558, as amended, shall be of no further force and effect unless further extended in accordance with law.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 25th day of February 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Bennett, Parks, Huber, Zaragoza, Long

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

Kelly Long  
CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

MICHAEL POWERS  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura, State of California

By: Jon Key  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

