

ORDINANCE NO. 1023 N.S.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES  
ADDING SECTION 21.08.530 AND AMENDING CHAPTER 21.33 OF THE MUNICIPAL  
CODE REGARDING MARIJUANA CULTIVATION

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WHEREAS, in 1996, the voters of the State of California approved Proposition 215, which was codified as Health and Safety Code Section 11362.5 et seq. and entitled the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (“CUA”), decriminalizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the California Legislature adopted SB 420, the Medical Marijuana Program (“MMP”), codified as Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq., which permits qualified patients and their primary caregivers to associate collectively or cooperatively to cultivate marijuana for medical purposes without being subjected to criminal prosecution; and

WHEREAS, neither the CUA nor the MMP require or impose an affirmative duty or mandate upon local governments to allow, authorize, or sanction the establishment of facilities that cultivate or process medical marijuana within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, in May 2013, the California Supreme Court issued its decision in *City of Riverside v. Inland Empire Patients Health and Wellness Center, Inc.* (2013) 56 Cal. 4th 729, holding that cities have the authority to regulate or ban medical marijuana land uses; and

WHEREAS, under the federal Controlled Substances Act, codified in 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq., the use, possession, and cultivation of marijuana is unlawful and subject to federal prosecution, regardless of a claimed medical need; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed the “Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act” (“Act”) into law; and

WHEREAS, the Act becomes effective January 1, 2016 and contains provisions which allow for local governments to regulate the licensing of marijuana cultivation uses and sites; and

WHEREAS, the Act states that, commencing March 1, 2016, the State shall become the sole licensing authority for marijuana cultivation in those cities and counties that do not have land use regulations or ordinances that regulate or prohibit marijuana cultivation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council previously adopted Ordinance No. 926 to prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries within the City in order to maintain the public health, safety and welfare, but existing municipal regulations do not address marijuana cultivation; and

WHEREAS, some California cities have reported negative impacts of marijuana cultivation, including offensive odors, illegal sales and distribution of marijuana, trespassing, theft, fire hazards, and problems associated with mold, fungus, and pests; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to retain and maintain its control and regulation of medical marijuana uses within its boundaries, including marijuana cultivation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the Municipal Code to clarify the existing prohibition of marijuana dispensaries to include marijuana cultivation, and to expressly reserve any future local licensing scheme granted by the Act.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 22, 2015, where they considered the staff report and public testimony prior to recommending the proposed code text amendment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Recitals.** The City Council hereby finds that the above recitals are true and incorporates them into this Ordinance by this reference.

**SECTION 2. Findings.** The City Council hereby finds this Ordinance is consistent with the General Plan, as found and recommended by the Planning Commission pursuant to Chapter 21.24 of the Paso Robles Municipal Code. The City Council further finds that this Ordinance helps promote and maintain the public’s health, safety and welfare by retaining local land use control over medical

marijuana uses within its borders, and by avoiding potentially adverse secondary impacts of marijuana cultivation upon implementation of the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act.

SECTION 3. Section 21.08.530 is hereby added to the Paso Robles Municipal Code to read as follows:

“21.08.530 – Marijuana cultivation.

“Marijuana cultivation” (land use), means any activity involving the planting, growing, harvesting, drying, curing, grading, or trimming of any form of cannabis.”

SECTION 4. Chapter 21.33 of the Paso Robles Municipal Code is hereby revised in its entirety to read as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference.

SECTION 5. Severability. Should any provision of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unlawful, unenforceable or otherwise void, that determination shall have no effect on any other provision of this Ordinance or the application of this Ordinance to any other person or circumstance and, to that end, the provisions hereof are severable.

SECTION 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after adoption as provided by Government Code section 36937.

SECTION 7. Publication. The City Clerk will certify to the passage of this Ordinance by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles, California and cause the same to be published once within fifteen (15) days after its passage in a newspaper of general circulation, printed, published and circulated in the City in accordance with Government Code section 36933.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council held on January 5, 2016, and passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles on the 19th day of January, 2016 by the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES: Gregory, Hamon, Reed, Strong, Martin  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

  
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Steve W. Martin, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Kristen L. Buxkemper, Deputy City Clerk

**EXHIBIT "A"**  
(amendments underlined)

**Chapter 21.33 - MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGULATIONS**

**21.33.010 - Purpose.**

The purpose and intent of this chapter is to preserve the city's local land use authority regarding medical marijuana uses, and to prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries and marijuana cultivation within the city. It is recognized that it is a federal violation under the Controlled Substances Act to possess or distribute marijuana even if for medical purposes. Additionally, there is evidence of an increased incidence of crime-related secondary impacts in locations associated with medical marijuana dispensaries and marijuana cultivation, which is contrary to policies that are intended to promote and maintain the public's health, safety and welfare.

**21.33.020 - Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

"Marijuana cultivation" (land use), means any activity involving the planting, growing, harvesting, drying, curing, grading, or trimming of any form of cannabis.

"Medical marijuana dispensary" (land use), means a facility or location which provides, makes available or distributes medical marijuana to a primary caregiver, a qualified patient, or a person with an identification card issued in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 11362.5, et seq.

**21.33.030 - Prohibited within the City of El Paso de Robles.**

A. The establishment or operation of a medical marijuana dispensary as defined in this chapter shall be prohibited within the city limits.

B. Marijuana cultivation shall be considered a prohibited use in all zoning districts of the city, regardless of whether undertaken for personal or commercial purposes.