

# **“Green Rush” returns Monday to Calaveras County**

**The Valley Springs News / December 20, 2019**

The Calaveras County Division of Cannabis Control will begin accepting pre-application permits starting at 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 23.

Applications will be accepted that day in the former courtroom next to the Board Chambers at 891 Mountain Ranch Road in San Andreas.

This is Calaveras County’s second attempt to regulate the commercial cannabis industry.

County supervisors in 2016 passed an urgency ordinance to allow growing, but the table turned in 2018 with a new board and a ban was imposed.

The application process has been divided into two steps: a pre-application for initial screening of adequate parcel size, proper zoning, minimum separation from sensitive uses, and qualifying applicant based on prior registration and licensure from the state; and a formal application once pre-screening has been completed, according to the county administrative office.

Pre-application forms will be processed in the order that they are submitted. Based upon this initial submittal, county staff will be able to determine whether the applicant can satisfy the minimum eligibility requirements of Calaveras County’s recently adopted cannabis cultivation ordinance.

The pre-application form is available for download as a fillable PDF at <https://cannabis.calaverasgov.us/>. Instructions for filling out the pre-application form are also available for download at the Calaveras County Cannabis Control website. No fee will be required for the pre-application. After Dec. 23, the pre-application process may be completed at the county administrative office during regular business hours.

Between two to four additional attachments may be required depending on an individual applicant’s circumstances. The pre-application instructions identify what attachments may be necessary. Incomplete applications or applications without the required attachments will be rejected.

Once the initial screening is completed, applicants will be notified of a date and time to submit the formal application. At that time all required submittal documents must be provided, along with the payment of the application fee. A letter of conditional authorization will be provided to the applicant at that time that is intended to allow for concurrent processing of the state license.

This letter does not authorize the applicant to begin cultivation, according to the county. No cultivation may begin until the county approves the cannabis cultivation permit, a state license is issued, all provisions of the cannabis cultivation ordinance have been met, and the cannabis cultivation permit is validated by the County Division of Cannabis Control.

Provisions include premises inspection by building department staff to ensure compliance with the building code and fire code, registration or enrollment in all applicable regulatory programs administered by the county's environmental health department and agriculture department, payment of RIM fees, and demonstration that the applicant's former cultivation site has been remediated.

Information about applying for a cannabis background clearance badge pursuant to Chapter 9.22 of the county code will be available soon.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted 4-1 on a series of budget transfers in the amount of \$197,991 to fund cannabis regulation operations. Supervisor Dennis Mills cast the lone dissenting vote.