

Board of Supervisors

Meeting Time: 01-14-26 09:00

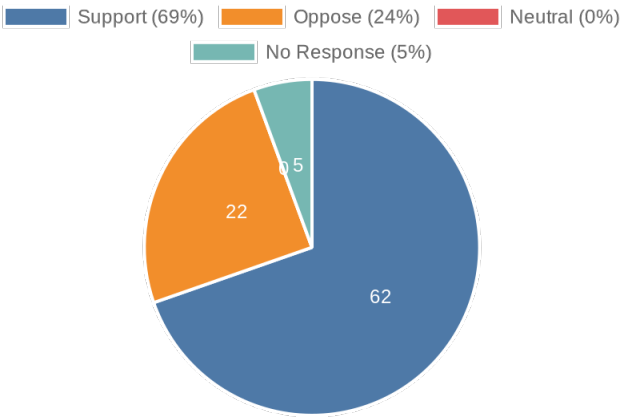
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Board of Supervisors	01-14-26 09:00	13	89	62	22	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

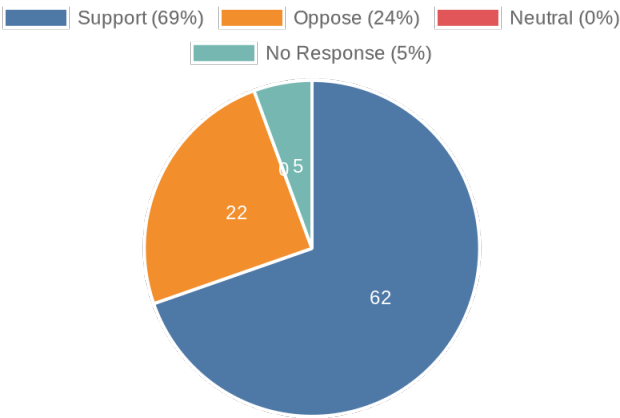


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING: REPORT BACK AND SEEK DIRECTION ON THE DRAFT SOCIALLY EQUITABLE CANNABIS PROGRAM AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION	89	62	22	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

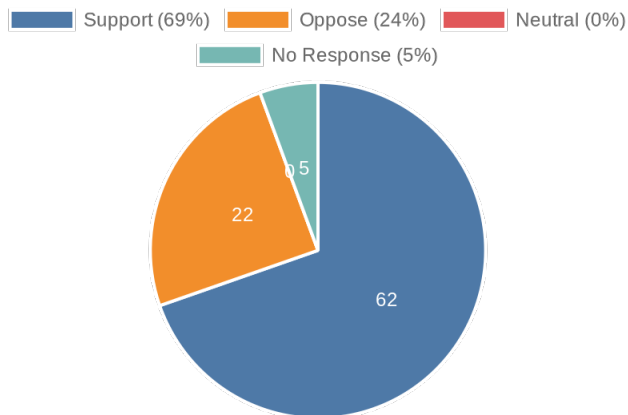
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:
REPORT BACK AND SEEK DIRECTION ON THE DRAFT SOCIALLY EQUITABLE CANNABIS PROGRAM AND RELATED CEQA
EXEMPTION

Overall Sentiment



Donna Hein

Location: 92082, Valley Center
Submitted At: 1:00pm 01-14-26

The Cultivation & Distribution of Cannabis requires an expansion of the infrastructure in the unincorporated areas. The infrastructure should be in place before any operation of this magnitude is considered, as the impact to our way of life will be immediate.

Consider Federal Governments change of THC to a Class 3 drug. Now requiring a RX to purchase. If these class 3 drugs are sold at Dispensaries rather than at Pharmacies it will open up the people you are trying to protect to Federal criminal action. Seek legal counsel on the impact of this Classification change and how it will impact this Program.

I oppose this program as a whole; it is not a good fit for Unincorporated San Diego County.
If approved my recommendation would be to limit sales of cannabis to only its natural state.

BOS meeting today the only two NO votes were from Jim Desmond & Joel Anderson. These are the 2 Supervisors that represent Unincorporated San Diego County.

Larry Molina

Location: 92054-6445, oceanside
Submitted At: 10:51am 01-14-26

Sungrown, and lounges are needed.

Melissa Caruso

Location: 92126, San Diego

Submitted At: 10:21am 01-14-26

As a native of San Diego, with family residing in San Diego County and a current cannabis business operator, I support and endorse the authorization of licensed cannabis consumption lounges and events. Also I fully support the Sungrown cultivation regulations and think this will provide our County with a abundance of opportunities that other counties have had for a long time. We demand a better outcome for our business, culture and people in this county regarding cannabis in general. Make it happen!

Russell palmer

Location: 92103, san diego

Submitted At: 9:29am 01-14-26

I believe cannabis is a plant medicine right, I wrote One Plant Theory, and I believe cannabis is about long duration of use, consistent plant genetic uses for specific master regulatory system adjustments (ECS) this system ONLY controls homeostasis, cannabis is NOT the creation of a high, the human body experiences relief from cannabis modulating our system, which causes the body to detox and also have a surplus of serratonin and dopamine at neutral contacts, but this is not cannabis causing a high, but a relief! Cannabis is the only plant to interact with our ECS and homeostasis should not be criminalized, this is an absolute human rights issue.

Cannabis should be at Farmers Markets, and now with it moving into schedule 3, ALL venues can now host private events for cannabis gatherings as ABC will no longer have authority. Cannabis is in fact a medical right, the US Government is beginning to agree. It is no longer the alleged "Narcotic" it is a healing plant. Think about this now.

Michelle Batista

Location: 91906

Submitted At: 8:57am 01-14-26

As a San Diego native, a mother of two, and a resident and small business owner in District 2, I fully support Option A. It responsibly addresses past harms of cannabis prohibition while creating a more inclusive market that benefits our community as a whole. The 600-foot buffer is reasonable and sufficient; expanding it further becomes exclusionary rather than protective without providing meaningful additional benefit.

Mandy Havlik

Location: 92107, San Diego

Submitted At: 8:13am 01-14-26

I am a cannabis patient, and I strongly support aligning local zoning standards with state law, allowing licensed cannabis consumption lounges and events, and preserving the Community Equity Contribution Program. I support Option A.

Current zoning restrictions severely limit safe and legal access in unincorporated areas, forcing consumers to travel long distances or rely on the unregulated market. Aligning local buffer standards with state law and creating regulated venues for consumption would reduce these barriers, improve public safety, generate local tax revenue, & reduce costs to public services.

Equity must remain central to this process. Communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis criminalization deserve meaningful opportunities to participate. Increasing licenses, reducing exclusionary zoning barriers, & maintaining financial support programs are essential to repairing past harms and supporting long-term economic investment.

I urge the timely release of a final EIR.

Marcus Boyd

Location: 91932, Imperial Beach

Submitted At: 6:34am 01-14-26

Option #1 will provide several foundational provisions in the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA) to address the historical harms of cannabis prohibition and create a more inclusive market.

Oliver Twist

Location:

Submitted At: 6:02am 01-14-26

NO NO NO. This isn't your grandfather's Woodstock pot. Today's THC levels are in exponentially higher, and

studies increasingly show the association between marijuana and schizophrenia and other psychopathologies. Quit enabling harm to our communities. NO to ANY marijuana/cannabis product or store in the Unincorporated Areas.

MEgain Erlise

Location: San Diego

Submitted At: 1:36am 01-14-26

Blessed greetings, Supervisors. I'm MEGain Erlise—County resident and combat veteran. I was a teenager in the War on Drugs. I watched my neighborhood targeted and families hollowed out—parents and siblings taken in their teens and 20s, plucked from our streets, caged, and stigmatized during the years meant to learn and grow. Kids grew up without them. Blocks grew up with grief. Now the same plant is legal, yet these neighborhoods still carry the burden—traveling further and last in line for ownership and jobs. That is not progress; it keeps us in a devastating position. Vote to CONTINUE developing SECP and the CECF Community Incentive Grants. Make community benefit enforceable: proof, reporting, and consequences. Let equity applicants open where harm was concentrated, hire locally, collect taxes, and reinvest in creating safer streets, families, and lifting morale as dollars return. Resulting in longer, happier lives for our children. For those who didn't make it home, we owe this.

Dennis Turley

Location: 92120, San Diego

Submitted At: 12:02am 01-14-26

As a sixth-generation native of San Diego, with family residing in both the city proper and the unincorporated areas of San Diego County, I advocate for Option A. This option aligns with existing state guidelines, and I believe that additional regulations could impede the success of new businesses. The tax contributions generated by these successful enterprises would significantly enhance our regional economy. Furthermore, I endorse the authorization of licensed cannabis consumption lounges and events.

Kelly McCormick

Location:

Submitted At: 11:54pm 01-13-26

There is mounting data about the harmful health effects of marijuana use, especially for young users and senior adults. Marijuana related visits to hospital emergency departments in San Diego County have skyrocketed in recent years, as have calls to poison control centers. The testing system is not reliable as detailed in recent news accounts and a lawsuit filing, putting contaminated products on the shelves. Tax revenue in the City of San Diego is now far below expectations, partly because of the oversupply of product. And the current state laws and enforcement mechanisms are not adequate to prevent products that are designed and marketed to appeal to youth. These are just a few of the problems with current marijuana marketplace. Please consider carefully the impact this decision will have on residents of the unincorporated areas. Many of the rural planning groups voted to oppose the expansion of marijuana sales.

William Mitchell

Location: 91977, San diego

Submitted At: 11:35pm 01-13-26

Strongly support option A

M B

Location: 92021, El Cajon

Submitted At: 11:15pm 01-13-26

I am a mother of two, and I fully support Option A.

Alfonso Huey

Location: 92102, San Diego

Submitted At: 10:45pm 01-13-26

Option A's alignment with the state's 600-foot buffer protects schools and youth-serving spaces while still allowing legal businesses to operate in appropriate areas. Expanding buffers beyond that standard reduces legal access

and unintentionally strengthens illegal sales by making regulated options harder to reach.

Damien Rapp

Location:

Submitted At: 10:22pm 01-13-26

I oppose this. Expanding an already out of control problem to these areas is a bad idea. Enforcement is already too thin. Public safety will surely take a hit. Show that you can manage the current businesses before even considering expansion.

Dakota Taylor

Location: 91945, Lemon grove

Submitted At: 10:12pm 01-13-26

Support A

Becky Rapp

Location:

Submitted At: 9:36pm 01-13-26

I strongly oppose any expansion of marijuana businesses in our county. A serious concern raised when this item was brought before the Planning Commission is that the Sheriff's Department has not yet provided an official statement on the Draft PEIR. That information is critical.

Law enforcement input is essential to evaluate public safety impacts, cultivation enforcement, and resource demands. Moving forward without the Sheriff's analysis would be premature and irresponsible. Given these unresolved public safety concerns, I strongly oppose any expansion of marijuana businesses at this time.

Diane Brundage

Location: 92128, San Diego

Submitted At: 9:25pm 01-13-26

A recent study published in JAMA Internal Medicine found a sharp rise in marijuana poisonings among adults age 65 and older. After marijuana flower sales were permitted, poisonings doubled, and after edibles were introduced, they tripled. The authors call this a wake-up call for policymakers. This is especially concerning for backcountry communities, where access to healthcare and emergency rooms is limited and response times are long. When adverse reactions occur, help is not nearby. Expanding the marijuana industry into these rural areas would increase preventable public health risks for seniors and other vulnerable residents. For these reasons, the Board should not expand marijuana operations into the backcountry.

D'Andre Brooks

Location:

Submitted At: 9:10pm 01-13-26

I strongly urge the BOS to approve Option A in order to provide equity and accessibility to communities who have been harmed by the war on drugs.

In addition, this is the most viable option given it aligns with state standards, creates a regulated path forward, and allows harm to be repaired to marginalized communities throughout San Diego County severely impacted by the War on Drugs.

Mark Vell

Location: 91914, Chula Vista

Submitted At: 9:10pm 01-13-26

As a lifelong San Diego County resident, a grandfather, and a business owner who works throughout the County, I support Option A because it benefits not only people like me, but the County as a whole.

I have spent decades working in communities across San Diego County, including neighborhoods that were disproportionately impacted by past drug policies. I have seen firsthand how those policies harmed families, limited opportunity, and pulled resources away from youth. Repairing that damage requires real economic opportunity, not restrictions that look good on paper but prevent progress in practice. Option A creates a workable path forward. It allows legal businesses to operate under clear, reasonable rules, which means jobs, local investment, and tax revenue that can be reinvested into youth programs, family services, and community-based

support. Other options add so many barriers that expansion becomes symbolic, offering no real benefit to the County.

Gregory Goodwin

Location:

Submitted At: 7:39pm 01-13-26

This is Gregory Goodwin Supporting Item 3, my family and I are lifetime San Diego County residents and I am in support of Option A for land use. I believe Social Equity cannabis will increase revenue for schools and roads as well as create jobs and allow those who utilize cannabis medically or otherwise to have safe places to purchase cannabis and Fentanyl free cannabis supplies. Thank you

Peggy Walker

Location:

Submitted At: 7:30pm 01-13-26

When County staff presented the Socially Equitable Cannabis Program to local Planning Groups, five clear alternatives were included—most notably Alternative #1: No Project. That option was strongly supported by Planning Group members and a majority of the public who commented on the EIR. Yet in the staff report now before the Board, those five alternatives have disappeared. In their place are three newly framed “option points.” Alternative #1 is no longer presented. This raises a fundamental question: what happened to the alternative most favored by the public and Planning Groups?

This amounts to a bait-and-switch. A clearly defined alternative that reflected broad community support has been removed and replaced with options that were never vetted in the same public-facing way. This erodes public trust and leaves residents questioning whether their input has been meaningfully considered at all.

Chris Adams

Location: 92027, Escondido

Submitted At: 7:23pm 01-13-26

My name is Chris Adams and I'm a resident of Escondido. I support option A for the land use. This provides state guidelines already in place. I believe that it will provide revenue for schools, roads, and community programs. It also provides safe access to unincorporated parts of the county. Option is the best Option for the county.

Barbara Gordon

Location:

Submitted At: 7:21pm 01-13-26

I urge the BOS to recognize the negative impact marijuana businesses will have on the residents as well as the environment.

Marijuana growers use pesticides and fertilizers that contaminate soil and water sources. These chemicals can harm local ecosystems, affecting wildlife and plant diversity.

Marijuana cultivation requires significant water resources, often exceeding that of traditional crops leading to a strain local water supply.

The cultivation and processing of marijuana generate significant order, waste, including plant material, packaging, and chemicals. Improper disposal can lead to pollution that harms local environments.

I urge the Board rethink their misguided cannabis program.

Raphyal Crawford

Location: 92154, San diego

Submitted At: 7:21pm 01-13-26

This Raphyal Crawford, I live in District 1, and I am support of Option A for land use. I believe social equity cannabis will increase revenue for schools and roads as well as create jobs and allow those who utilize cannabis medicinally or otherwise to have safe places to purchase cannabis and Fentanyl free cannabis suppliers.

Diane Grace

Location: 92130, SAN DIEGO

Submitted At: 7:19pm 01-13-26

I oppose all expansion of marijuana businesses. We have five stores already who deliver across the back country. We do not need the availability and more importantly the promotion of marijuana use. NO one these days would promote more tobacco use or alcohol use. I resent our County spending money on such an idea. We need a healthier County not a County where mental and physical health are jeopardized. The choice presented in Wednesday staff report did not represent the choices presented at my Planning Group which included NO expansion of businesses. What happened to that option for Decision Point 1? Decision Point #2: regarding consumption lounges and temporary cannabis events, Option B: Remove Temporary Cannabis Events and Onsite Consumption Lounges from the SECP. And Decision Point #3: regarding Community Equity Contribution Program (CECP) Community Incentive Grants,

Option B - Do Not Continue to Develop the CECP.

KS Strang

Location:

Submitted At: 7:16pm 01-13-26

I oppose more marijuana businesses where I live. I know first-hand what marijuana addiction looks like to my loved one and to his family members. It has been horrific.

So I attended two County Planning Group meetings near me and participated in the County's Listening Sessions. It seemed clear that there were two points of views..those who want to benefit from the sale of an intoxicating drug and those who actually live in the backcountry and want something better like health services, improved code enforcement responses, and even more robust attendance of Supervisors staff at our Planning Group meetings. Spend county money there, not on pot shops...we didn't ask for them. And no consumption lounges and temporary cannabis events; and no Community Equity Contribution Program (CECP) Community Incentive Grants. There are far more important places to spend County money.

Ann Riddle

Location: 92106, San Diego

Submitted At: 7:01pm 01-13-26

My Planning Group was deeply surprised by the 'bait and switch' going on with the Staff Report for tomorrow's Item 3. The options being presented are different than the ones in the PowerPoint shown at Listening Sessions. Check out that PowerPoint, especially Slide 30. Slide 30 clearly indicated as Alternative Option #1 - No extension of marijuana businesses. It feels dishonest to remove it out the Alternatives we see in Decision Point #1: 'Provide direction on land use program components based on stakeholder feedback'. Why? Stakeholder feedback from County's Planning Groups clearly indicated that they want that Alternative Option 1 shown in the PowerPoint in the Listening Sessions. What is going on? This is extremely unfair, perhaps illegal, to my Planning Group and unincorporated County citizens to have that Alternative removed from the Staff Report as a choice under Decision Point #1.

Jessica McElfresh

Location: 92091, Rancho Santa Fe

Submitted At: 6:32pm 01-13-26

Comment 1 of 3: I grew up and reside in the unincorporated area of San Diego County. I have also represented clients in the legal cannabis industry since 2010. I support Option A. The best cannabis zoning ordinances have reasonable buffers, short lists of sensitive uses that serve youth exclusively or near exclusively, and long lists of possible zones appropriate to the underlying character of a use, such as retail in commercial. The County should allow cannabis businesses to locate within a buffer area from a sensitive use if a permanent natural or constructed barrier, such as a canyon or freeway, is between the cannabis business and the sensitive use and prevents or limits direct pedestrian access. Per Business and Professions Code 26054(b), jurisdictions can set their own buffers and distances for all sensitive uses.

Andrew Banez

Location: 92114, San Diego

Submitted At: 6:21pm 01-13-26

Option A allows environmental impacts to be addressed through permitting, inspections, and enforcement rather than driven into unregulated or underground activity.

A regulated framework enables oversight of water use, energy consumption, and land stewardship, making it environmentally superior to continued restriction.

Wayne Hudson

Location: 92120, San Diego
Submitted At: 5:10pm 01-13-26

I support option A as I have been directly impacted.

RODNEY HUGHES

Location: 91945, Lemon Grove
Submitted At: 4:23pm 01-13-26

I SUPPORT OPTION A.

TerriAnn Skelly

Location: 92130, San Diego
Submitted At: 4:16pm 01-13-26

I attended the County sponsored Listening sessions and notice that tomorrow staff report does NOT include an alternative that the PowerPoint shown by County staff included..which was Alternative 1. 'No Project – Retention of Current Cannabis Regulations.'

It seems very unfair that Decision Point 1 does not include this choice anymore, because it should, and it did in the past, and it is what the Planning Group members want..no more marijuana businesses than the five there is already.

Regarding Decision Point 2, prefer Option B. and Decision Point 3, prefer Option B.

Katie Poponyak

Location: 92024, Encinitas
Submitted At: 3:55pm 01-13-26

There are many better ways to assist those that have been incarcerated. Our rural communities need more law enforcement, have healthcare and fire safety needs. The environmental impact of marijuana cultivation due to pesticides and increase in water use is severe. I have driven rural county roads for years and seen many bad accidents - do you really believe that will improve with more marijuana stores, lounges and events ?

Steven Stuchell

Location: 92065, Ramona
Submitted At: 2:59pm 01-13-26

I choose option A the reason I choose option is because I feel that putting a stiffer buffering on the zones is not fair to an industry that will bring taxes and job growth to the district every business deserves a fair opportunity to be successful

LaBarron Coker

Location: 92026, Escondido
Submitted At: 2:57pm 01-13-26

As someone directly impacted by cannabis laws in the County of San Diego, I support PEIR Alternative 2, Option A, which aligns County regulations with state standards.

Option A strikes the right balance by protecting youth through the state's 600-foot buffer while still allowing legal businesses to operate. Larger buffers eliminate opportunity in unincorporated and rural areas and function as continued prohibition.

Option A provides clarity, fairness, and a predictable framework that lowers barriers, expands regulated cannabis businesses, and generates jobs, local investment, and tax revenue. Most importantly, it gives people harmed by past cannabis laws a fair chance to participate in the legal economy and give back.

D Moore

Location:

Submitted At: 2:55pm 01-13-26

I am opposed to the pot industry in the back country. Rural San Diego does not need more pot, it needs safer roads, quality schools, safe and healthy after school programs, and athletic programs for our youth to keep them doing something productive and healthy. Promoting and pushing pot should not be on the top of the list of actions to pursue and invest in. We have plenty of other more pressing issue to deal with. If you ask anybody in the unincorporated area if promoting pot is a priority, you will find it surely is not. It's unfortunate that the Supervisors that don't even represent the back country are making decisions that will have real negative impacts on our neighborhoods.

Glenn Braaten

Location: 92111, San diego
Submitted At: 2:37pm 01-13-26

I Support option A!!!!

To fight something that is a win-win standard is preposterous. Not only does putting more limits discourage potential business owners away from being able to fully benefit and become a business owner, but it also ends up putting a major limit on the counties ability to acquire funds for our county. It's time for this spiteful anti-forward movement/progress stigma to go away. And please understand that putting extreme limits on zoning and allowing people who just don't align with the industry to tear down something that can benefit a lot of people. For example, the more money I make the more taxes I pay the more money you guys make with that being said the more equality that is given the more equality will prevail

E Rodriguez

Location: 92004, Borrego Springs
Submitted At: 2:27pm 01-13-26

I oppose all steps the Board of Supervisors have taken to support the cannabis industry in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County particularly in Borrego Springs, Ca. Most of our Borrego Springs population does not want the cannabis industry in San Diego's back country. We do not want cannabis agriculture nor retail stores posing as "economic expansion opportunities" and we find it appalling that in fact it will increase negative impacts on public health, safety and the environment.

The so called "Socially Equitable Cannabis Program" is not in fact "Socially Equitable" for Borrego Springs nor other unincorporated areas. It will create the increase of Socially Unequitable health danger, unsafe access to minors, and will fuel further addiction to smoking, and consuming of "designer" grown and manufactured cannabis. I urge the Board of Supervisors to not support cannabis use, cannabis agriculture, and retail shops that will negatively impact my community of Borrego Springs.

Dina Nagib

Location: 92107, San Diego
Submitted At: 12:40pm 01-13-26

As a software and data consultant who works with retailers in cannabis, I support Option A. It is aligned with state standards and is the only option that supports a legal industry that can grow and generate much needed tax revenue. Please support an option that creates the real opportunities promised by supporting Option A.

Jonas Royster

Location: 92139, San Diego
Submitted At: 12:12pm 01-13-26

For years, I've worked alongside people returning home from incarceration and seen how cannabis convictions damaged far more than individuals, they fractured families and destabilized communities.

Lost jobs, housing barriers, and broken households followed people long after sentences ended. Real repair requires access and opportunity, not added barriers.

From a reentry lens, economic opportunity reduces recidivism. Option A creates real access, supports jobs and small business growth, and allows reinvestment in families and communities.

If the goal is true Second Chance, Option A is necessary.

Carleton Jones

Location: 92114, San Diego
Submitted At: 11:27am 01-13-26

Option A creates real opportunity by aligning with workable standards, allowing responsible operators to create jobs, generate tax revenue, and support services that families rely on—including disability services, youth programs, and community-based supports. These are the same communities that have carried the burden of past policies without receiving the benefits.

If the goal is truly to repair harm and move forward, Option A is the only option that makes expansion real. Anything else continues exclusion under a different name.

For equity, accountability, and community healing, Option A is the only choice

Kelly Hayes

Location: 92103, San Diego
Submitted At: 11:09am 01-13-26

I support Option A because it aligns the County's Socially Equitable Cannabis Program with State law and the Board's January 27, 2021 direction, while advancing equity, clarity, and administrative efficiency. By applying the State-mandated 600-foot buffer from schools, day cares, and youth centers and allowing all cannabis facility types, Option A provides a clear and predictable regulatory framework. As noted in the staff report, the program already includes robust operational safeguards—odor control, lighting, water use, security, and enforcement standards—that mitigate impacts without foreclosing access to the legal market.

Option A best balances equity, consistency with State law, and effective regulation, and should be adopted as the Board's preliminary direction.

Mariah Pepi

Location: 92111, San Diego
Submitted At: 10:48am 01-13-26

I live in district 4 and i support option A. Please use the state-mandated 600-foot buffer with no extra restrictions.

Danika Pepi

Location: 92111, San Diego
Submitted At: 10:24am 01-13-26

I live in district 4 and i support option A. Please use the state-mandated 600-foot buffer with no extra restrictions.

Brian Scott

Location: 91945, San diego
Submitted At: 10:00am 01-13-26

My name is Brian I am fully in support of option A

Mathew Dunton

Location: 92069, San Marcos
Submitted At: 10:00am 01-13-26

I support legal cannabis and strongly advocate for the expansion and protection of social equity licenses to ensure an inclusive, diverse industry that uplifts communities harmed by past cannabis enforcement and creates real pathways to ownership and economic mobility.

Cortes Prater

Location: 91945, Lemon grove
Submitted At: 9:39am 01-13-26

I support Social Equity Cannabis Program Option A because it creates real access and opportunity for individuals and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by past cannabis enforcement. Option A promotes

fairness, local ownership, and long-term sustainability while helping ensure the legal cannabis industry is inclusive and community-focused. I believe this option best fulfills the purpose of social equity and should be implemented.

Jarah Lopez

Location:

Submitted At: 9:32am 01-13-26

I support option A

Brittney Wilson

Location: 91942, La mesa

Submitted At: 9:27am 01-13-26

I fully support the Socially Equitable Cannabis Program Option A and ask that you do the same. Thank you !

Ryan Carroll

Location: 92069, San Marcos

Submitted At: 9:25am 01-13-26

I support option A.

Regulation is needed to keep cannabis away from minors and combat the illicit market while providing local jobs and taxes going back into the community.

Cannabis has been proven to have a decrease in traffic accidents as opposed to alcohol which in turn increases traffic accidents along with violent activities.

There is no harm in local businesses trying to pay taxes.

Larry Yafuso

Location: 91950-3124, National City

Submitted At: 8:36am 01-13-26

I support option A with no additional restrictions.

Madison Rapp

Location:

Submitted At: 8:30am 01-13-26

I am opposed to the proposed County cannabis program expansion.

According to the County's own reports, there is no way to fully mitigate the odor, environmental pollution. There are concerns about youth exposure, impaired driving and road safety, environmental harm, and enforcement challenges.

Decision Point #1:

Even with buffers, a 600-foot or 1,000-foot setback does not meaningfully protect families, schools, or vulnerable populations. Outdoor and mixed-light cultivation, in particular, pose significant risks related to odor, water use, pesticide drift, fire danger, and environmental degradation. These impacts do not stop at property lines.

Decision Point #2:

Temporary cannabis events and onsite consumption lounges increase the risk of impaired driving, public intoxication, and exposure to minors, regardless of state permitting.

Equity should not come at the expense of public safety, neighborhood quality of life, or environmental stewardship.

Shelby Huffaker

Location: 92122, San Diego

Submitted At: 7:06am 01-13-26

As a public health researcher and lifelong San Diegan, I support aligning local zoning standards with state law, allowing licensed cannabis consumption lounges and events, and preserving the Community Equity Contribution Program. These measures expand safe access, advance equity, and support sustainable cultivation. Current zoning limits access, pushing patients and consumers to travel far or rely on the unregulated market. Adopting state buffer standards and creating regulated consumption venues would reduce barriers, improve safety, generate tax revenue, and reduce public service costs. Equity must remain central: communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis criminalization deserve real opportunities in the legal market. Increasing licenses, reducing exclusionary zoning, and maintaining financial support programs are necessary to repair past harms and foster long-term economic investment.

Tony Cioe

Location: 92066, Ranchita

Submitted At: 9:52pm 01-12-26

As a small business owner in Ramona, located in unincorporated San Diego County, I strongly support PEIR Alternative 2, Option A, which aligns County cannabis regulations with state standards.

For unincorporated communities like Ramona, land-use certainty is critical. The state's 600-foot buffer is a proven, reasonable standard that protects sensitive uses without effectively eliminating viable locations. Larger buffers dramatically shrink the available land base in rural areas and operate as a de fact

Option A supports local economic growth by allowing a full range of regulated cannabis businesses, including retail, manufacturing, distribution, cultivation, and microbusinesses. This means new jobs, responsible investment, and tax revenue that can be reinvested into essential services such as roads, fire protection, and public safety. Maintaining a cap of five facilities across the entire County does not reflect the size, needs, or economic potential of unincorporated communities.

Alexandra Rojas

Location: 92021, El Cajon

Submitted At: 8:21pm 01-12-26

I strongly support option A.

Bringing regulated cannabis facilities to the area will boost the local economy. It will create jobs during a time when unemployment is so high, taxes will flow back into the community safety zones and other safety regulations can be imposed.

It's also important to give others who have been negatively impacted by outdated marijuana laws a chance in this growing industry. Being able to enjoy marijauna responsibly and safely is imperative in 2026 and moving forward.

Michelle Batista

Location:

Submitted At: 8:08pm 01-12-26

I am resident and small business owner in District 2 and I am in full support of Option A.

The 600-foot buffer is both reasonable and sufficient. Anything beyond 600 feet becomes exclusionary rather than protective.

Wiley Greeno

Location: 92021, El Cajon

Submitted At: 7:51pm 01-12-26

I support option A

Nora Pradel

Location: 92117, San Diego

Submitted At: 7:34pm 01-12-26

I support the county with the most clearest and defensible land use by using California state standards!

MW Wale

Location: 92111, San Diego
Submitted At: 6:25pm 01-12-26

Please support option A. Thank you.

RC Welch

Location:
Submitted At: 4:09pm 01-12-26

As someone who has been directly impacted by cannabis laws in the County of San Diego, I support PEIR Alternative 2, Option A, because it benefits not only people like me, but the County as a whole. For many years, restrictive cannabis policies limited opportunity, pushed activity into unregulated spaces, and created long-term harm for individuals and families. Rebuilding after those impacts requires clear, fair, and workable rules. Option A provides that by aligning County regulations with state standards rather than creating unnecessary local barriers. From a land-use standpoint, Option A's alignment with the state's 600-foot buffer protects schools and youth-serving spaces while still allowing legal businesses to operate in appropriate zones. Expanding buffers beyond state requirements dramatically reduces viable land, particularly in unincorporated areas, and limits the County's ability to regulate, enforce, and benefit from legal operations.

Chauncie Martin

Location:
Submitted At: 3:59pm 01-12-26

I support Option A because it offers the most responsible balance between environmental protection and economic prosperity for San Diego County.

From an environmental standpoint, Option A strengthens oversight rather than weakening it. Allowing cannabis activity within a regulated framework gives the County the ability to monitor water use, energy consumption, waste disposal, and land stewardship. When legal access is overly restricted, activity does not disappear—it moves outside the regulated system, where environmental safeguards are far harder to enforce. Option A keeps operations visible, accountable, and subject to inspection, which is essential for protecting communities.

Rashida Hameed

Location: 92114, San Diego
Submitted At: 3:48pm 01-12-26

As someone involved in prevention work, I want to be clear: pushing legal cannabis activity out of regulated spaces does not eliminate exposure or risk for youth. It reduces transparency and oversight. Regulation allows for inspections, enforcement, and accountability. Overly restrictive land-use policies remove those tools. As a youth and family advocate, I believe prevention is strongest when paired with honest education and responsible regulation. Fear-based and exclusionary policies do not reflect the realities young people face. A regulated system allows for age restrictions, enforcement, labeling, and education—all essential prevention tools.

Option A represents progress. It acknowledges past harms while providing a path forward rooted in accountability, public health, and community well-being. For these reasons, I support PEIR Alternative 2, Option A, as a balanced and responsible approach that protects youth, supports families, and moves us beyond the harms of prohibition.

Gretchen Bergman

Location: 92067, Rancho Santa Fe
Submitted At: 2:29pm 01-12-26

My name is Gretchen Burns Bergman and I am Co-Founder/ Executive Director of A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) located in North Park. I live in Rancho Santa Fe and have a second office in Spring Valley. I highly recommend Option A and reject obstacles that go beyond California State guidelines. This approach will reduce barriers and create more equitable opportunities for all, especially those most impacted by cannabis prohibition.

Lynne Malinowski

Location: 92028, Fallbrook

Submitted At: 2:15pm 01-12-26

As a resident of the rural unincorporated County, I am opposed to this program and believe that any further work on it should be indefinitely paused. The SECP program appears to favor only business interests and disregard the unincorporated communities. The 500,000+ unincorporated residents will be adversely affected by imposition of unwanted grow sites and consumption lounges, and diversion of the limited funds and manpower the County has for basic services into administration, enforcement, crime, and tangent problems. The economics no longer support the revenue stream which was once conceived. There's no real financial justification for expansion of the program beyond the current state. If this program goes forward, please do include the following: prohibit outdoor cultivation (Decision 1, Option C), remove consumption lounges & temporary events (Decision 2, Option A), and do not continue to develop the CECP (Decision 3, Option B). Thank you.

Joe Eberstein

Location: 92101, San Diego

Submitted At: 11:48am 01-12-26

We have learned important lessons from decades of experience with alcohol - particularly higher outlet density is associated with increased youth use, harm, and community impacts. Applying those lessons to cannabis makes sense.

For that reason, requiring all cannabis facility types to maintain a 1,000-foot buffer from an expanded list of sensitive uses is a reasonable and responsible approach that prioritizes youth and community health.

I also want to thank the Sheriff's Department for the excellent work they have done conducting background checks. Their role has been effective and should remain with the department to ensure public safety and accountability.

Finally, cannabis consumption lounges are inconsistent with the County's smoke-free policies and with the Live Well, Building Better Health framework. Allowing on-site consumption undermines our broader public health goals and creates unnecessary risks.

Armand King

Location: 92124, San Diego

Submitted At: 10:09am 01-12-26

Option A provides the County with the clearest and most defensible land-use framework by aligning directly with California state standards, avoiding excessive buffers that function as de facto bans while still protecting sensitive uses.

Using the state-mandated 600-foot buffer ensures predictable zoning outcomes, reduces discretionary uncertainty, and allows jurisdictions to plan responsibly rather than reactively.

Adelia Fakhri

Location: 92027, Escondido

Submitted At: 1:50am 01-12-26

My name is Adelia Carrillo Fakhri. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on Agenda Item 3 regarding the Cannabis Social Equity Program.

I respectfully urge the Board to support Option A and to avoid adding requirements that go beyond existing California state guidelines. A successful social equity program must be accessible, practical, and aligned with the intent of state policy—to reduce barriers and create real opportunities for those disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition.

Additional regulations beyond state standards risk creating unnecessary delays, financial strain, and administrative burdens that undermine the purpose of this program. Option A offers a balanced approach that supports equity applicants while maintaining regulatory integrity.

San Diego County has the opportunity to lead with a fair, streamlined, and effective program. I strongly encourage the Board to move forward with Option A.

Thank you for your consideration.

Edward Thacher

Location: 92082, Valley Center
Submitted At: 2:27pm 01-10-26

My name is Ed Thacher and we have live on Pala Loma Dr in Valley Center for twenty years. I will be unable to attend the meeting on Monday, January 12 as it's my granddaughter's 16th birthday. I want you to know that my wife and I are adamantly opposed to the cannabis initiative that the County is trying to implement in rural areas such as ours. We don't need or want the problems that come with drug production. There is more and more evidence of the damage done by marijuana use. Shame on San Diego County for trying to make a buck on this. Vote No.

Thank you

Howard Greenspan

Location: 92111, San Diego
Submitted At: 9:40am 01-10-26

Can we just follow the alcohol laws and cigarette laws we have today. It is safer than either. Also, these rules for alcohol and cigarettes are already in place, nothing new to make. Stop acting like its different than Alcohol and Cigarettes please. Thank you. I would go for Option A.

Leo McDevitt

Location: 92025, Escondido
Submitted At: 7:54am 01-10-26

Option A makes the most sense; it aligns with established state policies that have advanced social equity goals, ensured responsible land use, and supported small businesses. Additional restrictions are unnecessary and are likely to prove burdensome to otherwise well-qualified applicants. Option A provides the needed flexibility in zoning regulations to ensure that cannabis businesses can operate safely and responsibly in San Diego County.

Edward Wicker

Location: 92127, San Diego
Submitted At: 7:34am 01-10-26

I live in unincorporated San Diego County and have practiced cannabis business law for over 15 years. I am writing to express strong support for Option A. This is the most balanced and workable approach to cannabis regulation in unincorporated San Diego County. It aligns local policy with established state standards, advances social equity goals, supports small business participation, and provides a responsible land-use framework for regulated cannabis operations.

Option A appropriately follows state land-use regulations which has proven effective statewide. Imposing additional, more restrictive standards would be unnecessary and would be burdensome without providing corresponding public benefit.

Option A advances social equity by allowing qualified applicants a realistic opportunity to participate in the legal market. More restrictive zoning alternatives would undermine this goal which is counterproductive to the main purpose of these regulations.

I urge the Board to adopt Option A.

Wade Olsen

Location:
Submitted At: 10:06pm 01-09-26

My name is Wade Olsen I grew up in San Diego and live in District 5 I am a medical cannabis patient registered in San Diego County state medical cannabis program and I support Safe Access and the (SECP) socially equitable cannabis program
I also support program option A

On decision point 1 land use I support option A and indoor outdoor and mixed light cultivation
On decision point 2 consumption lounges and temporary events I support option A
And for decision point 3 continue to develop the CECF the community equity contribution program I support option A. Cannabis is an important part of California culture and San Diego as a tourist destination with entertainment industry gaming casinos, healthy active lifestyle world class dining and agriculture it just makes sense to allow more cannabis access. Thank you for your consideration.

Ryan larceval

Location: 92108, san diego
Submitted At: 8:34pm 01-09-26

My name is Ryan Larceval. I was born and raised in Spring Valley, currently live in Mission Valley, and am a business owner in the City of San Diego. I am here to express my strong support for Option A in the Social Equity Program zoning proposal.

Option A is essential to giving social equity and small cannabis businesses a fair opportunity to succeed. It creates space for new and locally owned businesses to grow, create jobs, and contribute to our local economy. When small businesses thrive, they reinvest in their communities and strengthen neighborhoods across San Diego.

Without Option A, social equity applicants face major disadvantages competing against large corporate operators that already dominate much of the cannabis market and have far greater access to capital and resources. Option A helps level the playing field and provides a realistic path to long-term success for these applicants.

Robert Wood

Location: 92020, El Cajon
Submitted At: 11:20pm 01-08-26

The Social Equity Cannabis Program has the potential to be something amazing. It will increase tax revenue in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County and create jobs. I look forward to the program passing with the same regulations that the state, through thorough research and analysis, has passed. Currently, cannabis is legal, and people with illnesses, recreational users, taxpayers, and others now have the opportunity to benefit from it. Passing Option A would have the greatest possible positive impact on multiple populations in these areas. It will also make cannabis safer and more accessible for people in these communities. Please pass Option A.

Mark Dupuis

Location: 92086, Warner springs
Submitted At: 10:43pm 01-08-26

My family has lived all over San Diego county for many generations mainly North and East County. I would like to say Thank you San Diego county for creating the SEP. You have put together an amazing team and program. Anyone that has attended the SEED classes understands this.

I respectfully recommend adopting Program Option A, which aligns with state standards and maintains the 600-foot buffer from sensitive uses.

Option A will allow for reasonable setbacks and buffers which have been proven to work well across the state. This option will protect sensitive areas and will boost real estate values and tax assessments in more areas than options B or C.

The San Diego county Cannabis industry will boost the economy in more ways then anyone can possibly imagine. Real estate, jobs, construction, tax revenue, municipal jobs, inspection fees and fines.

G D

Location: 92028, Fallbrook
Submitted At: 6:44pm 01-08-26

The SECP Experiment is a failure. While approximately 20 cities and counties have established formal equity programs, data suggest these initiatives have largely failed to create a stable pathway for those most impacted by the War on Drugs, with only record expungements as a benefit. We do not need a SECP just to expunge records. In LA, only 10% of SECP licenses were in operation. SE operators face a market where only about 27% of ALL cannabis businesses are profitable. California's county-level cannabis programs are all struggling with declining profitability. Data shows a significant downturn in revenue and business viability across major regions, all seeing tax revenue dips up to 80% forcing gov't funds to be used to prop up these failing operations thru grants and tax forgiveness. Let's be smart and save our tax dollars for things that matter to everyone in the community, not just cannabis users and businesses.

Michelle Kevorkian

Location: 92109, San Diego
Submitted At: 3:48pm 01-08-26

I live in District 3 and am a construction business owner with experience navigating zoning and land-use regulations across San Diego County. I respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt Program Option A, which aligns with state standards and maintains the 600-foot buffer from sensitive uses.

From a land-use perspective, the 600-foot buffer already protects schools, daycares, and youth centers while preserving enough viable parcels for regulation to function effectively. Expanding buffers beyond this standard exponentially reduces parcel availability without proportional public-safety benefits.

More restrictive options layer expanded buffers and separation requirements, fragment zoning maps, encourage over-concentration, and reduce transparency. In construction and development, over-restrictive zoning does not eliminate activity—it displaces it, increasing enforcement costs and undermining equity. Option A is the most enforceable and balanced approach.

Lawrence Vescera

Location: 92004, Borrego Springs
Submitted At: 11:46am 01-08-26

Please keep head shops and pot farms out of Borrego Springs.

Howard Haynes

Location: 92114, San diego
Submitted At: 10:53am 01-08-26

I support option 1... Option 1 best advances equity by providing realistic, viable locations for small and emerging operators. Overly restrictive zoning limits opportunity, favors well-capitalized businesses, and undermines the intent of the program.

Albert Pepi

Location: 92117, San Diego
Submitted At: 10:46am 01-08-26

I support option 1 .I support to continue to develop the CECP.

S Y

Location:
Submitted At: 10:22am 01-08-26

I support permitting socially equitable cannabis businesses in unincorporated San Diego County and favor Option 1, the most inclusive zoning option.

For a social equity program to be meaningful, it must allow entrepreneurs to operate in locations that are commercially practical and financially sustainable. Highly restrictive zoning limits opportunity and creates barriers that disproportionately impact smaller, community-based operators.

Option 1 provides the necessary flexibility for equity businesses to integrate into established commercial areas while remaining fully subject to County regulations and oversight. This balanced approach supports responsible

development, local economic participation, and long-term program success.

I respectfully encourage the Board of Supervisors to adopt Option 1 to ensure the Socially Equitable Cannabis Program is accessible, effective, and aligned with its intended purpose.

D P

Location:

Submitted At: 10:19am 01-08-26

I support allowing socially equitable cannabis businesses in unincorporated San Diego County and strongly support Option 1, the most flexible zoning option.

Option 1 best advances equity by providing realistic, viable locations for small and emerging operators. Overly restrictive zoning limits opportunity, favors well-capitalized businesses, and undermines the intent of the program.

A flexible zoning framework allows businesses to integrate into existing commercial areas while remaining subject to strong County regulation. This approach promotes economic stability, compliance, and long-term success for equity entrepreneurs.

I urge the Board to adopt Option 1 so the Socially Equitable Cannabis Program can be effective, fair, and accessible.

E G

Location: 91942 , San Diego

Submitted At: 1:18am 01-08-26

I believe that. This is very positive for all consumers. To enjoy a better enjoyable lifestyle with the lounges and the micro licensing. and outdoor outdoor events, which show better education for future consumers

E G

Location: 91942 , San Diego

Submitted At: 1:18am 01-08-26

I believe that. This is very positive for all consumers. To enjoy a better enjoyable lifestyle with the lounges and the micro licensing. and outdoor outdoor events, which show better education for future consumers

Sarah Anaraki

Location:

Submitted At: 10:52pm 01-07-26

I support the idea of bringing safe easy access of medical marijuana to the unincorporated areas of San Diego. This would help so many who rely on the healing properties of the marijuana plant and give them safe access in oppose to having to travel far from home or worse buying it from the black market. Black market marijuana is not regulated and can be laced with fentanyl and other deadly compounds.

Furthermore this would help stimulate the areas bringing jobs and tax revenue for the county to help fix roads and other necessary infrastructures. Why spend your money in a different neighborhood than the one you live.

Paul Henkin

Location: 91902, Bonita

Submitted At: 4:05pm 01-07-26

I am offended that you are presenting this with 7 options still after 4 years. You asked the Committee for recommendations, not options. Isn't recommendations what we pay taxes for?

Jury's still out on whether cannabis boosts crime. LA is undergoing serial robberies at cannabis stores. There was recently a stabbing behind our own National City cannabis lounge. There is no conclusive law enforcement study but private studies seem to show a 4.8% increase in crime.

Another huge concern is the twisty and often poorly maintained roads in Tribal areas and East County which impede access for police or emergency services if needed.

You cannot allow ALL indoor facility types. And you sure don't want them in a residential care facility with all the side effects of the smoke. You need to regulate temporary cannabis events and onsite consumption. No CECP. You need all the tax money first, not a giveaway based on estimates.

A waste of time and effort, and our taxpayer dollars.

Elena Thompson

Location: 92024, Encinitas

Submitted At: 8:47pm 01-06-26

Borregans strongly oppose local cannabis shops and growing operations in fragile Borrego Springs, the gateway to CA's largest state park and family friendly, tourist town. This is NOT the economic development or tourism desired to create jobs or taxes. Cannabis is a gateway drug, there are no case studies where the state experiment is working well from a human health or tax perspective. Further, Borrego does not have the water supply for growing pot, or reliable power to light up greenhouses, other cannabis operations. Lastly, the roads to Borrego are windy and dangerous, with already enough accidents and collision from drunk and distracted driving, texting, wild animals on the road- and inadequate public services to come to the rescue from cannabis overdoses. Please postpone the agenda item, any vote, until the county can conduct backcountry 2026 stakeholder meetings to further study the topic, ensure the "majority" of stakeholders approve. This is a common sense public safety matter!

Jack Plamper

Location:

Submitted At: 5:13pm 01-05-26

Unincorporated areas do NOT want cannabis shops we lack so many services. Unfair, unjust and unbelievable! We need repairs to our communities and leaders that will make an effort to help the already dire areas!