

**FINDINGS**  
**Cannabis**  
**Zoning Code Amendment (ZCA 19-009)**  
**Application No. 1909-12**  
**January 16, 2020**

The Long Beach Municipal Code does not contain specific findings for the adoption of a zoning code amendment. Pursuant to California Government Code §65860, a zoning ordinance shall be consistent with the adopted General Plan. The City of Long Beach makes the following findings in support of its adoption of changes to the Cannabis zoning code amendment.

**The Cannabis zoning code amendment is consistent with objectives, principles, and standards of the General Plan.** In 2017 the City adopted the first development and design standards relating to cannabis businesses. This was done in an effort to address potential issues associated with the cannabis business uses relating to business location, aesthetics, security, and noise.

In 2018, a year after the initial implementation of the City's Cannabis Ordinance, the Council requested staff conduct a study of cannabis building design and zoning requirements. Upon that review, and including input from a variety of stakeholders, including the public as well as cannabis community members modifications to the existing ordinance are proposed and generally consist of the following modifications:

- Revised definitions for Cannabis Cultivation and Cannabis Distribution. The existing definitions do not include the full-scope of activities each business type is empowered to do. The proposed amendments are intended to further define the specific range of activities specific for these types of uses.
- New definition for Cannabis Distribution-Self. This new definition distinguishes distribution of third-party cannabis goods from those that distribute their own cannabis goods.
- Streamline cannabis cultivation uses within the General Industrial (GI) zoning district and cannabis distribution (3<sup>rd</sup> Party) within the Light Industrial (IL), Medium Industrial (IM), and IG zoning districts. Instead of requiring a conditional Use permit (CUP), require approval of an Administrative Use Permit (AUP). Although the AUP does require a public hearing process, it is generally more expedient and has a lower fee than going before the Planning Commission.
- Changes to Title 5. Although not under the purview of the Planning Commission, the proposed modified building design standards for both ground-up construction as well as existing buildings are proposed to minimize the impacts associated with remodeled or new cannabis facilities.

The proposed amendments are consistent with the General plan, specifically upholding the Land Use Elements emphasis on maintaining and improving the quality of life, while accommodating growth and change. Additionally, the proposed criteria are consistent with the Public Safety Element's emphasis on creating and maintaining safer physical environments, by maintaining window openings which allow for 'eyes on the street'. Removed windows, walled off doors, and elevations void of articulation can negatively impact the character of neighborhoods and give a perception of decline in the area.

In addition, the newly adopted Urban Design Element promotes enhancement of the built environments through façade improvements, context sensitive infill development and landscaping. The proposed changes to the design criteria do not eliminate any design criteria, but rather modify the design criteria so that improvements to existing buildings do not detract, but improve those elevations facing or visible from the public right-of-way which contributes to the overall aesthetics of the surrounding area.