



# County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **CANNABIS CULTIVATION REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY**

On Monday, August 8, the County of Santa Cruz will debut a new medical cannabis website and begin accepting registration forms from cannabis cultivators operating in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Registration will be offered for a limited time only, and will be a prerequisite for obtaining a future medical cannabis cultivation license from the County, a necessary step before cultivators can be sanctioned by the State under the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act. A proposed new licensing ordinance being considered by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors is currently pending.

To be eligible, cultivators must demonstrate they have been cultivating medical cannabis in Santa Cruz County since January 2013, or demonstrate they have been engaged in commercial farming of another agricultural product in a Commercial Agricultural zone for the last three years.

In addition, registrants will be informed of the degree to which their cultivation site is in compliance with existing cultivation regulations, including the current 99-plant limit. All registrants will be required to complete a registration application form, applicant-owner certification form, personal background form and a security plan form, as well as meet other requirements.

The cost to register each site is \$3,500. Additional fees apply for background checks and site inspections. Registration is being offered online only, with a kiosk available at the County for those without computer access. Fees may be paid to the Santa Cruz County Cannabis Licensing Office, 701 Ocean St. Rm. 520, Santa Cruz.

Starting Monday, the Cannabis Licensing Office website may be viewed at <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/CannabisLicensingOffice.aspx>.