# UPDATE TO THE COUNTY'S COMMERCIAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

Planning Commission August 3, 2023



# Phase I – Current Conditions

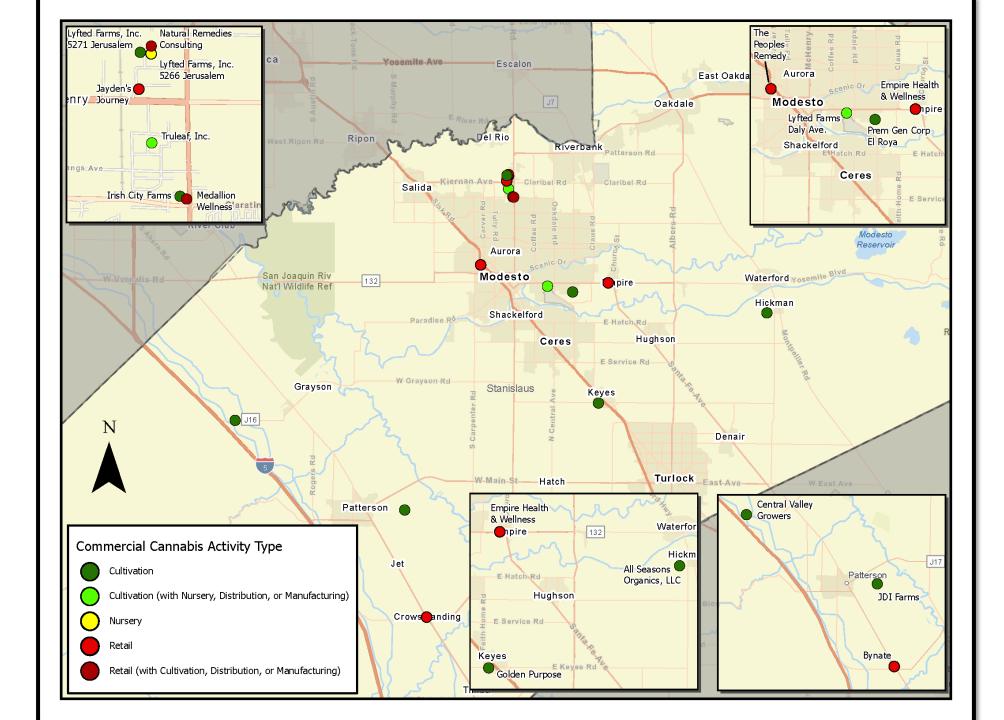
- County's Commercial Cannabis Program allowed up to 61 activity permits
  - Multiple licenses/permits needed to obtain a County Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) Permit.
  - Activity types included: retail, cultivation, manufacturing, testing, and distribution.
- After two application periods in 2018 and 2019;
  - 45 land use and development agreement applications submitted
  - 26 approved
  - 17 businesses remaining



#### Phase I – Current Conditions

Operation Type	Activity Permits Occupied
Retail	7
Mixed Light Cultivation	3
Indoor Cultivation	7
Nursery	4
Distribution	7
Manufacturing	3
Total Activity Permits Allowed	61
Total Activity Permits Occupied	<u>31</u>
Activity Permits Remaining	30





## Phase I – Current Conditions

- Fee components of the Development Agreements with commercial cannabis operations included:
  - Community Benefit Rate
  - Community Benefit Contribution
- Partnering with Stanislaus Community Foundation, \$695,000 in Community Benefit Contribution funding was awarded to various non-profits serving youth in January of 2023
  - An additional \$250,000 has been appropriated to the County's Parks and Recreation for support of youth recreation activities.



# Development Agreements (DA)

- Required for all commercial cannabis activities by Chapter 6.78 of County Code
  - Chapter 22 of the County Code regulates DA's
    - Requires Planning Commission recommend action to the Board of Supervisors
    - Requires Annual Reviews of DA's
      - Section 14 of each DA
        - Good faith compliance with provisions of DA



# **Annual Inspection**

- All commercial cannabis operations subject to annual inspection
  - 1<sup>st</sup> inspection occurred between April 2022 June 2022
    - Multiple County Departments included
    - Inspection items included:
      - Regulatory requirements of Chapter 6.78 of the County Code
      - Implementation of conditions of approval for individual land use permits
      - Standard business regulatory requirements
  - Results relayed to operator by CEO's office
    - Timeline to correct varied by issue



#### 2022 Annual Inspection Results

#### A total of 17 businesses inspected

- Average of 14 correction findings per business
- Over 50% of total correction findings were from either Sheriff or Fire regulatory requirements
- 34% of total correction findings related to conditions of approval or administration or regulatory requirements
- A total of 10 businesses have outstanding corrections from the 2022 Annual Inspection
  - Majority of outstanding corrections related to safety requirements



## 2022 Annual Inspection Results Continued

- After completion of the 2022 Annual Inspection five (5) businesses met requirements to obtain Commercial Cannabis Activity (CCA) Permit
  - The Honest Choice Retail
  - Irish City Farms Indoor Cultivation
  - Golden Purpose Indoor Cultivation
  - Central Valley Growers Mixed Light Cultivation
  - MDF Farms Mixed Light Cultivation
    - Closed in July 2023
- As of August 1, 2023, two additional CCA Permits ready to be issued once past due fees are paid:
  - Medallion Wellness
  - The Peoples Remedy



#### Payment of Development Agreement Fees During Phase I

- Over the course of Phase I
  - Late payments have been incurred by all businesses except one (1)
    - Irish City Farms
  - Three (3) businesses with only one single late payment
    - Jayden's Journey
    - Honest Choice
    - MDF Farms



#### Payment of Development Agreement Fees During Phase I Continued

- Eight (8) businesses remain behind on payments
  - Bynate
  - JDI Farms
  - Medallion Wellness
  - NRC
  - The Peoples Remedy
  - Lyfted Farms Daly Avenue
  - Truleaf
  - Central Valley Growers



### Phase I – Program Changes

As of July 6, 2023, updates to program administration included:

- Elimination of the collection of late penalties
  - Interest will continue to be assessed
- Suspension of inflationary update to DA fees
- Amendments, Sale, or Transfer of Development Agreements
- Annual inspections for 2023 will be scheduled for fall
  - Code Enforcement will take lead
- Removal of previously adopted Development Agreements for closed businesses



# Phase II – Future Program Outlook

#### Renewal of Development Agreements

- Discussions to begin 8-9 months before expiration of individual Development Agreements
- Scoring to establish if existing operators will continue on to Phase II
  - Obtaining CCA Permit necessary for continuation into Phase II

#### Tax Measure

- Targeting March of 2024
- Effective July 2024 if successful





