The **Medical Cannabis Cultivation and Commerce Ordinance** is a proposed zoning ordinance regarding commercial cannabis cultivation in Calaveras County. The County is currently reviewing comments on the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the ordinance. At the moment, the County’s preferred alternative is a ban on cannabis cultivation.

**What is CEQA?**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 is a law that requires state and local agencies to identify any significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or action. CEQA also requires that they avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. The law requires Calaveras County to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) before adopting the type of Commercial Cannabis Ordinance currently being considered.

**Why does the new CEQA Exemption not apply?**

California recently adopted an exemption to CEQA’s environmental review requirement for those cannabis ordinances that call for environmental review to occur later, when the individual cannabis grows seek local government approval. The cannabis ordinances currently under consideration by the County do not qualify for this exemption. It is possible that the County could change the ordinance, qualify for the exemption, and suspend the environmental review process. However, as things stand now, the EIR process is ongoing.

**What must the Commercial Cannabis EIR do?**

An EIR is required to describe the proposed ordinance, describe the existing conditions in Calaveras County, evaluate the impacts of implementing the proposed ordinance, identify mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts of implementing the ordinance, and look at alternatives to the proposed ordinance, including a ban on commercial cannabis cultivation.  The County issued a Draft EIR and received public comments on it. To read full comments, please visit [www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com).  Before making its final decision regarding the proposed ordinance, the County must first respond to these public comments in writing using evidence and logic.

**The Board of Supervisors will make its final decision soon.**

If you care about this issue, send your input to the Board of Supervisors: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249 or DSeverud@co.calaveras.ca.us. The Community Action Project encourages all people affected by this decision to work with the County to draft a clear, effective, and legally sufficient ordinance that will meet the needs of each community. **To receive regular action alerts on this topic, add yourself to our email list at** [**www.calaverascap.com**](http://www.calaverascap.com)**.**

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**P.O. Box 935, San Andreas, CA 95249 ● (209) 772-1463 ●** [**www.calaverascap.com**](http://www.calaverascap.com)