



Board of Directors Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2020 ITEM NUMBER:10D

SUBJECT: Consideration of and Vote on Whether or Not to Revise Current Cannabis Event Policy

DATE: November 13, 2020

FROM: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia

PRESENTATION BY: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia

RECOMMENDATION

At the Board of Directors' discretion.

BACKGROUND

At the January 25, 2018 meeting, the Board of Directors adopted the Cannabis Event Policy (Policy 6.05), based on cannabis event guidelines published for District Agricultural Associations in October, 2017 by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA). A copy of the policy is attached.

In considering the policy, the Board looked at several factors suggested by CDFA including:

1. Community values and standards in regards to cannabis as reflected by local city and county cannabis ordinances
2. Fairgrounds' proximity to schools, youth recreation centers, parks and other areas minors congregate
3. CDFA cannabis event guidelines
4. Potential federal enforcement on cannabis use
5. Relationship with California Highway Patrol and/or local law enforcement

The Board voted unanimously in favor of banning cannabis events at OC Fair & Event Center, which included the ban of cannabis-related products such as those containing CBD. In November, 2018, the Board amended the policy to include the following statement:

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the OC Fair & Event Center permits the sale, promotion and display of products containing seeds derived from industrial hemp or industrial hemp seed oil or hemp seed oil derived from industrial hemp, consistent with California law.

In November, 2016, the City of Costa Mesa passed Measure X which allows for businesses meeting the requirements for operation to conduct wholesale medical marijuana distributing, manufacturing, processing and transporting, as well as research and development testing laboratories. Measure X does not allow for cannabis cultivation and/or retail sales. Medical marijuana businesses are only permitted in a specific part of Costa Mesa (north of South Coast Drive, west of Harbor Blvd, south of MacArthur Blvd and east of the Santa Ana River.)

In November 2020, Costa Mesa voters approved Measure H, which will allow for retail cannabis shops and delivery operations in Costa Mesa. Measure H passed with 65 percent support. Since cannabis is a growing part of California's agriculture and contributes to future economic growth the Board is being asked to review the current policy and discuss potential amendments to the Cannabis Event Policy 6.05.

32nd District Agricultural Association
Board Policies

Board Policy 6.05: Cannabis Event Policy

Date Adopted/Last Revised: November 15, 2018

Note: Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Board Policy have the meanings set forth in the Definitions section of Board Policy 1.01. Should any provision in this policy contradict any provision of California law, California law shall control.

Policy

The 32nd District Agricultural Association (OC Fair & Event Center) does not book cannabis-related events at the OC Fair & Event Center for several reasons, including without limitation, the City of Costa Mesa's Marijuana Ordinance and the OC Fair & Event Center's close proximity to schools, parks, day care centers and other areas where minors gather. This policy also extends to existing events which are prohibited from including cannabis products or activities, cannabis-related products or activities or drug paraphernalia during events held at the OC Fair & Event Center. The OC Fair & Event Center does not permit any sponsor, vendor or exhibitor to include in any marketing, advertising or information for an event held at the OC Fair & Event Center, any promotion, information or advertisement from cannabis dispensaries or third-parties that sell or promote cannabis-related products or drug paraphernalia. Event sponsors, vendors and/or exhibitors may not distribute, sell or promote cannabis products, cannabis-related products or drug paraphernalia during any event at the OC Fair & Event Center. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the OC Fair & Event Center permits the sale, promotion and display of products containing seeds derived from industrial hemp or industrial hemp seed oil or hemp seed oil derived from industrial hemp, consistent with California law.