

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Measure X

What activities are permissible under the city's new Measure X?

Businesses that meet the requirements for operation can conduct wholesale medical marijuana distributing, manufacturing, processing and transporting as well as establish research and development and testing laboratories.

Does that include cultivation and retail sales?

No. Cultivation and any type of retail sales of marijuana or marijuana product is not permitted in the City of Costa Mesa. Further, under Measure X, medical marijuana businesses may not conduct retail activity of any type - i.e., businesses may not sell non-marijuana products.

In which area of the city can I open my medical marijuana business?

Medical marijuana businesses are only permitted in a specific part of the City: north of South Coast Drive, west of Harbor Boulevard, south of MacArthur Boulevard and east of the Santa Ana River. Medical marijuana businesses are not permitted within the South Coast Collection (SoCo) center.

Does the city gain any additional revenues from manufacturing operations?

Yes, the ordinance imposes a new 6% annual gross receipt tax on any marijuana business.

What if I want to open a medical marijuana manufacturing center, what is required?

Operators of all allowed type of businesses are required to obtain a Marijuana Business Permit from the city, as well as a conditional use permit and a Business License. The Marijuana Business Permit has a number of requirements, including a Livescan background check of all owners and employees. Operators should have a site secured in the approved zone and can obtain information packets from Code Enforcement on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

When can I obtain the information packet and start the process to open an approved marijuana business?

We expect to have our internal process finalized by late January, 2017. We will announce a specific launch date via the City website as soon as possible.

Where can I get a Livescan?

All Livescan background checks must be performed by the Costa Mesa Police Department and must be completed XX number of days prior to ... The police department will charge a separate fee for this service.

What would disqualify me from being able to operate or work in a medical marijuana business?

A felony conviction within the past 7 years, unless that felony has been dismissed, withdrawn, expunged or set aside pursuant to Penal Code sections 1203.4, 1000 or 1385, as well as currently being on probation or parole for the sale, distribution, possession or manufacture of a controlled substance.

Is there a pre-determined number of businesses that can operate in this area?

Measure X has no specific limit on the number of medical marijuana businesses that can operate in the city.

I heard that the businesses have to be a certain distance from Moon Park. Is that true?

Yes, Measure X expressly prohibits any medical marijuana business from being conducted on any lot that is within 500 feet of Moon Park. Because Measure X uses the term “lot”, this means that the entire legal lot must be over 500 feet from Moon park, not just the building in which the business would be located.

What if I want to open a dispensary in this area?

The City of Costa Mesa currently has an ordinance that prohibits marijuana dispensaries within city boundaries. Measure X did nothing to change that.

If I open medical marijuana business, can people smoke or consume marijuana inside my business? What about alcohol?

No. Measure X prohibits the consumption of both marijuana and alcohol on the premises of a medical marijuana business.