



1 to be able to obtain and use it without fear of criminal prosecution under limited, specified  
2 circumstances. Further, effective January 1, 2004, the State Legislature enacted Senate Bill  
3 (SB) 420 to clarify the scope of The Compassionate Use Act of 1996 and to allow counties  
4 and other governing bodies to adopt and enforce rules and regulation laws consistent with SB  
5 420; and

6 B. The Board finds that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety  
7 or welfare posed by the location and outdoor cultivation of medical cannabis; and further finds:

8 C. The Compassionate Use Act expressly encourages federal and state governments to  
9 implement a plan to provide for the safe and affordable distribution of marijuana to all patients  
10 in medical need of marijuana. The Board finds that the safe distribution of marijuana, as  
11 contemplated by the Compassionate Use Act, includes the safety of all the citizenry of the  
12 County, not only users of medical marijuana. To find otherwise would elevate the rights of  
13 some individuals who use medical marijuana over the safety of others.

14 D. Further, the Compassionate Use Act expressly states that nothing in that act shall be  
15 construed to supersede legislation prohibiting persons from engaging in conduct that  
16 endangers others, nor to condone the diversion of marijuana for nonmedical purposes.

17 E. The Medical Marijuana Program Act, Health and Safety Code Sections 11362. 7 and  
18 following, expressly states that nothing in that act shall prevent a city or other local governing  
19 board from adopting and enforcing laws consistent with the Medical Marijuana Program Act.  
20 The Board finds that this ordinance is consistent with the Medical Marijuana Program Act in  
21 that it advances the goals of the Compassionate Use Act by allowing for the development of a  
22 plan for the safe distribution of medical marijuana.

23 F. Fresno County is within a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, as designated by the  
24 White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Nonmedical marijuana cultivation  
25 continues to be a serious problem within Fresno County. The County has received federal  
26 grants for the eradication of nonmedical marijuana grown on public lands.

27 G. Medical marijuana and nonmedical marijuana are indistinguishable when on the  
28 marijuana plant.

1 H. There have been many reports of violence incidental to the outdoor cultivation of  
2 marijuana, whether medical or nonmedical. Immediately prior to the Board's interim urgency  
3 ordinance on September 14, 2010, there were reports of two shootings within Fresno County  
4 related to marijuana. One of the two shootings resulted in death. The reports of marijuana  
5 related threats to neighboring landowners and other citizens have escalated in recent months.  
6 The unregulated outdoor cultivation of medical marijuana poses a current and immediate  
7 threat to public health, safety and welfare.

8 I. The County of Fresno is currently working on development of ordinances to address  
9 issues relating to cultivation of medical marijuana. Until such time as those ordinances are  
10 adopted, it is necessary to prohibit the outdoor cultivation of medical marijuana.

11  
12 SECTION 3:

13 A. It is the Board of Supervisors' intention that nothing in this Ordinance shall be deemed  
14 to conflict with Federal law as contained in the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. Section  
15 841, nor to otherwise permit any activity that is prohibited under that Act. It is further the  
16 Board of Supervisors' intention that nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to (1) allow  
17 persons to engage in conduct that endangers others or causes a public nuisance, (2) allow  
18 the use of cannabis for non-medical purposes, or (3) allow any activity relating to the  
19 cultivation, distribution, or consumption of cannabis that is otherwise illegal; and

20 B. This Ordinance continues to enact a prohibition on the outdoor cultivation of medical  
21 marijuana in all zone districts in the unincorporated areas of Fresno County pending the  
22 development of standards and regulations relating to cultivation; and

23 C. This Ordinance is hereby found to be categorically exempt from environmental review  
24 pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3).

25 SECTION 4:

26 If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase or word of this Ordinance is for  
27 any reason held to be unconstitutional, unlawful or otherwise invalid by a court of competent  
28 jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this

1 Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed and adopted  
2 this Ordinance and each and all provisions thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or  
3 more of said provisions be declared unconstitutional, unlawful or otherwise invalid.

4 SECTION 5:

5 Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 10-019 is hereby extended for an additional period of  
6 ten (10) months and fifteen (15) days, and shall remain in effect until September 14, 2011,  
7 unless earlier terminated or extended.

8 THE FOREGOING WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE OF  
9 THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF  
10 \_\_\_\_\_ 2010, TO-WIT:

11  
12 AYES:

13 NOES:

14 ABSENT:

15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 JUDITH G. CASE, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

17 ATTEST:

18  
19  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
BERNICE SIEDEL, CLERK  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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