



CITY OF BELL GARDENS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM:	Michael B. O'Kelly, City Manager
BY:	Manuel Acosta, Director of Community Development
SUBJECT:	Cannabis Moratorium Report Pursuant to Government Code Section 65858(d)
DATE:	April 2, 2026

California Government Code Section 65858(d) provides that at least ten (10) days before the expiration of an interim ordinance or any extension, the legislative body shall issue a written report describing the measures taken to alleviate the conditions which led to adoption of the interim ordinance. This report is provided for public review eleven (11) days prior to the April 13, 2026 City Council meeting to consider adopting Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 966-U to allow for a twelve (12) month extension to a moratorium on the acceptance, processing, and approval of all forms of applications for cannabis retail businesses for a period of ten (10) months and fifteen (15) days.

Background

On June 26, 2023, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 934 conditionally allowing cannabis retail uses within portions of the City's Commercial and Industrial zones. The uses are subject to certain siting requirements from sensitive uses and conditions of approval for a term of eighteen (18) months, or up to ten (10) years upon the execution of a development agreement (DA) with the City. All active DAs currently provide for an initial five (5)-year term, subject to an option to extend for an additional five (5) years, for a total ten (10)-year term.

At its April 22, 2024 regularly scheduled meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 942 amending Title 5 (Business Licenses, Regulations and Taxes) of the Bell Gardens Municipal Code ("BGMC") to limit the number of Business Regulatory Permits for cannabis retail uses not to exceed a total of seven (7) permits.

At its June 9, 2025 regularly scheduled meeting, the City Council adopted Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 956-U thereby authorizing a moratorium on the acceptance, processing, and approval of all forms of applications for cannabis retail businesses for a period of 45 days.

At its June 23, 2025 regularly scheduled meeting, the City Council adopted Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 958-U thereby authorizing an extension to a moratorium on the acceptance, processing, and approval of all forms of applications for cannabis retail businesses for a period of 10 months and 15 days.

A duly notice public hearing is scheduled for April 13, 2026, the City Council will consider Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 966-U to authorize an extension to a moratorium on the acceptance, processing, and approval of all forms of applications for cannabis retail businesses for a period of 12 months.

Moratorium Measures

Under the City's regulations, proposed cannabis retailers are required to observe a minimum 600 foot distance from sensitive uses including schools, day care centers, youth centers, and parks, as defined in the Bell Gardens Municipal Code ("BGMC"), a 500 foot distance from existing cannabis retailers, and are prohibited within the Civic Center Overlay Zone and a geographic area near the Parkwest Bicycle Casino located at 888 Bicycle Casino Drive. Adoption of Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 958-U was intended to allow City staff the time needed to prepare and evaluate options for addressing impacts posed by an over proliferation of cannabis uses within the City. The moratorium aimed to reduce potential negative impacts including exposure of and access by minors to cannabis and cannabis products, ensuring community stability, and protecting the economic vitality of existing businesses.

Since the effective date of Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 958-U, staff has gathered information on the performance of the City's current cannabis related development standards and operator compliance with said standards. Staff has found that further regulations are required to achieve a reduction in exposure of and potential access by minors to cannabis and cannabis related products.

Staff will evaluate final recommendations for further regulation and monitoring of existing cannabis retail operators and present a permanent ordinance to amend the City's cannabis related provisions. Example standard modifications may include, but are not limited to, establishing a maximum acceptance, processing, and approval of all forms of cannabis applications and refined signage standards.

Conclusion

This report serves as the report required by Government Code Section 65858. This report is published eleven (11) days prior to the April 13, 2026 City Council meeting. The City Council will consider Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 966-U to extend the moratorium by an additional twelve (12) months.