



Department of
Cannabis Control
CALIFORNIA

NOTICE of EXEMPTION from CEQA
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS CONTROL

P.O. BOX 419106, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95741-9106

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To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Cannabis Control
Environmental Evaluation Office
P.O. Box 419106
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9106

Project Title: Freedom Flora LLC (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located at 2869 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville, CA 95076 in Santa Cruz County (APN: 049-081-15 & 049-081-03).

County: Santa Cruz

Project Description: The Department of Cannabis Control, pursuant to authority granted under Business and Profession Code, Section 26012, approved a small outdoor commercial cannabis license submitted on 1/16/2026, by Freedom Flora LLC.

Project Activities: The Project will consist of up to 10,000 square-feet (sf.) of canopy within this license with a total of 57,000 sf. of mature canopy and 28,000 sf. of immature canopy on the full site, with the addition of eight 480-sf. refrigerator trailers for drying and storage of harvests and two temporary shed structures for harvest weighing and pesticide storage. The property is approximately 26 acres in area and currently is in use as a cannabis and berry farm (Commercial Agriculture zone). Proposes two fulltime employees with 15-20 temporary workers during spring and fall harvest season. Cultivation would occur in 34 adjacent hoop houses, 24-in in width and of various lengths. Berry farming will continue on the northern section of the property. There were previously three cannabis operators on site which Freedom Flora will replace as the sole operator with 1 medium outdoor license and the proposed small license. There is an intermittent stream/drainage channel bordering the crop area. The agricultural properties are typical in the area, and hoop houses are commonly seen.

Exemption Status: (check one)

- Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14 (CCR), § 15268]
- Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, §15269(a)]
- Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, § 15269(b)(c)]
- Categorical Exemption: [Class 1 Categorical Exemption, CCR §15301]
- Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
- General Rule [CCR, § 15061(b)(3)]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The Department of Cannabis Control has determined that the project is a Class 1 Categorical Exemption project. Class 1 Categorical Exemptions consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alterations to existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. None of the exceptions to this exemption defined in Section 15300.2 apply.

This is to certify that the final environmental document, comments and responses, and the record of project approval are available to the public at the following location:

Department of Cannabis Control
Office of Environmental Evaluation
P.O. Box 419106
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9106

Liana Huang
Contact Name

Environmental Scientist
Contact Title

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Phone #

Liana Huang

Signature

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: