



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council **DATE:** July 9, 2018

**FROM:** Matthew Bronson, City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** A. Rafael Castillo, AICP, Senior Planner

**SUBJECT:** Development Application 17-25 - Request to amend Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Permit to allow Adult Cannabis Use (Recreational Use) Located at 998 Huston Street (Applicant: DDM Venture Group, LLC.)

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) Adopt a Resolution amending Development Application 17-25, to allow both commercial medical cannabis and adult use cannabis within an existing retail, manufacturing, cultivation, and distribution facility located at 998 Huston Street; and
  - 2) Adopt a Resolution amending the Commercial Cannabis Permit for DDM Venture Group, Inc.
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### **BACKGROUND**

In January 2018 the Council approved Development Application 17-25, allowing for commercial medical cannabis retail sales, non-volatile manufacturing, and distribution at 998 Huston Street. As of July 3, the applicant has completed tenant improvements and commenced operation of its retail facility. The applicant has not commenced its manufacturing operations.

In May 2018, the City Council made several amendments to its commercial cannabis land use and regulatory ordinances, which included the following:

- Allow for the retail sales, cultivation, testing laboratories, manufacturing, and distribution of adult cannabis use (recreational cannabis);
- Eliminate the requirement for the Planning Commission to make a recommendation to the Council for retail uses;
- Changed the review authority for non-retailer uses to the Planning Commission; and
- Expanded manufacturing activities to include the use of volatile compounds.

This ordinance went into effect June 21, 2018 for areas in the City not located in the Coastal Zone. The City has proposed an amended Local Coastal Program (LCP) to allow these changes in areas located within the Coastal Zone and this LCP amendment will be considered by the Coastal Commission on July 12 with a Coastal staff recommendation of approval.

### **Proposed Amendment to Development Application 17-25**

The applicant begun operating earlier this month and has submitted an application to amend its existing Use Permit and Commercial Cannabis Permit to allow for both adult and medical commercial cannabis uses for its retail, manufacturing, and distribution uses. Additionally, the applicant is requesting the ability to expand their manufacturing activities to include the potential use of volatile compounds (e.g., butane, ethanol, etc.) and have more flexibility in space planning

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with the ability to either manufacture or cultivate on-site. Adult use commercial cannabis differs from medical use through the following:

- Adult use sales are open to anyone 21 years of age or older, with a valid government issued ID;
- Medical cannabis sales are limited to persons 18 years of age or older with a valid medical prescription; and
- State retail sales tax is collected for adult use cannabis, while no State retail sales tax is collected for medical cannabis.

The applicant's operation would not significantly change based on the proposed amendment. All security measures and requirements that are in place at the business would remain. With approval of the proposed Use Permit amendment, the applicant would be able to apply for a type "A" license (Adult use), in addition to its current type "M" license (Medicinal use) that has been issued by the State. It is anticipated that the State would issue a temporary license within a week of Council approval.

The recent cannabis ordinance amendments expanded manufacturing uses to allow both non-volatile and volatile compound manufacturing. As a result, the Five Cities Five Authority has contracted with a certified industrial hygienist to update the Council adopted Fire and Life Safety Requirements, which currently address only non-volatile manufacturing uses. It is anticipated the revised Fire and Life Safety Requirements will be ready for Council consideration at the July 23, 2018 Council meeting. In the interim, there are no adopted regulations addressing fire and life safety requirements for volatile compounds. Therefore, staff has added a condition that the applicant could not submit for plan review of volatile manufacturing uses until the Council has adopted an amendment to the Fire and Life Safety Requirements to address operations using volatile compounds.

#### Commercial Cannabis Permit

The applicant has submitted an application to amend its existing Commercial Cannabis Permit to reflect the proposed amendment to the Use Permit. Article III Chapter 18 of the Municipal Code requires all commercial cannabis uses to obtain a Commercial Cannabis Permit in addition to a Use Permit. The City has issued the Commercial Cannabis Permit for commercial medical cannabis at the applicant's facility. For consistency with the proposed Use Permit amendment, staff is requesting that the Council amend the existing conditions to reflect the proposed changes.

#### Environmental Review

The City prepared an Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the commercial medical cannabis land use and regulatory ordinances as part of initial ordinances considered by the Council in May 2017. The Initial Study concluded that there were no potentially significant environmental impacts and a Negative Declaration was adopted by the Council in May 2017. The proposed amendment does not substantially change the previously approved Negative Declaration because the amendment will not result in any new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts.

Additionally, the proposed project is Categorically Exempt (Class 1) from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et seq., "CEQA") and CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Title 14 California Code of Regulations §§ 15000, et seq.) because the proposed project involves negligible expansion of an industrial type use. Based on the existing and proposed conditions, the project will not have significant cumulative impacts and there is no reasonable possibility that a significant environmental effect would occur based on the project record.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Staff has estimated that the City's commercial cannabis tax will generate approximately \$700,000 in revenues in 2018-19 and increase up to approximately \$1.5 million in 2021-22 based upon projected sales from both medical and adult use businesses and products. These estimates do not account for additional cannabis businesses or sales tax revenue from adult use products where both state and local sales taxes are charged, unlike medical products.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The City Council has the following alternatives to consider:

1. Adopt resolutions approving an amendment to Development Application 17-25, allowing both medical and adult use commercial cannabis facility with retail, manufacturing, and distribution uses to operate at 998 Huston Street; and approving an amendment to an issued Commercial Cannabis Permit for DDM Venture Group, LLC; or
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

### **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act. A copy of this staff report and the meeting agenda was provided to the applicant. A legal ad was published in *The Tribune* on June 29, 2018. A public hearing notice was posted on the subject property and mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the subject property.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution – Amended Use Permit for Development Application 17-25
2. Resolution – Amended Commercial Cannabis Permit

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH  
AMENDING DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 17-25  
FOR A USE PERMIT LOCATED AT 998 HUSTON STREET  
(Applicant: DDM Venture Group, LLC.)**

**WHEREAS**, an application has been received from DDM Venture Group, LLC. (applicant/owner) to amend Development Application 17-25, requesting an amendment to an existing Use Permit to allow adult use in addition to the medical commercial cannabis use at an existing facility with manufacturing, cultivation, distribution and a retail uses at 998 Huston Street (APN 060-545-039); and

**WHEREAS**, the notice of Public Hearings for the City Council meetings was sent to adjoining property owners and advertised in the manner required by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Grover Beach has reviewed and considered the amendment to Development Application 17-25 at a Public Hearing on July 9, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project would allow volatile Type 2 manufacturing uses, which was considered in the Negative Declaration for Ordinance 17-06, certified by the City Council on May 1, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project qualifies for an Categorical Exemption consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301: Existing Facilities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Grover Beach **HEREBY** make the following findings, determinations with respect to an amendment to Development Application 17-25 for an existing Use Permit:

**SECTION 1. Findings of Environmental Exemption.** The City Council finds as follows:

1. A Negative Declaration for Ordinance 17-05, certified by the City Council on May 1, 2017, which adequately addressed the effects of the proposed project's amendment to include the use of Type 2 volatile compounds in the manufacturing process of cannabis. No substantial changes in the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken and no new information of substantial importance to the project which was not known or could not have been known when the Negative Declaration was certified has become known.
2. The proposed project is Categorically Exempt (Class 1) from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et seq., "CEQA") and CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Title 14 California Code of Regulations §§ 15000, et seq.) because the proposed project involves negligible expansion of an industrial type use. Existing facilities based on the proposed project consists of a commercial cannabis manufacturing, distribution, and retailer in two existing buildings totaling 2,282 square feet in the City's Industrial zone.
3. The proposed project is not located in an environmentally sensitive area, nor impact an environmental resource.

4. The proposed project will not have a cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type, in the same place, over a period of time. The proposed project is located within an industrial zone with similar type of uses.
5. The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment based on the project record, which is on file at the City of Grover Beach Community Development Department.
6. The proposed project is not located on a designated scenic highway nor scenic resource.
7. The proposed project is not located on any hazardous waste list pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
8. The proposed project is not a designated historical resource.

**SECTION 2. Findings for approval of Use Permit Amendment.** The City Council finds as follows in accordance with Grover Beach Municipal Code (GBMC) Article IX, Section 6.20.060(F):

1. The proposed amendment is consistent with the General Plan, this Development Code, and other City goals, policies, and standards, as applicable.

**Fact.** The project is consistent with all applicable General Plan policies and Development Code requirements for both the Industrial Zone and commercial cannabis standards (Development Code Section 4.10.045), including minimum setbacks for a retailer use, as documented in the staff report. The project is also consistent with the Council's adopted 2018-19 Major City Goals for economic development and the Economic Development Strategy.

2. The subject site is physically suitable in terms of design, location, operating characteristics, shape, size, and topography for the proposed amendment.

**Fact.** The site is a 37,000 square foot rectangular flat lot fully improved with an 18,159 square foot building with 36 parking spaces and has appropriate circulation for customers and deliveries. The project site is located in the Industrial Zone and the proposed uses are specifically included in the purpose of the Zone. The hours of operation and deliveries are prescribed by the Development Code but are typical of uses in an industrial area.

3. The type, density, and intensity of amended use being proposed will not constitute a hazard to the public interest, health, safety, or welfare.

**Fact.** As discussed in Resolution 18-08, the Industrial Zone allows a variety of industrial and non-industrial uses. Existing uses in the project vicinity include a dance studio, gym, retail, and wholesale uses directly to the south and storage and other industrial uses in the vicinity. The retailer use meets all City adopted minimum setbacks and the manufacturing and distribution/ storage uses are typical uses within industrial areas. The cultivation use has been conditioned to meet odor control requirements, if implemented. A safety and operations plan has been

reviewed and approved by the Police Department to further assure the public safety.

The commercial cannabis uses, density, and intensity are consistent with the Industrial Land Use Element designation and the purpose of the Industrial Zone. The existing building size, height, lot coverage and other development standards do not exceed the maximum Development Code requirements. The project has been conditioned to meet all applicable California Building Codes and the Council adopted Fire and Life Safety Requirements for cannabis cultivation and manufacturing to ensure the project will not constitute a hazard to the public interest, health, safety, or welfare. There is no evidence in the public record that indicates the proposed commercial medical cannabis uses will constitute a hazard to the public interest, health, safety, or welfare.

**SECTION 3. Use Permit Approval.** The City Council of the City of Grover Beach, at a Special Meeting of the City Council on July 9, 2018 resolved to approve an amendment to Development Application 17-25 for a Use Permit subject to the following:

**CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- CDD-1. This approval authorizes an amendment to Development Application 17-25 to allow the establishment of a commercial cannabis facility consisting of Type 1 (non-volatile) and Type 2 (volatile) manufacturing, distribution, and retail uses for both adult and medical uses. All conditions contained in Resolution 18-08, except as amended in this resolution, shall remain in full force and effect.
- CDD-2. The applicant shall not submit for building permit review for any Type 2 manufacturing uses until the City Council has adopted an amendment to the Fire and Life Safety Requirements to address operations using volatile compounds.
- CDD-3. This approval authorizes an amendment to the previously approved Floor Plans, as shown in Exhibit A, allow for either manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution in either the first or second floors. Tenant improvement plans must meet all security protocols established by the Grover Beach Police Department, and be consistent with all California Building Code and Fire Code regulations adopted at the time of building permit resolution.

[ Signature block on following page ]

Upon motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_, and on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members –  
NOES: Council Members –  
ABSENT: Council Members –  
ABSTAIN: Council Members –

The foregoing RESOLUTION NO. 18-\_\_ was **PASSED, APPROVED**, and **ADOPTED** at a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Grover Beach, California this 9th day of July, 2018.

**\*\* D R A F T \*\***

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JOHN P. SHOALS, MAYOR

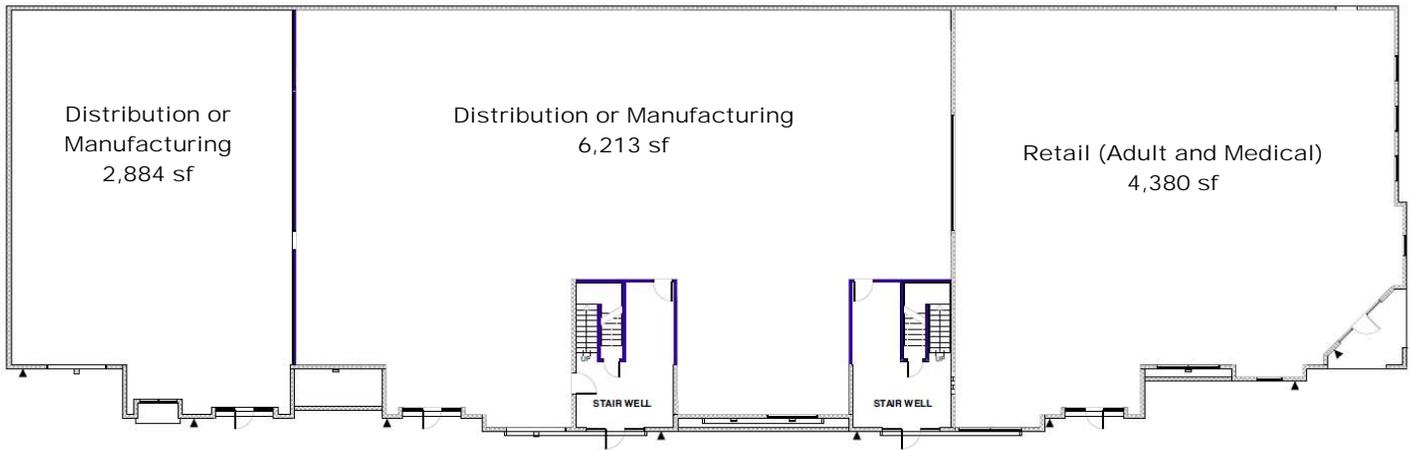
Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK

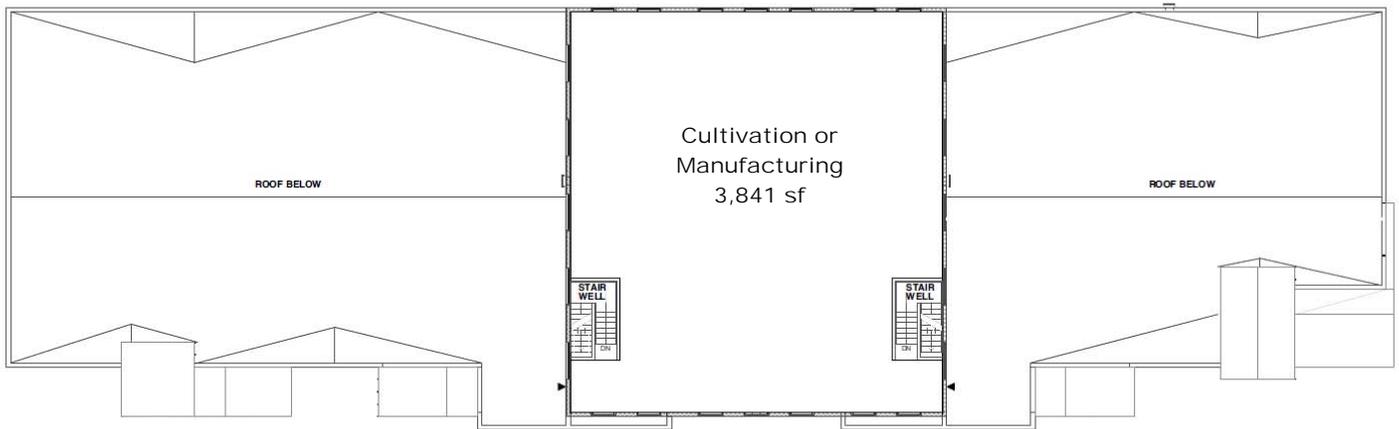
Attachment: Attachment A – Floor Plan Amendment

Attachment A – Floor Plan Amendment

FIRST FLOOR  
14,144 S.F.



SECOND FLOOR  
3,841 S.F.



**RESOLUTION NO. 18-\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH  
AMENDING A COMMERCIAL CANNABIS PERMIT FOR DDM VENTURE GROUP, LLC  
(998 Huston Street)**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council amended previously approved Development Application 17-25 for a Use Permit to establish an adult use and medical commercial cannabis facility with manufacturing, distribution, cultivation and retail uses at 998 Huston; and

**WHEREAS**, the applicant, DDM Venture Group, LLC., has been issued a temporary Commercial Cannabis Permit to operate a retail, distribution, and manufacturing business located at 998 Huston (APN: 060-545-039); and

**WHEREAS**, staff received and reviewed an amendment to its current Temporary Commercial Cannabis Permit application from the applicant, DDM Venture Group LLC, to allow for the retail sale, distribution, cultivation and manufacturing of adult use cannabis consistent with Grover Beach Municipal Code Article 3, Chapter 18; Commercial Cannabis Activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment would allow volatile Type 2 manufacturing, which was considered in the Negative Declaration for Ordinance 17-06, certified by the City Council on May 1, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project qualifies for an Categorical Exemption consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301: Existing Facilities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Grover Beach **HEREBY** make the following findings, determinations with respect to a Commercial Cannabis Permit:

**SECTION 1. Findings of Environmental Exemption.** The City Council finds as follows:

1. A Negative Declaration for Ordinance 17-05, certified by the City Council on May 1, 2017, which adequately addressed the effects of the proposed project's amendment to include the use of Type 2 volatile compounds in the manufacturing process of cannabis. No substantial changes in the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken and no new information of substantial importance to the project which was not known or could not have been known when the Negative Declaration was certified has become known.
1. The proposed project is Categorically Exempt (Class 1) from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et seq., "CEQA") and CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Title 14 California Code of Regulations §§ 15000, et seq.) because the proposed project involves negligible expansion of an industrial type use. Existing facilities based on the proposed project consists of a commercial cannabis manufacturing, distribution, and retailer in two existing buildings totaling 2,282 square feet in the City's Industrial zone.
2. The proposed project is not located in an environmentally sensitive area, nor impact an environmental resource.

3. The proposed project will not have a cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type, in the same place, over a period of time. The proposed project is located within an industrial zone with similar type of uses.
4. The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment based on the project record, which is on file at the City of Grover Beach Community Development Department.
5. The proposed project is not located on a designated scenic highway nor scenic resource.
6. The proposed project is not located on any hazardous waste list pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
7. The proposed project is not a designated historical resource.

**SECTION 2. Commercial Cannabis Permit Approval.** The City Council of the City of Grover Beach, at a Special Meeting of the City Council on July 9, 2018 resolved to amend an existing Commercial Cannabis Permit, consistent with GBMC Article III, Chapter 18, Section 4000.160.E, subject to the following conditions:

**CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CDD-1. This approval authorizes an amendment to the Commercial Cannabis Permit for DDM Venture Group, LLC, associated with Development Application 17-25 to operate a commercial cannabis facility consisting of Type 1 (non-volatile) and Type 2 (volatile) manufacturing, distribution, and retail uses for both adult and medical uses. All conditions contained in Resolution 18-09, except as amended in this resolution, shall remain in full force and effect.

Upon motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_, and on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members –  
 NOES: Council Members –  
 ABSENT: Council Members –  
 ABSTAIN: Council Members –

The foregoing RESOLUTION NO. 18-\_\_ was **PASSED, APPROVED**, and **ADOPTED** at a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Grover Beach, California this 9th day of July, 2018.

**\*\* D R A F T \*\***

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 JOHN P. SHOALS, MAYOR

Attest:

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 DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK