



**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  
Cultivation Licensing Branch  
P.O. Box 419106  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9106

Project Title: Root1 Research LLC (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located at 353 Webb Rd, in Santa Cruz County.

County: Santa Cruz County

Project Description:

The Department of Cannabis Control, pursuant to authority granted under Business and Profession Code Division 10, Chapter 2, Section 26012, approved a Cannabis License submitted on May 12, 2021, by Jeff Atkinson. The Project will consist of Nursery cultivation in hoop houses and distribution (type 13 state). Both operations will be at 353 Webb Rd. Watsonville, CA 95076 in unincorporated Santa Cruz County (APN 109-201-16). The proposed site is 9.46 acres and it is zoned with a general plan designation of Agriculture. Distribution operations will be self-distribution, equivalent to a Class #1 distributor per Santa Cruz County Code 7.128.150 (A). Apple orchards cover 80% of the property. Two intermittent streams, bordered by oak woodland trees, transect the property east-to-west; 1) an unnamed arroyo in the parcel center and 2) Hughes Creek along the southern property boundary.

Project Activities:

Proposed distribution operations will include storage of cannabis products generated on site for analytical testing, final packaging of products post testing and transportation of product from the site to another licensed distributor, manufacturer, or retailer. The project consists of cannabis cultivation within hoop houses (mature/flowering plants and nursery) and storage of cannabis material in wheeled trailers. Improvements include placement of small sheds, enclosure of a solid waste and composting storage area, erection of security fencing, and the installation of motion-sensor lights and digital cameras for security.

Exemption Status: (check one)

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

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  
Cultivation Licensing Branch  
P.O. Box 419106

Jennifer VanDyke  
Contact Name

Environmental Scientist  
Contact Title

916-767-4778  
Phone #

Signature

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: