

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.2
(ID # 29170)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, October 28, 2025

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Adoption of Ordinance No. 1004 Regulating the Sale and Distribution of Kratom Products. All Districts. [Total Cost - \$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Ordinance No. 1004 Regulating the Sale and Distribution of Kratom Products within unincorporated areas of Riverside County.
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the ordinance within 15 days after adoption of the ordinance pursuant to California Government Code Section 25124.

ACTION:Policy

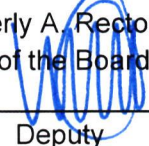


Jeff Van Wageningen, County Executive Officer 10/22/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended and Ordinance 1004 is adopted with waiver of the reading.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: October 28, 2025
xc: EO, COB/MC/AB/DL/NS

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	25/26

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Kratom (*mitragyna speciosa*) is a botanical product native to Southeast Asia that has been used traditionally for its stimulant and pain-relieving properties. Its two primary active alkaloids, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), bind to the same opioid receptors in the brain as morphine and heroin. While low doses may act as a mild stimulant, high doses can cause sedation, dependence, and opioid-like withdrawal symptoms.

In recent years, highly concentrated and synthetic kratom-based products (marketed in the form of powders, capsules, gummies, and “energy shots”) have proliferated in the U.S. These products are commonly sold online, in smoke shops, and at convenience stores, often with no quality control or labeling standards. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has repeatedly warned that these products may be contaminated or adulterated and has not approved kratom for any medical use. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) lists kratom and 7-OH as “Drugs and Chemicals of Concern.” On July 29, 2025, the FDA formally requested that the DEA place 7-OH products on the federal controlled-substance schedule.

Research has shown that 7-OH is significantly more potent than morphine, binding to opioid receptors with higher affinity and producing stronger pain-relieving and euphoric effects. High-concentration 7-OH products have been linked to addiction, overdose, liver injury, and psychosis, including hallucinations and confusion. Los Angeles County health officials recently issued a public health alert after several deaths were tied to high-potency 7-OH products.

At the state level, Assembly Bill 1088 (Bains), which passed the Assembly 76-0 and is pending in the Senate Health Committee for 2026 consideration, would establish statewide standards for kratom and 7-OH products, including:

- Restricting sales to individuals 21 years and older.
- Child-resistant packaging requirements.
- Prohibition of marketing appealing to children.
- Potency cap consistent with the natural alkaloid concentration found in kratom leaves.

Several California cities, including Jurupa Valley, Newport Beach, Oceanside, San Diego, and Solano Beach, and at least one county, Orange, have already taken local action.

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The proposed ordinance for Riverside County, which has been considered and reviewed by the Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Office, Riverside University Health System (RUHS) Behavioral Health, RUHS Public Health, County Counsel, and the Executive Office seeks to balance public health protection with regulatory clarity for businesses. As drafted, the ordinance:

- Prohibits the sale, distribution, or possession of kratom and 7-OH products exceeding 2% 7-OH concentration.
- Prohibits the sale of kratom or 7-OH products to persons under 21 years of age.
- Bans packaging and marketing that are "attractive to children," including candy-style or cartoon labeling.
- Prohibits the sale of products containing synthetic or semi-synthetic kratom alkaloids.
- Requires age verification at the point of sale.
- Establishes penalties for violations, including misdemeanor prosecution, fines up to \$1,000, and potential business-license revocation.
- Effective 30 days after adoption.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The ordinance enhances public safety by addressing emerging health risks linked to high potency kratom derivatives while maintaining a clear distinction between unregulated synthetic products and naturally occurring kratom. It provides law-enforcement authority to remove high-risk substances from retail circulation and establishes consistent countywide standards aligned with neighboring jurisdictions. The ordinance also promotes consumer protection and market transparency, helping ensure that any future kratom-related products are sold responsibly pending statewide regulation.

ATTACHMENT A. Ordinance No. 1004

Michelle Paradise
Michelle Paradise, ACEO

10/22/2025

Gregg Gu
Gregg Gu, Chief of Deputy County Counsel

10/21/2025

1 ORDINANCE NO. 1004

2 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

3 REGULATING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM PRODUCTS

4 The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside does ordain as follows:

5 **Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

6 It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to prohibit the sale, distribution, or possession of
7 kratom and hydroxymitragynine (also known as 7-OH) products within unincorporated Riverside County
8 that contain more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, recognizing the significant health risks
9 associated with elevated concentrations of this alkaloid.

10 Kratom (*mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia, and its leaves are
11 often consumed in powdered or extract form for their stimulant and sedative effects. The active compounds
12 in kratom include mitragynine and 7-OH. While mitragynine is present in higher concentrations, 7-OH is
13 more potent and is largely responsible for the stronger pain-relieving, sedative, and euphoric effects.

14 Research has shown 7-OH has euphoric and mood-enhancing effects, particularly at higher
15 doses, which can increase its appeal for recreational use. Research has also shown that 7-OH binds to
16 opioid receptors in the brain with greater affinity than morphine, making it significantly more powerful in
17 relieving pain. This greater potency raises significant concerns about its safety profile, especially regarding
18 the potential for addiction, overdose, and adverse physical and psychological effects, including nausea,
19 vomiting, and potential psychosis. These risks are compounded when products contain higher
20 concentrations of 7-OH.

21 Health advisories have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products, particularly those
22 with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm to public health.
23 The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued several warning letters to various
24 companies for illegally marketing products containing enhanced levels of 7-OH culminating in a formal
25 request to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on July 29, 2025, to place 7-OH products on
26 the controlled substance list.

1 Health officials, including the FDA, have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products,
2 particularly those with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm
3 public health.

4 At least one county in California, and several cities in California, has recently taken steps to
5 regulate or ban kratom products, recognizing the need to protect public safety, especially among vulnerable
6 populations.

7 The Board of Supervisors, in its commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of
8 its residents by ensuring that products available for sale do not pose undue health risks, hereby restricts the
9 sale and distribution of kratom and 7-OH products containing more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid
10 fraction, thereby reducing potential risks to public health and safety.

11 **Section 2. AUTHORITY.**

12 This ordinance is enacted pursuant to the County's plenary police powers to protect public safety, health
13 and welfare.

14 **Section 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- 16 a. 7-OH product means a product containing hydroxymitragynine.
- 17 b. Attractive to children means any of the following:
- 18 1) Use of images that are attractive to children, including, but not limited to, images of any of
19 the following, except as part of required health warnings:
- 20 a) Cartoons, toys, or robots.
- 21 b) Any real or fictional humans.
- 22 c) Fictional animals or creatures.
- 23 d) Fruits or vegetables, except when used to accurately describe ingredients or flavors
24 contained in a product.
- 25 2) Likeness to images, characters, or phrases that are popularly used to advertise to children.
- 26 3) Imitation of candy packaging or labeling, or other packaging and labeling of cereals, sweets,
27 chips, or other food products typically marketed to children.
- 28 4) The terms "candy" or "candies" or variants in spelling such as "kandy" or "kandee."

1 5) Brand names or close imitations of brand names of candies, cereals, sweets, chips, or other
2 food products typically marketed to children.

3 6) Any other image or packaging that is easily confused with commercially available foods that
4 do not contain kratom and are typically marketed to children.

5 7) Any other packaging used that is attractive to children considering all relevant facts and
6 circumstances.

7 c. Kratom leaf means the leaf of the kratom plant, also known as mitragyna speciosa, any form.

8 d. Kratom leaf extract means the material obtained by extraction of kratom leaves by any means.

9 e. Kratom product means a product consisting of kratom leaf, kratom leaf extract, or both; any part
10 of a leaf of the plant mitragyna speciosa in fresh, dehydrated or dried form or a kratom extract
11 or any product that contains any kratom alkaloid or metabolite.

12 f. Total kratom alkaloids means the sum of mitragynine, speciociliatine, speciogynine,
13 paynantheine, and 7-OH in a kratom product.

14 g. Synthesized means an alkaloid or alkaloid derivative that has been created by chemical synthesis
15 or biosynthetic means (including but not limited to: fermentation, recombinant techniques, yeast
16 derived enzymatic techniques) rather than traditional food preparation techniques such as
17 heating or extracting. It also includes alkaloids that have been further exposed to chemicals or
18 processes that would confer a structural change in the alkaloids contained within the extract.

19 **Section 4. PROHIBITION ON SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM AND 7-OH**
20 **PRODUCTS.**

21 a. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell,
22 attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product to a person under
23 21 years of age.

24 b. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell,
25 attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product with a level of 7-
26 OH that is greater than 2 percent of the total kratom alkaloids in the product.

- 1 c. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell,
2 attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product that is attractive
3 to children.
- 4 d. Any individual, business, or other entity that sells, attempts to sell, offers, provides, or distributes
5 a kratom product or 7-OH product shall conduct age-verification to ensure compliance with
6 subdivision (a).
- 7 e. No person or entity shall offer for sale any kratom product that contains or is adulterated with
8 synthesized or semi-synthesized kratom alkaloids or kratom constituents.

9 **Section 5. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.**

10 Any person or entity who violates this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof
11 may be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the
12 County jail for a period of not more than six (6) months or by both such fine and imprisonment. This section
13 shall not serve to limit any other legal remedies or actions that the County may have to address violations
14 of section 4.

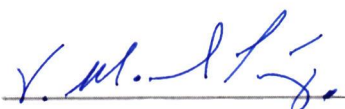
15 **Section 6. SEVERABILITY.**

16 If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this article is held invalid or unconstitutional
17 by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such holding shall not
18 affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would
19 have adopted this article irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof and intends that the
20 invalid portions should be severed, and the balance of the article be enforced.

21 **Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

22 This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

23 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
24 THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
25 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

26
27 By: 
28 V. Manuel Perez, Chairman

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ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE BOARD

By:



Deputy

(Seal)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By:



Minh C. Tran

County Counsel

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss

I HEREBY CERTIFY that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of said county held on October 28, 2025, the foregoing ordinance consisting of 7 Sections was adopted by the following vote:

- AYES: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
- NAYS: None
- ABSENT: None
- ABSTAIN: None

DATE: October 28, 2025

KIMBERLY A. RECTOR
Clerk of the Board

BY: _____
 Deputy

SEAL

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 6:47 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 25, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Jared

Last Name

Beam

Phone

6156243554

Email

jaredbeam3@gmail.com

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

Please oppose Ordinance No. 1004. It unfairly limits 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), a natural alkaloid found in kratom, by inaccurately labeling it synthetic and imposing a 2 percent cap with no scientific basis.

7-OH is naturally produced by the body after consuming kratom's main alkaloid, mitragynine. It is not an added or artificial substance. Restricting it would criminalize a naturally occurring compound and mislead the public about its origin.

The same extraction and solvent processes used to make 7-OH concentrates are used for mitragynine extracts that remain legal under this ordinance, even though those can exceed 100× the natural alkaloid levels of kratom leaf. This is inconsistent and unscientific regulation.

This proposal is being driven by lobbying, misinformation, and fear — not science or public health. It reflects pressure from industry groups funded by large kratom and mitragynine extract vendors who benefit from eliminating 7-OH as a competitor.

No verified deaths have ever been attributed to 7-OH alone, despite over a billion reported consumer uses worldwide. This ordinance will harm responsible adults, veterans, and people managing pain or recovery who depend on safe access. Please vote No on Ordinance 1004 or amend it to ensure fair, evidence-based treatment of all natural kratom alkaloids.

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 6:48 PM
To: jaredbeam3@gmail.com
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID # 864 4411 6015 . Password is 20251028**. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on October 25, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Jared

Last Name

Beam

Phone

6156243554

Email

jaredbeam3@gmail.com

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Do you need a Spanish translator?

No

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 7:51 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board

Submitted on October 25, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Kelsey

Last Name

Evans

Address (Street, City and Zip)

CA

Phone

9402554605

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

Kratom and its alkaloids, like 7oh, have been a safe alternative for me and my mother at managing pain levels, helping with extreme anxiety and depression and have given us back our quality of life. I had thyroid cancer therefore had to have my thyroid completely removed and it's caused me severe lethargy, depression, anxiety and deteriorating joints.. kratom and especially 7oh has been the one thing to help me function and be a productive member of society as well as being a good mom my kids deserve. Taking this away would not only harm my mother and I but it will have MANY recovering addicts who use 7oh as a tool for harm reduction and to keep them from dangerous street drugs like fentanyl or drugs that are laced with fentanyl and other more deadly substances and they will overdose and die. 7oh is the best and safest harm reduction tool there is. If the science was actually being used to determine whether it should be banned or not you would see that it is the safest option, you cannot overdose on 7oh alone, it does not cause organ failure and all these other crazy things the media and fear mongering propaganda is telling everyone. Over deaths doses have actual significantly decreased since 7oh has been available. Please, I beg you to consider regulation, not prohibition/bans! This is not the way if you want to keep people safe. Harm reduction, regulation not bans. That is the way. Thank you for taking the time to read my comment, I speak for many people when I say that a ban is not the answer. 7oh helps so many people in many different ways, it is not a threat. Please please hear our voices. I strongly oppose this.

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 9:50 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 25, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Jordan

Last Name

Howard

Phone

2245221772

Email

tangs-airport0t@icloud.com

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

Banning 7-hydroxymitragynine will be detrimental to the well being of many people who have found this alkaloid to be beneficial for chronic pain or substance abuse disorder. Many opioid addicts have turned to this to start living in a legal and safe way. This will only push people back to street drugs. Do not go through with this ban.

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 10:18 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board

Submitted on October 25, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Ryan

Last Name

Ford

Address (Street, City and Zip)

43573 Savona St

Phone

9494722222

Email

teslatower77@outlook.com

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

I am writing to you today on a matter of profound importance: the fundamental right of American adults to make informed decisions about their own health and well-being, particularly when facing chronic and severe pain. The current regulatory uncertainty surrounding the Kratom plant and its alkaloids threatens to remove a crucial option for millions of responsible citizens seeking relief and a better quality of life.

We can all agree on a shared goal: a safe society where individuals are protected from genuine harm. However, this protection must be balanced with individual liberty, especially when government intervention risks causing more suffering than it prevents. For countless individuals, Kratom is not a recreational substance but a vital tool for managing debilitating pain, opioid withdrawal, and chronic fatigue when other options have failed or come with intolerable side effects.

The core of my argument rests on three pillars: personal autonomy, the failure of the current paradigm, and the principle of harm reduction.

1. The Principle of Bodily Autonomy:

In a free society, the default position must be that adults have the right to decide what they put into their own bodies, provided they do not harm others. This principle of bodily autonomy is a cornerstone of individual liberty. The decision to use a natural botanical to alleviate suffering is a deeply personal one that should be made by an individual in consultation with their own body and conscience, not by a distant government body. The state's role should be to ensure product safety and accurate information, not to remove the choice entirely.

2. The Desperate Need for Alternatives in a Pain Crisis:

We are living in the aftermath of an opioid epidemic, a crisis exacerbated by highly regulated, prescription-only pharmaceuticals. Many patients are now rightfully wary of these powerful synthetic drugs. They are left with a terrible choice: endure excruciating pain, risk addiction with prescription opioids, or turn to ineffective over-the-counter medications that offer little relief.

Kratom, for many, represents a middle path. Anecdotal evidence and a growing body of research suggest its alkaloids can provide significant analgesic effects without the life-threatening respiratory depression of classic opioids. By restricting or banning Kratom, we are not "protecting" these citizens; we are condemning them to suffer in silence or forcing them back into a pharmaceutical system that has already failed them.

3. Harm Reduction is the Rational Path:

The argument against Kratom often focuses on potential for misuse. This misses the point. The appropriate response to any substance—from caffeine to alcohol to medication—is not prohibition, but regulation and education. Prohibition has a proven track record of failure. It creates black markets, fuels crime, and makes products less safe by removing quality control.

A regulated market for Kratom would ensure:

- Product Purity: Testing for contaminants like heavy metals and Salmonella.
- Accurate Labeling: Clear information on alkaloid content and dosage.
- Age Restrictions: Keeping it out of the hands of minors.

- Public Education: Funding for research and clear guidelines on responsible use.

This is a far more rational and compassionate approach than an outright ban, which would only drive desperate people to unregulated, dangerous sources or leave them with no options at all.

I implore you to consider the human cost of restricting access to Kratom. Picture the veteran with service-related chronic pain, the factory worker with a debilitating back injury, or the individual struggling to overcome a prescription opioid dependency. For them, this is not an abstract debate; it is about their daily reality and their chance at a functional life.

I urge you to support policies that protect our right to choose safe, natural alternatives for our health. Advocate for the Kratom Consumer Protection Act or similar legislation that establishes a legal, regulated framework for Kratom. Please, do not legislate away a source of relief for millions of suffering Americans. Uphold the principle that in a free society, adults must be trusted to make their own informed decisions about their health and their bodies.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this critical issue. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,
Ryan Ford

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 10:48 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board

Submitted on October 25, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Michael

Last Name

Matthew

Phone

8609185498

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

I am writing to oppose Agenda Item 29170, which seeks to ban 7-OH and set firm caps on its presence in Keaton products. 7-hydroxymitragynine, known as 7-OH is a natural part of the kratom plant and should not be singled out, especially under the false assumption that it is a synthetic product (the alkaloid

appears naturally within the plant, and the body also metabolizes the alkaloid into seven OH). As a person with chronic pain that otherwise robbed me of the ability to enjoy a quality of life that most people take for granted, I have never taken another pharmaceutical or street opioid, nor do I wish to ever be in a position where those opioids would be the most viable form of relief for the otherwise unending feeling like my guts are being stirred with hot knives and that my shoulder is being continually smashed by a million tiny wrecking balls. Nothing— absolutely nothing— has been as effective, reliable, or free of side effects than 7OH. It is truly miraculous for me, and I am aware that it has provided many with the opportunity to safely transition over from deadly drugs like fentanyl.

Banning 7OH will only push people from a *relatively* safe form of pain relief to deadlier street and designer drugs. States and counties that have banned this alkaloid are seeing a flood of purely synthetic chemicals made in Chinese labs take its place on smoke shop shelves, packaged together with who knows what. They are seeing a resurgence of fentanyl/“tranq” use, and they are now filled with countless individuals like myself who are saddled with crippling pain but fortunate enough to have escaped the crisis. I hold a fairly impressive set of credentials and a decently prestigious job focused on equipping individuals from underprivileged backgrounds with the skills and knowledge to enter into an essential sector of labor. I know other users of 7-OH who have compound injuries from performing physical labor, but who otherwise work hard to serve their communities. I know many veterans who have clawed their way from the streets into the workforce with the help of kratom and 7-OH. These are the people that would be hurt (literally) by a ban on 7-OH. There is no small peril that some of these individuals might end up falling victim to the hands of fentanyl/“tranq”— sliding out of their comfortable lives into a perpetual state of being slumped over in alleys and bus stops, just one tiny sub-milligram away from death.

Yes- there is a undeniable risk for people to become dependent on this compound, and there should be serious measures to regulate, marketing, packaging, and sales in order to keep this out of the hands of minors. But there is also an incredible amount of misinformation about this alkaloid being circulated by kratom extract companies who have experienced a loss in sales. The fight over 7OH is not rooted in a concern for public safety— it's the product of a smear campaign by market rivals. I have personally withdrawn from two substances in my entire life, nicotine and 7OH. I would describe the experience of seven OH withdrawal to be on par with a brief and moderately uncomfortable cold that rises and falls over the period of a few days, while I can only describe nicotine withdrawal as a form of divine punishment (that surely, to my Catholic mind seems like it should be counted as a few hundred years towards purgatory). I would rather be in 7OH withdrawal every single day of my life than to have to quit vaping once more (and indeed credit my success in quitting nicotine to loose leaf kratom).

I applaud and respect your roles as public servants; and know that you are acting out of a genuine desire to better the lives of the individuals in your communities. Please do not ban this compound, it will only cause harms. It will send people back to street drugs, engender a wave of synthetic alternatives, and open up a black market. Instead, I urge you to pause on the decision to ban until you are able to have the opportunity to consider more measured approaches to regulating this compound.

Thank you for your time, and my warmest.

(This was written on my iPhone, so please forgive any unintended typos)

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 11:49 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 25, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Nat

Last Name

Hanson

Address (Street, City and Zip)

95123

Phone

7072971627

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

I am writing to provide testimony on the importance of preserving safe and reasonable access to 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), a semi-synthetic derivative related to kratom. As someone who lives with severe anxiety, chronic pain, depression, and a recovering alcoholic, I can personally attest to the profound positive impact 7-OH has had on my quality of life.

7-OH provides effective symptom relief without the harmful risks associated with traditional opioids. It has not been shown to cause fatal respiratory depression, and its safety profile makes it a valuable option for individuals seeking an alternative to conventional pain medications or attempting to transition away from dangerous substances such as fentanyl and alcohol.

I fully support reasonable regulations that ensure purity, safety, and responsible use. However, I do not agree with placing a 2% cap on 7-OH content. Arbitrary limits like this would unnecessarily restrict access for patients and individuals who rely on this compound for pain management, mental health stability, and recovery support.

It is important to note that since 7-OH has become accessible, the United States has seen a significant decline in opioid-related deaths, reaching the lowest levels in over a decade. This correlation reflects the role 7-OH has played in harm reduction and public health improvement.

Prohibiting or severely restricting 7-OH would endanger many people who depend on it as a safer alternative. I urge policymakers to consider the real-world benefits this compound provides to chronic pain patients, veterans with PTSD, individuals in recovery, and those managing mental health challenges.

7-OH saves lives. Reasonable regulation, not prohibition, is the path forward to ensure both safety and access for those who need it most.

Respectfully submitted,
Nat Hanson

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 5:19 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 26, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Debrah

Last Name

Schwartz

Phone

6075658616

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

The science does NOT support a ban on these products. They are helping 10s of 1000s of people have a livable QoL, helping their pain, keeping them off street drugs that cause ODs, while not causing a single death due to SOLELY these products. Any serious negative reaction as been caused by poly-drug use.

These products are SAFE! And if this agenda passes it will negatively impact the lives of 1000s of people in your state, and you will see a rise in ODs as well. I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS AGENDA ITEM!

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 8:14 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 26, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Daniel

Last Name

Phan

Phone

9177031412

Email

danphan323@gmail.com

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

Hello,

My name is Daniel Phan and I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the scheduling or banning of kratom, or the capping of any of its alkaloids, including 7oh.

This substance saves lives. I myself have used kratom to get off of much harsher, deadly substances like fentanyl. Kratom and 7oh are partial agonists and do not cause respiratory depression. Where are the bodies that would justify a ban? Please listen to the science and do not give in to fear or corporate interest.

If you limit or remove access to kratom or 7oh, people WILL die. They will go back to deadly street opioids, or end their own lives rather than live in debilitating pain. You would be taking away a life saving tool, with devastating consequences; it would be a terrible blunder of public health policy.

I urge you to look at the facts and listen to what the actual scientists are saying, such as those at HART. Kratom and 7oh are safe. They are natural and non-synthetic. They save lives. You're duty is to the greater good of the American people.

Thank you,
Daniel Phan

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:51 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 26, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Jake

Last Name

Kelley

Phone

4243504490

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

7hydroxymitragynine is a SAFE alternative to other readily available illegal narcotics, I have heard stories from several people who have gotten off much more dangerous illegal narcotics using 7-OH-MG, I fear if

it is made illegal illicit use of fentanyl and other narcotics will rise resulting in more ER visits and ultimately deaths, with that will also come more crime and less taxable illegal drug activity.

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 3:21 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission
Attachments: sevn.pdf



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 26, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Julie

Last Name

Vawter

Address (Street, City and Zip)

23767 Via Barletta

Phone

6612469367

Email

julie.vawter@gmail.com

Agenda Date

10/22/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

Agenda Item 29110 - and subsequent Ordinance #1004 banning sale of Kratom products

State your position below

Support

Comments

Thank you for voting on this product to be banned. Please go further in your ban of it! Ban all 7-OH products! In reading your ordinance, how does a store determine what 2% of Hydroxymitragynine is? The packets are listed in milligrams per tablet. A typical 7-OH packet has 4 pills of 13MG each. Please ban all 7-hydroxymitragynine products. I just put a son in rehab because the withdrawals from this product is worse than an opioid product, and he couldn't do it on his own. He just told me 2 other men are also in rehab trying to get off 7-OH. All 7-OH products should be banned! I have attached a photo of a "Sevn" sleeve for reference. How would a store selling this product know what 2% of Hydroxymitragynine is?

Attachments (Must be .pdf, .doc, or .docx)

[sevn.pdf](#)

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:23 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 26, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Krista

Last Name

Renshaw

Address (Street, City and Zip)

1626 West Lincoln Street

Phone

9098108718

Email

renshawkrista@gmail.com

Agenda Date

10/27/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

Stop the ban on 7 hydroxymitragynine!

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

7 hydroxymitragynine saves lives! If you ban this people will die and suffer! So many people use this instead of prescription pain meds or street drugs! Make it 21 and over. The real problem is tobacco and alcohol! 178,000 people in the U.S die from alcohol per year alone! 480,000 people die from cigarettes in the U.S alone each year! Why aren't these things banned? This is ridiculous and a cash grab from the government who want a hand in the revenue from this precious alkaloid!

If you ban this, people will die and suffer! We dont want prescription medications. We dont want street drugs. This is going to push people to street drugs which are all laced with fentanyl! This is wrong!

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:10 AM
To: arausadaniel@yahoo.com
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID # 864 4411 6015 . Password is 20251028**. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on October 27, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Daniel

Last Name

Arausa

Phone

9099005357

Email

arausadaniel@yahoo.com

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Do you need a Spanish translator?

No

Comments

would like the opportunity to speak about the harm reduction aspect and potential impacts banning 7-hydroxymitragynine will have on the community. Thank you.

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:53 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 27, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Thomas

Last Name

Marshall

Address (Street, City and Zip)

18825 Cactus Ave

Phone

9516023224

Email

tmarshallriv@gmail.com

Agenda Date

10/28/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

I strongly oppose the proposed ban on 7-Hydroxymitragynine. As someone who personally uses it responsibly, I can say it has been an effective and safe tool for managing pain and improving quality of life without the risks associated with opioids. Many others rely on it for the same reasons, and some have even used it successfully to wean off fentanyl and other dangerous substances. There is no evidence that 7-Hydroxymitragynine alone has ever caused a death, and banning it would take away a valuable harm-reduction option that helps people stay away from far more lethal drugs. Our community's resources would be far better used addressing the real public health emergency — the fentanyl crisis — through prevention, treatment, and recovery support rather than criminalizing a natural compound that helps people live healthier, more stable lives.

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:33 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on October 27, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Lucas

Last Name

Huggins

Address (Street, City and Zip)

18825 Cactus Ave, Riverside, CA 92508

Phone

4084393801

Email

4people9@gmail.com

Agenda Date

10/27/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

These extracts are natural and have prevent thousands of deaths from Overdosing on opiates. These extracts have a ceiling effect and cannot kill and cannot cause overdoses.

Thousands of people have been helped by these extracts and banning them will cause the death of thousands of people.

Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:30 AM
To: 4people9@gmail.com
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID # 864 4411 6015 . Password is 20251028**. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on October 27, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Lucas

Last Name

Huggins

Address (Street, City and Zip)

18825 Cactus Ave, Riverside, CA 92508

Phone

4084393801

Email

4people9@gmail.com

Agenda Date

10/27/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

29170

State your position below

Oppose

Do you need a Spanish translator?

No

Comments

These extracts are natural, not synthetic and have helped thousands of people not die due to OD. You can't OD on these extracta

Online

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to the Clerk of the Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Daniel Arausa

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # 3.2

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 04/23/2025)

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, ensuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo. **Speakers are prohibited from bringing signs, placards, or posters into the hearing room.**

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using course, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

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Riverside, California 92501
(951) 368-9229
cgonzales@scng.com

County of Riverside - Clerk of the Board
PO Box 1147
Riverside, California 92502

Account Number: 5209148
Ad Order Number: 0011762977
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Publication: The Press-Enterprise
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Amount Due: \$1681.20
Notice ID: LYIIGtAstUNoTTIrtTUi
Invoice Text:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA ORDINANCE NO. 1004 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE REGULATING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM PRODUCTS The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside does ordain as follows: Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to prohibit the sale, distribution, or possession of kratom and hydroxymitragynine (also known as 7-OH) products within unincorporated Riverside County that contain more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, recognizing the significant health risks associated with elevated concentrations of this alkaloid. Kratom (*mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia, and its leaves are often consumed in powdered or extract form for their stimulant and sedative effects. The active compounds in kratom include mitragynine and 7-OH. While mitragynine is present in higher concentrations, 7-OH is more potent and is largely responsible for the stronger pain-relieving, sedative, and euphoric effects. Research has shown 7-OH has euphoric and mood-enhancing effects, particularly at higher doses, which can increase its appeal for recreational use. Research has also shown that 7-OH binds to opioid receptors in the brain with greater affinity than morphine, making it significantly more powerful in relieving pain. This greater potency raises significant concerns about its safety profile, especially regarding the potential for addiction, overdose, and adverse physical and psychological effects, including nausea, vomiting, and potential psychosis. These risks are compounded when products contain higher concentrations of 7-OH. Health advisories have raised

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3512 14 Street
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County of Riverside - Clerk of the Board
PO Box 1147
Riverside, California 92502

Publication: The Press-Enterprise

PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF

Ad Desc: 0011762977

FILE NO. 0011762977

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and not party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am an authorized representative of THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the County of Riverside, and which newspaper has been adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California, under date of April 25, 1952, Case Number 54446, under date of March 29, 1957, Case Number 65673, under date of August 25, 1995, Case Number 267864, and under date of September 16, 2013, Case Number RIC 1309013; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in said newspaper in accordance with the instructions of the person(s) requesting publication, and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

11/06/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: November 6, 2025.

At: Riverside, California

Signature

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**ORDINANCE NO. 1004
AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
REGULATING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM PRODUCTS**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside does ordain as follows:

Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

It is the Intent of the Board of Supervisors to prohibit the sale, distribution, or possession of kratom and hydroxymitragynine (also known as 7-OH) products within unincorporated Riverside County that contain more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, recognizing the significant health risks associated with elevated concentrations of this alkaloid.

Kratom (*mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia, and its leaves are often consumed in powdered or extract form for their stimulant and sedative effects. The active compounds in kratom include mitragynine and 7-OH. While mitragynine is present in higher concentrations, 7-OH is more potent and is largely responsible for the stronger pain-relieving, sedative, and euphoric effects.

Research has shown 7-OH has euphoric and mood-enhancing effects, particularly at higher doses, which can increase its appeal for recreational use. Research has also shown that 7-OH binds to opioid receptors in the brain with greater affinity than morphine, making it significantly more powerful in relieving pain. This greater potency raises significant concerns about its safety profile, especially regarding the potential for addiction, overdose, and adverse physical and psychological effects, including nausea, vomiting, and potential psychosis. These risks are compounded when products contain higher concentrations of 7-OH.

Health advisories have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products, particularly those with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm to public health. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued several warning letters to various companies for illegally marketing products containing enhanced levels of 7-OH culminating in a formal request to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on July 29, 2025, to place 7-OH products on the controlled substance list.

Health officials, including the FDA, have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products, particularly those with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm public health.

At least one county in California, and several cities in California, has recently taken steps to regulate or ban kratom products, recognizing the need to protect public safety, especially among vulnerable populations.

The Board of Supervisors, in its commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of its residents by ensuring that products available for sale do not pose undue health risks, hereby restricts the sale and distribution of kratom and 7-OH products containing more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, thereby reducing potential risks to public health and safety.

Section 2. AUTHORITY.

This ordinance is enacted pursuant to the County's plenary police powers to protect public safety, health and welfare.

Section 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a. 7-OH product means a product containing hydroxymitragynine.
- b. Attractive to children means any of the following:

- 1) Use of images that are attractive to children, including, but not limited to, images of any of the following, except as part of required health warnings:

- a) Cartoons, toys, or robots.
- b) Any real or fictional humans.
- c) Fictional animals or creatures.

d) Fruits or vegetables, except when used to accurately describe ingredients or flavors contained in a product.

2) Likeness to images, characters, or phrases that are popularly used to advertise to children.

3) Imitation of candy packaging or labeling, or other packaging and labeling of cereals, sweets, chips, or other food products typically marketed to children.

4) The terms "candy" or "candies" or variants in spelling such as "kandy" or "kandee."

5) Brand names or close imitations of brand names of candies, cereals, sweets, chips, or other food products typically marketed to children.

6) Any other image or packaging that is easily confused with commercially available foods that do not contain kratom and are typically marketed to children.

7) Any other packaging used that is attractive to children considering all relevant facts and circumstances.

c. Kratom leaf means the leaf of the kratom plant, also known as *Mitragyna speciosa*, any form.

d. Kratom leaf extract means the material obtained by extraction of kratom leaves by any means.

e. Kratom product means a product consisting of kratom leaf, kratom leaf extract, or both; any part of a leaf of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa* in fresh, dehydrated or dried form or a kratom extract or any product that contains any kratom alkaloid or metabolite.

f. Total kratom alkaloids means the sum of mitragynine, speciochlorine, speclogynine, paynanthelene, and 7-OH in a kratom product.

g. Synthesized means an alkaloid or alkaloid derivative that has been created by chemical synthesis or biosynthetic means (including but not limited to: fermentation, recombinant techniques, yeast derived enzymatic techniques) rather than traditional food preparation techniques such as heating or extracting. It also includes alkaloids that have been further exposed to chemicals or processes that would confer a structural change in the alkaloids contained within the extract.

Section 4. PROHIBITION ON SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM AND 7-OH PRODUCTS.

a. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product to a person under 21 years of age.

b. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product with a level of 7-OH that is greater than 2 percent of the total kratom alkaloids in the product.

c. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product that is attractive to children.

d. Any individual, business, or other entity that sells, attempts to sell, offers, provides, or distributes a kratom product or 7-OH product shall conduct age-verification to ensure compliance with subdivision (a).

e. No person or entity shall offer for sale any kratom product that contains or is adulterated with synthesized or semi-synthesized kratom alkaloids or kratom constituents.

Section 5. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

Any person or entity who violates this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a period of not more than six (6) months or by both such fine and imprisonment. This section shall not serve to limit any other legal remedies or actions that the County may have to address violations of section 4.

Section 6. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this article is held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have adopted this article irrespective of the invalidity of

any particular portion thereof and intends that the invalid portions should be severed, and the balance of the article be enforced.

Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

V. Manuel Perez, Chair of the Board

I HEREBY CERTIFY that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of said County, held on **October 28, 2025**, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by said Board by the following vote:

AYES: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Kimberly A. Rector, Clerk of the Board

By: Naomi Sicra, Clerk of the Board Assistant

The Press-Enterprise

Published: 11/6/25



California
GANNETT

PO Box 631437 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1437

2025 NOV 17 AM 10:57

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Naomy Sicra
Riverside County-Board Of Sup.
4080 Lemon ST # 127
Riverside CA 92501-3609

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

The Desert Sun, a newspaper published in the city of Palm Springs, Riverside County, State of California, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

PDS desertsun.com 11/06/2025
PDS Palm Springs Desert Sun 11/06/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 11/06/2025

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

9/19/29

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ORDINANCE NO. 1004
AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
REGULATING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM
PRODUCTS

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside does ordain as follows:

Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to prohibit the sale, distribution, or possession of kratom and hydroxymitragynine (also known as 7-OH) products within unincorporated Riverside County that contain more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, recognizing the significant health risks associated with elevated concentrations of this alkaloid.

Kratom (*mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia, and its leaves are often consumed in powdered or extract form for their stimulant and sedative effects. The active compounds in kratom include mitragynine and 7-OH. While mitragynine is present in higher concentrations, 7-OH is more potent and is largely responsible for the stronger pain-relieving, sedative, and euphoric effects.

Research has shown 7-OH has euphoric and mood-enhancing effects, particularly at higher doses, which can increase its appeal for recreational use. Research has also shown that 7-OH binds to opioid receptors in the brain with greater affinity than morphine, making it significantly more powerful in relieving pain. This greater potency raises significant concerns about its safety profile, especially regarding the potential for addiction, overdose, and adverse physical and psychological effects, including nausea, vomiting, and potential psychosis. These risks are compounded when products contain higher concentrations of 7-OH.

Health advisories have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products, particularly those with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm to public health. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued several warning letters to various companies for illegally marketing products containing enhanced levels of 7-OH culminating in a formal request to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on July 29, 2025, to place 7-OH products on the controlled substance list.

Health officials, including the FDA, have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products, particularly those with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm public health.

At least one county in California, and several cities in California, has recently taken steps to regulate or ban kratom products, recognizing the need to protect public safety, especially among vulnerable populations.

The Board of Supervisors, in its commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of its residents by ensuring that products available for sale do not pose undue health risks, hereby restricts the sale and distribution of kratom and 7-OH products containing more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, thereby reducing potential risks to public health and safety.

Section 2. AUTHORITY.

This ordinance is enacted pursuant to the County's plenary police powers to protect public safety, health and welfare.

Section 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a. 7-OH product means a product containing hydroxymitragynine.
- b. Attractive to children means any of the following:
 - 1) Use of images that are attractive to children, including, but not limited to, images of any of the following, except as part of required health warnings:
 - a) Cartoons, toys, or robots.
 - b) Any real or fictional humans.
 - c) Fictional animals or creatures.
 - d) Fruits or vegetables, except when used to accurately describe ingredients or flavors contained in a product.
 - 2) Likeness to images, characters, or phrases that are popularly used to advertise to children.
 - 3) Imitation of candy packaging or labeling, or other packaging and labeling of cereals, sweets, chips, or other food products typically marketed to children.
 - 4) The terms "candy" or "candies" or variants in spelling such as "kandy" or "kandee."
 - 5) Brand names or close imitations of brand names of candies, cereals, sweets, chips, or other food products typically marketed to children.
 - 6) Any other image or packaging that is easily confused with commercially available foods that do not contain

kratom and are typically marketed to children.
7) Any other packaging used that is attractive to children considering all relevant facts and circumstances.
c. Kratom leaf means the leaf of the kratom plant, also known as *mitragyna speciosa*, any form.
d. Kratom leaf extract means the material obtained by extraction of kratom leaves by any means.
e. Kratom product means a product consisting of kratom leaf, kratom leaf extract, or both; any part of a leaf of the plant *mitragyna speciosa* in fresh, dehydrated or dried form or a kratom extract or any product that contains any kratom alkaloid or metabolite.
f. Total kratom alkaloids means the sum of mitragynine, speciociliatine, speciogynine, paynantheine, and 7-OH in a kratom product.
g. Synthesized means an alkaloid or alkaloid derivative that has been created by chemical synthesis or biosynthetic means (including but not limited to: fermentation, recombinant techniques, yeast derived enzymatic techniques) rather than traditional food preparation techniques such as heating or extracting. It also includes alkaloids that have been further exposed to chemicals or processes that would confer a structural change in the alkaloids contained within the extract.

Section 4. PROHIBITION ON SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM AND 7-OH PRODUCTS.

a. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product to a person under 21 years of age.
b. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product with a level of 7-OH that is greater than 2 percent of the total kratom alkaloids in the product.
c. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product that is attractive to children.
d. Any individual, business, or other entity that sells, attempts to sell, offers, provides, or distributes a kratom product or 7-OH product shall conduct age-verification to ensure compliance with subdivision (a).
e. No person or entity shall offer for sale any kratom product that contains or is adulterated with synthesized or semi-synthesized kratom alkaloids or kratom constituents.

Section 5. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

Any person or entity who violates this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the County jail for a period of not more than six (6) months or by both such fine and imprisonment. This section shall not serve to limit any other legal remedies or actions that the County may have to address violations of section 4.

Section 6. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this article is held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have adopted this article irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof and intends that the invalid portions should be severed, and the balance of the article be enforced.

Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

V. Manuel Perez, Chair of the Board

I HEREBY CERTIFY that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of said County, held on **October 28, 2025**, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by said Board by the following vote:

AYES: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Kimberly A. Rector, Clerk of the Board

By: Naomy Sicra, Clerk of the Board Assistant

November 6, 2025 11796193



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ORDINANCE NO. 1004
AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
REGULATING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM
PRODUCTS

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside does ordain as follows:

Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to prohibit the sale, distribution, or possession of kratom and hydroxymitragynine (also known as 7-OH) products within unincorporated Riverside County that contain more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, recognizing the significant health risks associated with elevated concentrations of this alkaloid.

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Health officials, including the FDA, have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products, particularly those with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm public health.

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The Board of Supervisors, in its commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of its residents by ensuring that products available for sale do not pose undue health risks, hereby restricts the sale and distribution of kratom and 7-OH products containing more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, thereby reducing potential risks to public health and safety.

Section 2. AUTHORITY.

This ordinance is enacted pursuant to the County's plenary police powers to protect public safety, health and welfare.

Section 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a. 7-OH product means a product containing hydroxymitragynine.
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means (including but not limited to: fermentation, recombinant techniques, yeast derived enzymatic techniques) rather than traditional food preparation techniques such as heating or extracting. It also includes alkaloids that have been further exposed to chemicals or processes that would confer a structural change in the alkaloids contained within the extract.

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b. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product with a level of 7-OH that is greater than 2 percent of the total kratom alkaloids in the product.

c. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product that is attractive to children.

d. Any individual, business, or other entity that sells, attempts to sell, offers, provides, or distributes a kratom product or 7-OH product shall conduct age-verification to ensure compliance with subdivision (a).

e. No person or entity shall offer for sale any kratom product that contains or is adulterated with synthesized or semi-synthesized kratom alkaloids or kratom constituents.

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Any person or entity who violates this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the County jail for a period of not more than six (6) months or by both such fine and imprisonment. This section shall not serve to limit any other legal remedies or actions that the County may have to address violations of section 4.

Section 6. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this article is held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have adopted this article irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof and intends that the invalid portions should be severed, and the balance of the article be enforced.

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V. Manuel Perez, Chair of the Board

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NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Kimberly A. Rector, Clerk of the Board

By: Naomi Sicra, Clerk of the Board Assistant

November 6, 2025 11796193