



An Urgency Interim Ordinance Prohibiting the Issuance of Tobacco Retailers' Licenses

June 30, 2026

Administration

Office of the City Attorney

Community Development

Executive Summary

- Place a temporary moratorium on the issuance of additional Tobacco Retailers' Licenses citywide
- Proposed ordinance would take effect immediately
- Initial period of forty-five (45) days
- Renewal of existing Tobacco Retailers' Licenses will not be affected

Background

- In California, purchasing or using tobacco products is prohibited for anyone under the age of 21
- Smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and mortality worldwide
- Vaping is the most common tobacco product used by high school youth

Background

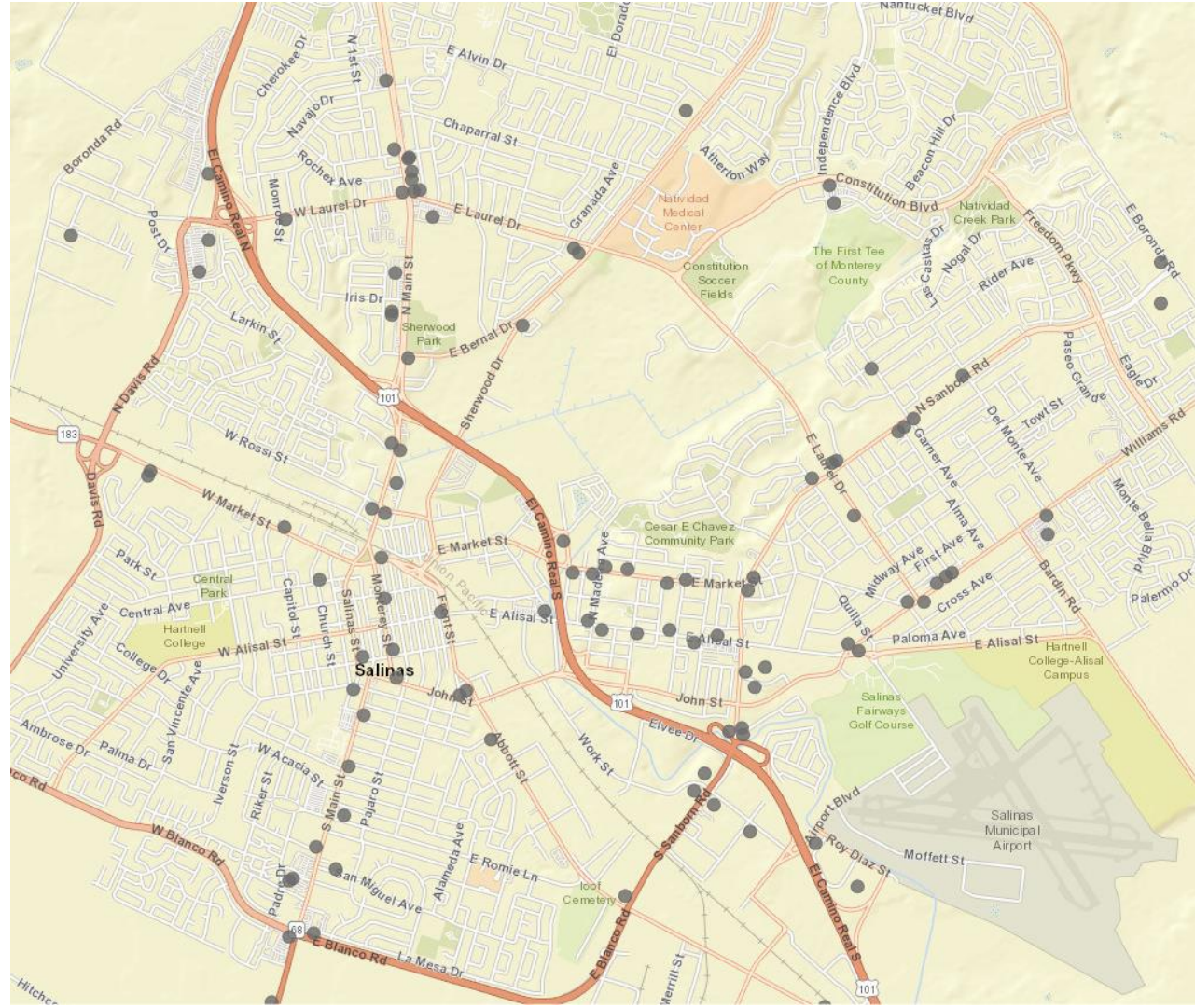
- In 2015, the City of Salinas adopted an ordinance requiring all tobacco retailers to obtain a Tobacco Retailers' License
- Oversight by Monterey County Health Department, the Salinas Police Department, and the Salinas City Attorney's Office
- No limit on number of licenses issued

Background

- 124 active licensed tobacco retailers
- No restrictions on proximity to youth-populated areas such as schools, parks, recreation centers, more
- Smoke shops and vape shops have the highest statewide violation rates of tobacco sales to minors¹

¹[Synar Tobacco Purchase Survey, 2025. Prepared by: California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Prevention Program July 2025.](#)

Background



Fiscal Impact

- No expected impact on the General Fund, Measure E, or Measure G

Recommended Motion

- Adopt the proposed Urgency Interim Ordinance prohibiting the issuance of Tobacco Retailers' Licenses citywide
- A four-fifths vote required (5 votes)

Next Steps

- Initial period of forty-five (45) days
- Two additional extensions possible
 - Ten (10) months and fifteen (15) days
 - One (1) year

Questions?



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