

**CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Matt Peters, Director of Community Development

DATE: January 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Introduce Ordinance Amending Title 8 of the Temecula Municipal Code to Regulate Kratom Products (Long Range Project No. LR25-0438)

PREPARED BY: Mark Collins, Senior Planner

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council introduce an ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA AMENDING TITLE 8 OF THE TEMECULA MUNICIPAL CODE TO REGULATE THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION, AND POSSESSION OF KRATOM PRODUCTS, AND MAKE A FINDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15061 (b)(3)

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE: The proposed Ordinance would make amendments to Titles 8 of the Temecula Municipal Code to regulate kratom products.

Listed below is a summary of the proposed changes to the Municipal Code:

Changes to Title 8 – Chapter 8.56 Psychoactive Bath Salts, Psychoactive Herbal Incense, and Other Synthetic Drugs:

1. Rename the Chapter “Psychoactive Products and Other Synthetic Drugs”
2. Add definitions:
 - a. “7-OH”
 - b. “Kratom leaf”
 - c. “Kratom leaf extract”
 - d. “Kratom product”
 - e. “Total alkaloid content”
3. Prohibit the sale, distribution, and possession of kratom products.

BACKGROUND: The City of Temecula City Council adopted the Municipal Code in January 1990. Since its adoption, the City Council has periodically made amendments to various sections of the Code to improve its clarity, make corrections, and implement state law. The proposed amendments to the Temecula Municipal Code include amendments to Title 8 (Health and Safety).

At its November 18, 2025, regular meeting, the City Council directed Staff to agendize an ordinance banning “kratom” consistent with Riverside County (Rahn).

Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree indigenous to Southeast Asia, primarily Thailand, but does occur naturally throughout the region. Kratom is in the same family as the coffee tree (*Rubiaceae*) and can reach a height of 50 feet and breadth of 15 feet.

Kratom leaves contain over 25 alkaloids, with the two major psychoactive ingredients being mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine. Consumption of its leaves produces both stimulant effects similar to amphetamine (in low doses) and sedative effects similar to opioids (in high doses), and can lead to psychotic symptoms, and psychological and physiological dependence. Consumption methods vary, from smoking dried leaves, brewing a tea from the leaves or grinding up the leaves and putting them in capsules for oral consumption.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), kratom use has been associated with a range of adverse health impacts, including psychotic symptoms, dependence, and numerous side effects such as nausea, vomiting, sweating, tachycardia, seizures, hallucinations, and hepatotoxicity. According to the DEA, the abuse of kratom has increased markedly in recent years. Although kratom is often marketed for relief of pain, anxiety, opioid withdrawal, and fatigue, there are no FDA-approved medical uses for the substance. The FDA continues to monitor reports of adverse events, and current data suggest kratom's opioid-like properties may expose users to risks of addiction, abuse, and dependence. Kratom is not currently regulated at the federal level, nor is it prohibited statewide in California.

FISCAL IMPACT: Community Development budgeted sufficient funds for the ordinance development, which will include administrative costs, and enforcement.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ordinance
2. Notice of Public Hearing
3. Notice of Exemption