City Council wants to hear from public at marijuana meeting on Tuesday night

Medical marijuana is on the agenda for a special City Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St.

Mayor Cassidy and the City Council want to hear the public's views on the proposed medical marijuana ordinance. Most of the meeting will be devoted to public comments.

"Medical marijuana has been a widely debated and challenging issue in cities statewide," stated Mayor Cassidy in a written statement. "The City Council is interested in hearing the community's feedback on the proposed ordinance."

In November 2010, the City Council approved a 1-year moratorium on the establishment and operation of medical marijuana facilities and dispensaries. In 2011, the City Council approved an additional 1-year extension of the moratorium. The moratorium effectively ended on Sept. 30, 2012 because state law sets a 2-year limit.

Since that time, the City Council and staff have publicly discussed options including allowing a limited number of medical marijuana dispensaries in San Leandro. Last December, the City Council considered a medical marijuana ordinance which would allow for no more than two medical marijuana dispensaries.

The proposed ordinance also contains restrictions on the location and operations of dispensaries. Notable restrictions include limiting the allowable number of dispensaries to two, requiring a Board of Zoning Adjustments conditional use permit approval, locating them only in industrial and commercial zoning districts, and requiring certain security measures.

In addition, the dispensaries cannot be within 1,000 feet of a school, library, youth center, park, recreation facility, or another dispensary, or within 500 feet of a residential zone.

The City Council expects to review the final version of the medical marijuana ordinance in late spring.