

POLITICS

Santa Cruz Removes Peyote And Other Mescaline-Containing Cacti From Psychedelics Decriminalization La



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By Ben Adlin 





Nearly two years after Santa Cruz became the second California city—and the first in the state—to [decriminalize a broad range of psychedelic plants and fungi](#), the City Council has backed the law's provision on peyote, effectively recriminalizing the cactus.



Local lawmakers voted at a meeting last month to remove peyote and other mescaline-containing cacti from the municipality's decriminalization policy, citing pushback from Indigenous people who consider the plant sacred.

Groups such as the National Council of Native American Churches, which uses peyote ceremonially, have been [urging](#) activists and lawmakers not to include peyote on lists of allowed plants and fungi. The group said in a letter last year that the cactus should be "preserved for utilization by and for Indigenous peoples."

Even Decriminalize Santa Cruz (DSC), which helped pass the original measure that included peyote, released a statement in which the group apologized "for our lack of cultural s

“We were insular in our activism and did not consider the harm we may cause to Indi communities who have been using this sacred plant for millennia,” the group wrote.

“Fundamentally, DSC’s intention is to do no harm and to protect others from harm,” said in the [public letter](#). “We recognize that the inclusion of the Peyote cacti in our re is dangerous because it may contribute to the ongoing Peyote crisis in the sacred gar South Texas for generations to come.”

Peyote matures slowly and is currently categorized by conservationists as “vulnerabl uptick in illicit harvesting as use becomes more mainstream. The cactus, native to M parts of the American Southwest, has no federal protection in the U.S., while in Mexi be harvested legally only by Indigenous groups.

The change in Santa Cruz removes peyote from the city’s list of decriminalized subst along with “other entheogenic cacti that contain phenethylamine compounds such a mescaline.”



Councilmembers Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson and Martine Watkins replied that Indigenous groups had indicated to them that the change should be made sooner rather than later.

“I was reached out [to] by members in the community, and there was a request to move forward urgently,” Kalantari-Johnson said. “The Tribal community were really challenged on how the resolution was adopted in the past, and there was a sense of urgency to move through pretty quickly.”

“They’ve provided extensive feedback,” the councilmember added, “and we’ve taken that feedback into what you see before you.”

Councilmember Sandy Brown called for more input from stakeholders, but ultimately came out in favor of the change.

“When I bring items similar to this, where I’ve been working with community groups and have been told, ‘Well, we didn’t hear anything about it, and we need to learn more.’” And that’s the case where that is true to me... I think it’s fair to ask for a continuation until October 1st, at least, so we can have some of those conversations with folks in our community. ^

The Council didn’t wait, however, ultimately approving the change without considering the proposed amendments from Cummings. “We already kind of did the legwork, essentially. I think some of the key folks have eyes on this,” said Watkins.

Cummings, who hesitantly supported the change when it finally came to a vote, said “disappointed we couldn’t work together productively.”

Whether to include peyote in decriminalization policies is an ongoing controversy in the psychedelic community, dividing groups that once worked together on drug reform.

Carlos Plazola, the chair of Decriminalize Nature National, criticized the change.

“It is unfortunate that the Santa Cruz City Council has taken a position to recriminalize not only peyote cultivation, but all cacti which contain mescaline,” he told Marijuana Moments.

Larry Norris, who co-founded Decriminalize Nature with Plazola, explained that the Cruz City Council’s change seems to inadvertently criminalize other widely-grown ca species in California, such as the San Pedro cactus, which also contains mescaline. W growing San Pedro cactuses is generally allowed for ornamental purposes, it’s illegal cultivate for consumption.

Plazola also told Marijuana Moment that Decriminalize Nature National intends to o similar carveout in Seattle, where the City Council is set to consider a resolution on M that would [decriminalize psychedelic plants and fungi](#) with the exception of peyote.

19-Year-Old New Hampshire Lawmaker Prepares Bills To Decriminalize Psilocybin And All Drugs

As New Hampshire lawmakers push to enact marijuana legalization in the state, broader drug policy reform may also be on the horizon, with one of the youngest state legislators in the U.S. now pushing for the decriminalization of psilocybin as well as all currently illicit substances. The Granite State’s legislature is currently under GOP control, ... [Continue reading](#)



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By **Marijuana Moment**



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POLITICS

Congressman Says He'll Bring The Psychedelics Reform Movement To Capitol Hill 'This Year'



Published 18 hours ago on October 6, 2021

By Kyle Jaeger 



A congressman said on Wednesday that he intends to help bring the psychedelics reform movement to Capitol Hill “this year.”

School's newly established research institute, the [Project on Psychedelics Law and Regulation \(POPLAR\)](#).

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Bipartisan Pennsylvania Lawmakers Team On Marijuana Legalization Bill As Push For Reform In The State Heats Up



Published 22 hours ago on October 6, 2021

By **Kyle Jaeger** 



Pennsylvania is becoming something of a hotbed for marijuana legalization legislation. Democratic state lawmaker on Tuesday announcing his intent to file a reform bill that is working on with [a Republican senator who announced his support for the policy change a](#) [earlier](#).

There are also two other Pennsylvania legalization proposals that have been separately announced—one of which was formally introduced late last month and the other still being drafted.

Rep. Amen Brown (D) is the latest legislator to enter the mix, issuing a cosponsorship me

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