City of San Marcos, California

Massage Parlor Fact Sheet

Located 40 miles north of downtown San Diego in the beautiful City of San Marcos, which has been one of the fastest growing cities in the region. Between the years 1980 and 1990, San Marcos more than doubled its population and the City is now home to nearly 85,000 residents across 25 square miles. Regional access to the City is provided by State Route 78 (SR-78), an east/west highway that links Interstate 5 with Interstate 15.

Known as North County San Diego’s educational hub, San Marcos is home to major educational institutions like California State University, San Marcos, Palomar College and the San Marcos Unified School District and several other higher education institutes that collectively serve more than 60,000 students. Key industry clusters include specialized manufacturing, biomedical devices, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, and information and communications technology.

Massage Establishments in San Marcos

- Prior to September 1, 2009 the City of San Marcos had 4 massage establishments.
- Since the passage of SB 731, San Marcos has seen an uptick in massage establishments.
- As of March 1, 2014, there are 13 licensed establishments.
- Two new establishments are currently in the permitting phase.
- In San Marcos, massage establishments are primarily located within close proximity to SR-78.

Illicit Element of Massage Establishments

- A portion of the establishments only cater to men and are listed on websites advertising illicit/illegal services.
- Majority of establishments conduct late night operations, some till 11 pm.
- From 2011 to present:
  - 1 citation for illegal touching during a massage with a CAMTC certified therapist.
  - 1 human trafficking issue with a CAMTC certified therapist.
  - 1 business owner whose CAMTC certificate has been suspended for 2 recent prostitution arrests in 2 different cities.

The above reasons demonstrate that the massage industry should not be uniformly related to other professional or personal service type businesses. The illegal issues that are happening should give cause to create more tight regulations for the massage businesses.