

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

I would first like to give my support to all the memos submitted by MCA, Hannah Nelson and CCAG. I truly believe that these memos layout clear, reasonable and efficient recommendations as to recommendations on how to solve the myriad of issues that are currently plaguing the implantation of the cannabis program. It was a relief to see the amount of additional staffing for the MCP program but it would be important to have a report/timeline as to plan for getting through processing all the applicants in the program.

Here I would like to share a bit of my story and challenges with getting a permit from the MCP. First of all I am a tax paying citizen who has paid close to 12k in county cultivation taxes this past year. I have been in the program since the beginning of 2018, I believe I was the 4th person to get an embossed receipt at the beginning of that year. I have had only an embossed receipt for that long and always turned in all requested documents, yet I was still requested to go through the portal. I had always checked in multiple times throughout the year to try to figure out if there was anything else the county needed and it was always the same answer, "I just needed to wait". When the portal opened I was ready. I was in the first handful of folks in the first week to turn everything in and was thankfully told about a week later that all my documents were complete. I would like to say that I also owe that success to my lawyer (Hannah Nelson who thoroughly reviews everything to ensure that I have everything that I need and I am eternally grateful for her and all she does for cultivators throughout the county and state). Although my experience of submitting through the portal was relatively easy, other applicants have not had the same experience. I have heard countless stories of other folks having much different experiences with the portal and the anxiety ridden process of it being basically a pass or fail process. Since the time that I received the notice from MCP that everything was complete (Aug 10, 2021) and that I will be assigned to a planner I haven't heard anything since. There has not been any correspondence for 6 months except for me reaching out to find out if they have begun reviewing my application. I finally reached out this past month to see what the status was with the review of my portal submission, the response was that there has been no time to review completed submissions and that they wont be able to until the portal process is complete.

I can't begin to explain what a long and arduous process this has been. Applicants have been waiting for years and years to get annual permits and there has been zero indication from MCP what the status is for moving through not only portal submissions but getting folks through the program to annuals who are in "good standing" and to get annuals processing their appendix G. We have a tight timeline to get all this complete and it is extremely disconcerting that we are not further along. It is very unclear what is happening within MCP and processing operators through the program. I am thankful that there seems to finally have more staffing but what is the plan to get through applications and why has it taken so long to get more staff? We only have 1.5 years to get to annuals and the county has A LOT of work to do to get applicants to annuals in that time. At the way things are going it is hard to imagine it ever happening. There needs to be an update and clear timelines on what the plan is to move applicants through the program.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story. I hope that there will be an immediate plan to:

- open the portal again
- Process completed application
- Process applicants who are in “good standing” to annuals
- Process Appendix G
- Get funding to equity applicants in a timely manner

Thank you for your time,

Blaire AuClair

Cannabis Cultivator and Regenerative Diversified Farmer

Policy Committee of MCA

Board of Directors of the Friends of the Round Valley Public Library