

## Public Expression for 10/26/2021 BoS meeting

Honorable Board members

I write in support of the letter already offered by Josh Abrams as well as others who have expressed an interest in extending the deadline for complete submissions to the online portal for phase I and II Mendocino County Cannabis Permits.

I also urge you to consider extending the deadline for portal applicants who submit substantially complete applications on or before the Oct 30th deadline. As someone who has assisted and worked with applicants to the County Cannabis program, I can report that there are a multitude of reasons why an applicant may need extra time working through issues with County Cannabis staff despite monumental efforts to complete submissions to the portal system. Whether it is: an additional unlisted document from the Water Board that can only be uploaded after it's requested; a document first accepted by one portal reviewer and then more recently flagged by another; a lighting plan when one was not first asked for and no lights or light manipulation is being used; or a follow up question regarding contiguous expansion that itself is accurately portrayed in the affidavit materials submitted, applicants who may have already been told much earlier (years in some cases) that their applications were complete are only now being told that the very same documents previously used are inadequate or that their application is incomplete due to a document that was never requested - neither in their previous application process nor through the portal and it's materials.

The workings of the portal, in which one must submit everything at once and then be locked out until further contacted, has created a situation in which many people are intimidated and have waited to perfect their materials before submitting because it's unclear whether they will hear back in time to fix anything. If there is a good chance that no feedback will be available, then it makes sense to check and double check to make sure that one's submission is entirely complete.

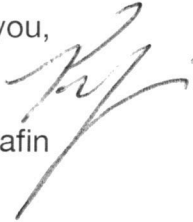
While seeing the value in having a deadline to submit complete applications, I believe mitigating circumstances give rise to the need for an extension. For example, COVID resurged in the very months when applicants most needed to have 2 way communication with consultants and County offices. Despite what I have perceived as a lot of good faith effort on all sides, interaction with agencies both State and Local has been anything but fluid these past few months. Also, the State extended their deadlines to convert Provisional Licenses to Annual Licenses thus taking a bit of the pressure off of the County timeline. Moreover, Phase III has now been cancelled and there are still phase I and phase II applicants who can make it through the process, it seems most fair that those folks who continue to step forward have the opportunity to iron out any

remaining defects in their applications and move forward towards being permitted. To that end, I am also in support of extending the deadline to make an initial resubmission to the portal and of making an additional attempt to publicize the need to reapply. The stakes are high in this process and there is no real need to close the door on anyone at this time who is making substantial progress towards the most current requirements.

The period in which the portal has been open came after years of County inaction on existing applications and at a time of the year that is busiest for cultivators. Among the seasonal cultivation activities that are their lives work, quarterly tax reports are due by October 31st. Please consider ways to allow these tax paying participants who have hung in through a very trying process, some of them since 2017, the chance to complete the process by extending the time allotted to those who have dutifully submitted permit applications through the portal.

Thank you,

Peter Kafin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PK' or similar initials, written over the printed name 'Peter Kafin'.