

Mendocino County Cannabis Program Update

Cannabis Program Data (through March 12, 2018)

Cannabis Cultivation Permit Applications

Received	847
Under Review	487
In Queue	200
Issued	87
Approved	25
Withdrawn	18
Denied	18
On Hold	12

Cannabis Cultivation Permits Issued + Approved: 112

The 112 issued or approved permits are:

Large Mixed Light	45
Large Outdoor	28
Small Outdoor/Cottage	12
Nursery/ Seed	11
Medium Mixed Light	6
Medium Outdoor	6
Small Mixed Light	3
Large Indoor	1

Interviews and Qualitative Data

In an effort to identify and respond to the community's concerns, Mendocino County Cannabis Program staff has, and will continue to meet with local stakeholders; including cannabis growers and processors, consultants, activists, law enforcement, state agencies, elected officials, county department heads and small business owners.

During these meetings we were consistently encouraged to improve in two critical areas; processing permit applications and communicating with individuals, groups and the community as a whole. We have immediately responded and the following improvements are being made.

Processing Permit Applications

We have taken initial steps to improve the efficiency of the application process. In the past 10 business days 31 applications have been either issued or approved. This means 28% of the permits issued or approved in the past 10.5 months have happened in this two week period. This increase in productivity is due to improved internal processes. We are and will continue to examine how we work individually and as partners with stakeholders, embracing a commitment to continuous improvement along the way. The initial increase in productivity is due to changes we have made in how we use technology, communicate internally and prioritize our work. Moving forward we will present to the Board increasingly detailed data and metrics that can be utilized to identify trends in the permitting process.

Communication

Our ability to share information must improve. In the coming week the County website will be reconfigured to include a dedicated section for all things related to cannabis. The information will both be expanded and simplified. There will be precise information for those wanting to know how, where and when to apply for permits. There will also be expanded information for those desiring more detailed information on our programs and the ordinance.

Later this week we will soft launch three Mendocino County Cannabis Program social media pages. The program will use unique Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages to share a wide variety of information including permitting tips and deadlines, cannabis related community events and links to articles to assist growers and businesses.

Communication

During meetings with stakeholders it was stressed that many of our residents may not have access to the internet. In an effort to reach all stakeholders we will immediately begin sharing program updates and deadlines through public service announcement (PSA's) on radio and in newspapers.

The program remains dedicated to using Working Groups as a tool to improve both process and communication. On March 20, 2018 there will be a group addressing; Track and Trace, Building Regulations, and State & Local Ordinance Amendments.