

**From:** Anna Foster <anna.lfoster@gmail.com>  
**To:** <bos@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 2/4/2019 2:57 PM  
**Subject:** Cannabis Licenses in Jeopardy

February 4, 2019

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Anna Foster. I work locally in Mendocino County with small farmers in assisting them through the cannabis cultivation application process.

I represent cultivators whose temporary licenses have just expired or will be expiring within the next 1-3 months, with no annual in sight, and no temporary extended. I called and emailed CalCannabis/CDFA to inquire about what the agency is doing in the situation where temporary licenses are expired, annuals have been paid and submitted for, and not yet issued. I was told that applicants simply have to "wait in line like everyone else" even though the agency is 6-8 months backlogged. Calcannabis did not have any other solution. In the email I received from CDFA I was told:

"Thank you for contacting CalCannabis. Unfortunately, we have no legal authority to issue new temporary licenses or extend any temporary licenses after 12/31/2018. **If your annual application is still under review by the time your temporary license expires, then you do run the risk of operating without a license.**"

There is a major gap that is approaching all growers and their ability to legally grow this year. CDFA is stating that they are not going to be issuing any more extensions of Temporary Licenses. Even if the Annual Permit applications are still in process, they are not planning on issuing extensions.

If the Temporary Licenses are not extended then farmers will not be allowed to legally cultivate this year, but forced to stand idly by until annual license have been issued. Most small farmers will not be able to financially survive if they have to cease operations until an annual license is issued. The other choice will be to continue to operate without the temporary license, (illegally) and sell products on the black market since no licensed distributors will accept product from a cultivator without an active temporary license. If extensions are not granted, thousands of cultivators will be forced to either operate illegally without a temporary license or put their businesses on hold.

Most farmers I assisted worked very hard to submit their annual applications before the deadline of Dec. 31, 2019 with the assumption they would qualify for a provisional license. However, when inquiring into CDFA about the provisional license, I was told that provisional licenses will only be issued in relation to the CEQA, no other exceptions.

Many of our local farmers have invested everything into a license process that is failing them. The county has also invested its own resources, time, effort, man power, and money into the same licensing process. If the agencies are not able to process applications in a timely fashion then the result is cultivators not being able to sale their product legally which also impacts local revenue. If farmers cannot supply the cannabis to the legal market then there is no regulated industry! They are the start of the supply chain AND the primary source of tax and fee revenue for Mendocino County. The major gap in licensure will also affect our community directly and economic viability as a whole.

Please do anything you can to make help make necessary changes so that cultivators are able to legally continue to operate while still working through the application process.

Thank you for taking the time to read our concerns.

Sincerely best,

Anna Foster  
[anna.lfoster@gmail.com](mailto:anna.lfoster@gmail.com)

Additional farmer applicants signing in support of this letter:

Gary Wertz TAL18-0007368 Expires 4/21/2019

Jon Degallier TML17-0001272 Expires 3/24/2019

Jenny Iglesias TCA18-0007390 Expires 4/30/2019

No 1 MBC TML17-0000349 Expires 3/16/2019

No 1 Chance TML18-0003228 Expires 3/22/2019

Rich Casarotti TAL18-0010224 Expires 4/25/2019

& TAL18-0010196 Expires 4/18/2019

Simone River TAL18-0008852 Expires 4/30/2019

Valerie Palma TML17-0001545 Expires 3/28/2019

Venus Wheeler TML18-0006432 Expired 2/1/2019

Denise Degallier TML18-0006510 Expired 1/26/2019

**Info graphic:**

Source: <http://cannabis.cdfa.ca.gov/>

Out of 9,445 temporary licensees, 3,821 have submitted annual applications, and only 4 have been granted. That means 0.1% of people who submitted for an annual license have been approved, and a mere 0.04% of businesses that have been operating with a temporary license have been approved.. This was posted one month ago, so that number may have gone up some, but this is extremely worrying.

Meanwhile most of those temporary licenses are expiring between now and the next few months and CalCannabis is refusing to issue extensions or grant provisional permits while they process annual permits.

# CalCannabis: 2018 by the Numbers

## Outreach, Enforcement, and Licensing Highlights

### Outreach

**78** Public Events  
Statewide

**294,000** More than  
website page views  
calcannabis.cdfa.ca.gov

**11,000** email-alert subscribers

**10,000** handouts distributed

**9,800** social-media followers

### Enforcement

**2,250** Cannabis Cultivation  
Licenses Inspected

Inspections by County  
Agricultural Commissioners



**390** 1-833-WEED-TIP  
calls to report unlicensed grow  
sites and other complaints



### Licensing

**19,393** Temporary License  
Applications Received

**9,445** Temporary Licenses  
Issued

**3,811** Mixed-Light  
**3,612** Outdoor  
**1,358** Indoor  
**468** Nursery  
**196** Processor

temporary cannabis cultivation licenses issued

**3,821** Annual License  
Applications Received

**4** Annual  
Licenses Issued

six more licenses were  
approved, but were  
pending payment

