



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

April 19, 2021

501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

**RE; 5d) Noticed Public Hearing - Discussion and Possible Action Including Adoption of Resolution Amending the Exhibit X - Master Fee Schedule Effective July 1, 2021, for the Cultural Services Agency**

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Honorable Supervisors,

MCA has reviewed the proposed changes to the County's Master Fee Schedule. While we understand the need for an updated schedule, due to the lack of supporting studies, we are still uncertain as to how these fee schedules were determined. While on the surface they seem fair and reasonable, we would ask the department for more transparency on how they were calculated. Additionally, MCA proposes the following considerations before adopting specific fees.

1. Maintain parity and continuity between fees for similar staff functions. All businesses should be subject to the same costs for the same underlying staff activities.
2. Provide adequate training and situational education to staff in order to provide an efficient and streamlined process that minimizes staff hours and applicant hourly fees.
3. Confirm that all tasks claimed to be a part of the fee basis should be examined to ensure that they are necessary to the fee category.
4. Clarify why an additional "\$90 per hour" fee is attached to an already multi-thousand-dollar cannabis permit processing fee. We request additional clarity on what is included in the initial permit fees and what would incur the hourly rate.

For example, below are some comparisons that may not reflect parity or consistency as listed:

Line # - Cannabis	Line # - Standard	Cannabis Fee Type	Standard Fee Type	Pricing Difference
553	1280	Annual Cannabis Review - \$182	Alcoholic Beverage Control License Review - \$176	8.00 Higher for cannabis
1182	684	Cannabis Pre-Application Meeting \$519+\$90/hr	Land Use Pre-Application Conference Fee \$224.18	294.82 higher for cannabis (plus hourly, if needed)
1183	690	Cannabis Preliminary Review \$563 + \$90/hr	Admin Permit Application Review \$92.97	470.03 higher for cannabis (plus hourly, if needed)
1187	684	Cannabis Minor Use Permit \$2,511+\$90/hr.	HHS Use Permit Fee \$300	2211 higher for cannabis (plus hourly, if needed)
1189	684	Cannabis Major Use Permit \$6,620+\$90/hr.	HHS Use Permit Fee \$300	3,320 higher for cannabis (plus hourly, if needed)
1490	1489	Cannabis facilities Business License - \$60	Business License - \$40	20 higher for cannabis
1197	n/a	Annual Application fee - \$881	n/a	No comparable cost
1198	29	Annual Permit and Compliance Inspection Fee - \$738	Agriculture - Hourly Inspection Rate - \$82.91	Equivalent to almost 9 hours
1202	n/a	Cannabis Transferability Fee - \$333.62	n/a	No comparable cost

MCA requests that the Board direct staff to create and maintain parity with other department fees, and to justify why similar permitting functions are higher for cannabis. We have fought for years to be treated as any other business and we believe this parity is a key component of that treatment.

Thank you for consideration of these apparent inequities.

Sincerely,

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance