

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

I would like to start by saying thank you to everyone involved in getting the cannabis application portal online. It is a relief to know that when you have submitted something it hasn't just floated out into the email abyss.

I am writing to share my concerns about the portal close date of October 30th and encourage the Board to consider an extension.

I am sure many of you have heard that applicants are having a hard time getting every item on the checklist deemed 'complete'. There is also frustration that documents that are not noted as required are creating a submission to be rejected.

Some examples from my personal experience with the portal have been the following:

- Documents considered 'complete' on one submission that then on a separate submission are deemed 'incomplete'
- Items that were previously considered complete being sent back as incomplete, on the same submission
- Being required to submit a notice from the Waterboard that a SIUR is not needed. If this is a requirement it shouldn't be asked during the Questionnaire but rather be one of the documents automatically required, like the NOA
- Waterboard Water Monitoring Report being requested in addition to the NOA which is not noted as a requirement
- An LSA draft agreement not being sufficient when we were told a filed notification with CDFW would be
- Being sent a notification that was addressed to people I have never met

Most of these occurrences then require a resubmission which puts that application at the back of the line.

I do not bring up these issues to wag a finger at the Cannabis Department but rather to highlight that it is a complicated and nuanced process that everyone is doing their best to navigate.

Applicants are, and historically have been, the ones that bear the brunt of the issues regarding cannabis at the county level. The people I am helping, and many others, have been doing all the county has asked of them since they entered the program. Applicants should be given the same understanding the county has gotten throughout this frustrating process.

The Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) is not nearly as rigid as Mendocino County. When you submit an application to the DCC there is an application fee and if deficiencies are found the applicant is contacted and given an opportunity to upload the required document(s) within a given period of time. I do not understand why the County has decided a submission must be deemed 'complete' before it is accepted and imposed a hard deadline if the goal is in fact to get as many people through the process as possible. It feels arbitrary and punitive.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue.

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