

Dear Board Members,

I write to urge you to consider extending the deadline for portal applicants who do submit substantially complete applications before the Oct 31st deadline. As a fourth district resident and someone who has assisted and worked with applicants to the County Cannabis program, I can tell you that there are a multitude of reasons why an applicant may need extra time working through issues with County Cannabis staff despite monumental effort to complete submissions to the portal system. Some of these applicants were told literally years ago that their applications were complete only now to be told that their submissions to the portal which check off every item on the list of required items is still inadequate or incomplete.

For example, the instructions for the portal ask for the NOA from the Water Board. Yet, some applicants are now being told in response to their submission that they need to submit their yearly report to the Water Board, something that is not on the list. Without taking issue with whether that is an appropriate document to produce, the concern is that it's an added requirement that one could only know about once the County has responded to a submission.

Yet at the same time, the specifics of the workings of the portal, in which one must submit everything at once and then be locked out, has created a situation in which many people are intimidated and have waited 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 take the time to check and double check to make sure that one's submission is entirely "complete" before submitting.

I understand the need for the deadline to submit. However, in light of the fact that 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 identified defects in their applications and move on towards being permitted.

The period in which the portal has been open came after years of County inaction on existing applications and at the season that is busiest for cultivators, 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 for completion to those who have dutifully submitted permit applications through the portal by the end of the month.

Thank you,

Peter Kafin