



March 13, 2023

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Mendocino  
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010  
Ukiah, CA 95482

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors:

The Department of Cannabis Control writes in preliminary and conditional support of the permit-streamlining concept described in Item 4f on the agenda of the Board's regular meeting of March 14, 2023. The Department generally supports local jurisdictions' efforts to streamline local cannabis permitting. And the Department recognizes that such streamlining would particularly benefit Mendocino County, where a significant number of cannabis operators have yet to be either approved or denied for local permits.

If the Board chooses to pursue such streamlining, the Department is prepared to collaboratively engage with the County to address longstanding challenges confronting the County's legacy operators and California's legal market. This includes assessing inefficiencies under existing procedures for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and identifying a way by which the Department could (with the County's assistance) lead revitalized efforts to ensure timely compliance with CEQA for provisional license holders. Likewise, streamlining local permit decisions will provide greater clarity, sooner, to support enforcement of state and local law.

Should the Board of Supervisors approve review of streamlining concepts under item 4f, the Department respectfully requests the County refrain from disbursing additional funds under the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant (LJAG) Program. This will allow the Department to re-assess how remaining LJAG funds can best support the goals of that grant program, while also seeking to avoid disruptive efforts to recapture LJAG funds after they are disbursed.

With these understandings, the Department of Cannabis Control encourages Mendocino County to pursue permit streamlining under Item 4f. We look forward to working with you to ensure that such streamlining is developed and implemented in ways that strengthen the legal cannabis market.

Respectfully,

*Nicole Elliott*

Nicole Elliott  
Director, Department of Cannabis Control