



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO CANNABIS DEPARTMENT

860 NORTH BUSH STREET
UKIAH, CALIFORNIA 95482

CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: 707-234-6680

mcdpod@mendocinocounty.gov

<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/departments/cannabis-department>

Introduction

At the conclusion of December 2024, Mendocino Cannabis Department (“MCD”) reviewed and granted local authorization for over 600 active local Cannabis Cultivation Business License (“CCBL”) applications. In addition to this review, MCD standardized review procedures and implemented targeted process improvements to efficiently align with County objectives. Through combined efforts to streamline processes, such as the revision of the Mendocino Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance (“MCCO”) in March of 2024, and by implementing procedural refinements, MCD has achieved application processing rates that successfully concluded all assigned responsibilities by the targeted December 2024 completion date. Below are several key accomplishments of MCD in 2024:

- Administered over \$3.9M in direct assistance via fee relief and direct grants to local CCBL holders
- Issued approximately 6 million square feet of Commercial Cannabis Cultivation in Mendocino County
- The Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) for Commercial Cannabis Cultivation in Mendocino County was certified on October 17, 2024, transitioning over 154 Provisional State Licenses to Annual Licenses
- Completed more than 141 inspections of proposed or existing CCBL sites

Click [HERE](#) to find MCD Monthly Activity Reports.

I. Effective County Government Organization

- MCD utilized resource sharing, collaborating with other departments to fill short-term staffing needs throughout 2024, ensuring the timely completion of the one-time workload of backlogged applications.
- The Department has prioritized Management and Supervisor Training, incorporating various lessons and activities into daily tasks.
- MCD has worked to translate several licensing and grant documents into Spanish, ensuring that the meaning and intent of the original documents are accurately conveyed. These translated documents have allowed more applicants and licensees to fully understand the information and have made it more accessible to the community.
- The Department is working on streamlining the Accela licensing software system to ensure ease of use for the public, and to further enhance departmental efficiency.
- MCD sends out weekly community announcements through CannaNotes, promoting a consistent sense of communication and transparency.
- Throughout the past year, MCD has utilized the General Government Committee to ensure accurate and consistent communication with Board representatives and community members.



II. Safe and Healthy County

- MCD works closely with the State Water Resource Control Board (“SWRCB”), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”), and the Department of Cannabis Control (“DCC”) to ensure environmental compliance with all Cannabis Cultivation Business licenses.

III. A Thriving Economy

- MCD’s current Local Equity and Entrepreneurial Program grant provides up to \$50,000 in funding for business expenses to support eligible cannabis businesses.
- The Department has prioritized clear and concise communication with CCBL holders and applicants to ensure that each step of the licensing process is met, and that cultivators fully understand the required business practices to operate in the regulated commercial cannabis market.
- The Cannabis Department’s website is reviewed consistently and displays internal policies and procedures, training materials, and “how-to guides” to increase transparency and simplify the CCBL application process.
- The Department launched aerial inspections in 2024, increasing efficiency and compliance with eligible CCBL applications.

IV. A Prepared and Resilient County

- The Mendocino County Department of Agriculture, MCD, Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services, the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office, and Mendocino County Animal Care Services have worked in partnership to implement the Ag Pass Program. This allows qualifying commercial cannabis operators, and their managerial employees, to be issued identification documents granting any qualified applicant access to a qualifying farm or ranch property, during or following a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, or other disaster. MCD was able to issue 17 Ag passes for 2024.

Other/Additional Information

N/A