



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

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PHASE THREE CCBL APPLICATION POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish when a Phase Three applicant may commence commercial cannabis cultivation in relation to the issuance of a Cannabis Cultivation Business License (CCBL).

Unlike Phase One applicants, Phase Three applicants are not required to demonstrate prior cultivation at the cultivation site. Accordingly, Phase Three applicants must obtain a CCBL before commencing commercial cannabis cultivation.

AUTHORITY

The authority for this policy is contained in Mendocino County Code (MCC) Chapter 10A.17.

MCC § 10A.17.030(A) provides that, except as otherwise provided in that section, “cultivation of cannabis shall be allowed only following the issuance of a CCBL” and the review of a permit pursuant to Chapter 20.242 of the Mendocino County Zoning Code.

MCC § 10A.17 establishes distinct requirements for each phase of the County's cannabis cultivation program. Under Phase One, applicants who demonstrated proof of cultivation at a site prior to January 1, 2016 were allowed to continue commercial cannabis cultivation while their permit applications were under review, even before the issuance of a CCBL. In contrast, Phase Three applicants—and proposed Phase Three cultivation sites—are not afforded this exception, as evidence of prior commercial cannabis cultivation is not a component of the Phase Three application process.

POLICY

A Phase Three applicant shall not commence or conduct commercial cannabis cultivation prior to issuance of a CCBL by Mendocino County and the applicable commercial cannabis license by the California Department of Cannabis Control (DCC). The submission, acceptance, or processing of a Phase Three CCBL application does not authorize commercial cannabis cultivation.

An active DCC license does not, by itself, authorize commercial cannabis cultivation within Mendocino County prior to issuance of the CCBL. Possession of an active DCC license does not establish that a Phase Three applicant has received authorization from Mendocino County to commence commercial cannabis cultivation.

If MCD determines that a Phase Three applicant commenced or conducted commercial cannabis cultivation prior to issuance of the CCBL, such activity may result in denial of the

CCBL application.

Policy Initiated By: Kasie Miller

Policy Approved:  Date: 9/24/26
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