



CANNABIS CONTROL APPEALS PANEL

Strategic Plan 2022-2024

Prepared by:

SOLID Planning Solutions

Department of Consumer Affairs

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Panel Members

Dr. Diandra Bremond, Chairperson
Governor Appointee, Los Angeles County

Sharon-Frances Moore, Member
Senate Committee on Rules Appointee, San Diego County

Ian Calderon, Member
Speaker of the Assembly Appointee, Orange County

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

Anne Hawley, Executive Director

About the Panel

The Cannabis Control Appeals Panel is responsible for appeals of any decision by state cannabis licensing authorities relating to the order of any penalty assessment, issuing, denying, transferring, conditioning, suspending, or revoking any license provided under MAUCRSA.

The Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA), enacted in 2017, created a regulatory framework for the licensing and enforcement of the cultivation, manufacture, transportation, storage, and distribution of medical marijuana in California.

In November of 2016, voters approved Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA). Under Proposition 64, adults 21 years of age or older can legally grow, possess, and use cannabis for non-medicinal purposes, with certain restrictions. Beginning on January 1, 2018, AUMA makes it legal to sell and distribute cannabis through a regulated business. AUMA also requires recreational cannabis businesses to obtain state licenses in categories like those in MAUCRSA. Given the inconsistencies between the MAUCRSA and AUMA, specifically in the areas of license restrictions, taxes and license types, the Governor signed Senate Bill 94, which makes amendments to ensure the laws are compatible and preserve legislative intent under MAUCRSA as well as the intent of the AUMA.

The Panel consists of five members. Three are appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate Committee on Rules, and one by the Speaker of the Assembly. Each member appointed by the Governor, at the time of their initial appointment, shall be a resident of a different county from the one in which either of the other members appointed by the Governor resides. (Business and Professions Code - CHAPTER 4. Appeals BPC § 26040 (a)(2)).

Message from the Panel Chairperson

This Strategic Plan is a result of the combined efforts of the Panel Members and staff. The process was professionally facilitated by the Department of Consumer Affairs SOLID Unit.

Strategic planning is a long-term, future-oriented process of assessment, goal setting, developing objectives, and strategy building that maps an explicit path between the present and a vision of the future. This Plan relies on careful consideration of the Panel's environment and leads to priority-based actions to implement successfully.

The Panel's Strategic Plan will act as a road map to guide the Panel and staff as it moves forward to achieve its mission, vision, values, and goals. This has been a team effort to build consensus on the future direction of the Cannabis Control Appeals Panel.

As Chairperson, I am privileged to present the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan and to express my gratitude for all the work that took place in its development.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diandra Bremond
Chairperson, Cannabis Control Appeals Panel
April 2022

Mission

The Cannabis Control Appeals Panel provides fair, accessible, and timely quasi-judicial resolution of appeals from the Department of Cannabis Control’s licensing decisions.

Vision

Cultivating a transparent and respectful forum for cannabis businesses within all California communities.

Values

- Efficiency
- Fairness
- Professionalism
- Respect
- Transparency

Goals and Goal Statements

Goal 1 – Decision Making

Ensuring appeals from decisions of the Department of Cannabis Control are resolved in a fair and timely manner.

Goal 2 – Outreach and Education

To provide education on the appeals process for cannabis stakeholders.

Goal 3 – Organizational Effectiveness

To develop an effective and collaborative work environment while maximizing resources.

Goal 4 – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Ensure equity practices exist in operations, programs, and policies.

Goal 1 – Decision Making

Ensuring appeals from decisions of the Department of Cannabis Control are resolved in a fair and timely manner.

- 1.1 Make decisions efficiently once cases are received for effective utilization of Panel resources.
- 1.2 Create impartiality through the decision-making process to provide fairness to the Panel's stakeholders.
- 1.3 Ensure clarity and transparency to promote public and stakeholder confidence.
- 1.4 Identify and develop trainings for Panel members to provide a solid foundation on decision making.
- 1.5 Identify and develop trainings for staff on issues that impact the Panel to improve decision-making outcomes.

Goal 2 – Outreach and Education

To provide education on the appeals process for cannabis stakeholders.

- 2.1 Develop innovative approaches to educate and increase public awareness.
- 2.2 Expand accessibility through engagement with stakeholders to ensure they are aware of the Panel’s existence.
- 2.3 Explore ways to ensure that diverse constituencies are aware of and have access to the Panel.
- 2.4 Develop an outreach and educational plan to inform potential appellants and licensees of their due process rights.

Goal 3 – Organizational Effectiveness

To develop an effective and collaborative work environment while maximizing resources.

- 3.1 Develop an internal evaluation to share the Panel’s effectiveness and make adjustments as needed.
- 3.2 Create an external survey related to the appellants’ experience to improve processes by centralizing feedback from participants in the appeals process.
- 3.3 Establish a metric for evaluating the effectiveness of interactions and agreements between the Panel and its partner agencies to encourage the Panel to build an effective, cooperative relationship with partner agencies, and address issues that impact the Panel.
- 3.4 Evaluate the Panel’s fiscal responsibility to ensure prudent financial stewardship.
- 3.5 Report quarterly on progress made on strategic plan objectives to inform Panel members and to ensure objectives are met within designated timeframe.

Goal 4 – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Ensure equity practices exist in operations, programs, and policies.

- 4.1 Continue equitable hiring practices to eliminate favoritism and bias in hiring processes.
- 4.2 Maintain an inclusive culture that values input from all members of the staff and the Panel so that every staff and Panel member, regardless of background, feels empowered to voice their thoughts and opinions.
- 4.3 Demonstrate respect for opinions voiced by the public and stakeholders to encourage public participation in government agency operations.
- 4.4 Explore and continue to recommend methods of addressing accessibility, translation, or similar requests to promote participation by members of the public.

Strategic Planning Process

To understand the environment in which the Panel operates as well as identify factors that could impact the Panel's success in carrying out its statutory duties, the Department of Consumer Affairs' SOLID Planning Unit conducted a SWOT analysis of the Panel's internal environment through interviews with the Panel members and staff. A total of eight interviews were conducted.

The most significant themes and trends identified from the SWOT analysis were discussed by the Panel during a strategic planning session facilitated by SOLID on March 30, 2022, and the objectives developed were further refined by the staff during a strategic planning session on April 13, 2022. The document was refined and adopted on April 27, 2022.

Cannabis Control Appeals Panel

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This strategic plan is based on stakeholder information and discussions facilitated by SOLID for the Cannabis Control Appeals Panel on March 30, April 13, and April 27, 2022. Subsequent amendments may have been made after the adoption of this plan.



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