

DARRYL COTTON

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September 5, 2026

Via email — publicrecords@cannabis.ca.gov

California Public Records Act Coordinator
Legal Affairs Division
Department of Cannabis Control
2920 Kilgore Road
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

Re: Request under the California Public Records Act — the November 19, 2021 exit email sent to Director Nicole Elliott by a Department of Cannabis Control / CalCannabis special investigator, and the Department's records of its own production of that email

To whom it may concern:

This is a request under the **California Public Records Act**, Government Code section 7920.000 et seq. It is separate from my requests of August 25 and August 26, 2026 and is not intended to modify any of them.

The record sought.

On November 19, 2021 at approximately 8:57 a.m., a Department of Cannabis Control / CalCannabis special investigator sent an email to Director Nicole Elliott under the subject line “DCC Exit Email.” The author describes themselves as one of the two original special investigators hired by CalCannabis for Mendocino County in February 2019, and the message sets out their reasons for leaving the Department.

The Department has already produced this record. It was released under the Public Records Act and reported on by the *Los Angeles Times* on March 3, 2025. A copy in my possession carries a redaction of the author's name and contact details that was applied after the Department's production, not by the Department.

Please provide:

- 1. The email itself** as produced by the Department, including its header fields, any attachments, and the Department's own redactions if any were applied.
- 2. Any reply, forward, acknowledgment, or internal transmittal** of that email within the Department, including any routing to Compliance leadership, Legal Affairs, the Executive Division, or the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.
- 3. The Department's production record for that email** — the request number under which it was produced, the date of production, the requester as recorded, and any redaction log, exemption log, or cover letter that accompanied the production.
- 4. Any record of a referral** to the California Department of Justice, the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, or any other agency, arising from or transmitting that email.

On redaction.

If the Department applied redactions to the version it previously produced, please produce that version as redacted and identify the express provision relied upon, as Government Code section 7922.540, subdivision (b), requires, together with any reasonably segregable portion under section 7922.525.

If the Department produced the email without redacting the author's identifying information, I ask that it be produced in the same form. I make this request as a member of the public and I am not asking the Department to make any disclosure it has not already determined to be proper. If the Department's position has changed since its earlier production, I would ask that it say so and identify the provision now relied upon.

Reducing the burden.

The email is a single, previously produced record and should be locatable by subject line, date, and recipient.

Electronic delivery in native or export format is preferred.

Rolling production is welcome; item 1 is the item I most need, and I would rather have it promptly than wait for the remainder.

If the Department holds no records responsive to any item, a written statement to that effect fully answers that item and I will not press it further.

Preservation. I ask that the Department preserve, and refrain from destroying, transferring, or purging, all records within the scope of this request, in whatever form maintained, pending its completion and any follow-on request or proceeding. This request is made with the expectation that these records may be relevant to contemplated legal proceedings.

Requester information, provided for delivery purposes: Darryl Cotton, 6176 Federal Boulevard, San Diego, California 92114; 619.954.4447; 151darrylcotton@gmail.com.

If a tracking number is assigned, I would appreciate having it. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darryl Cotton', with a stylized, flowing script.

Darryl Cotton