



Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>

PRA request — index/log of requests submitted by Paige St. John / Los Angeles Times concerning DCC investigator resignation and related investigation

3 messages

Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>
To: publicrecords@cannabis.ca.gov

Tue, Aug 25, 2026 at 2:20 PM

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, please provide an existing index, log, database export, tracking record, or other record maintained by the Department of Cannabis Control identifying Public Records Act requests submitted by Paige St. John and/or the Los Angeles Times.

Please search for requests submitted by Paige St. John, the Los Angeles Times, or an identifiable Los Angeles Times requester, from January 1, 2021 through the present, that concern any of the following subjects:

- the November 19, 2021 resignation or exit email from a DCC/CalCannabis special investigator;
- the "DCC Exit Email" or "DCC Exit Email" correspondence;
- the special investigator assigned to Mendocino County;
- allegations concerning DCC compliance or enforcement practices described in or arising from that resignation;
- the alleged "no source" program, CCTT/METRC, diversion of cannabis, or the approximately \$90 million figure;
- the investigation involving approximately 75,977 plants, two companies, nursery licenses, falsified CCTT records, or the site containing approximately 20 tons of unlicensed cannabis;
- the referral of allegations to the California Department of Justice, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, or related follow-up.

For each responsive PRA request, please provide the request number or tracking number, submission date, requester name as recorded, subject/title, description/scope of the request, status/closure date if available, and any other non-exempt metadata contained in the existing PRA tracking record.

If DCC maintains a separate index or log of closed PRA requests, please provide the portions responsive to the above criteria. If DCC does not maintain a searchable index, please provide any existing records that identify or allow identification of these requests.

I am specifically seeking the request identification information first so that I can subsequently identify particular productions for follow-up requests.

Scope / clarification

This request seeks existing records maintained in the ordinary course of business, such as PRA request logs, indexes, tracking records, intake records, correspondence, and request metadata. It does not seek reporter notes, confidential source identities, privileged communications, or other records protected by applicable law.

If any portion of this request is unclear or overly broad, please contact me so that I can narrow or clarify it. If responsive records are maintained electronically, I prefer electronic delivery.

Darryl Cotton
619.954.4447

Public Records@Cannabis <publicrecords@cannabis.ca.gov>
To: Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 4, 2026 at 9:19 AM

Greetings Darryl,

Thank you for contacting the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC). The DCC is in receipt of your request pursuant to the California Public Records Act. Specifically, you requested an existing index, log, database export, tracking record, or other record maintained by the DCC identifying Public Records Act requests submitted by Paige St. John and/or the Los Angeles Times from January 1, 2021, through the present, that concern any of the following subjects:

- The November 19, 2021, resignation or exit email from a DCC/Calcannabis special investigator.
- The "DCC Exit Email" or "DCC Exit Email" correspondence.
- The special investigator assigned to Mendocino County.
- Allegations concerning DCC compliance or enforcement practices described in or arising from that resignation.
- The alleged "no source" program, CCTT/METRC, diversion of cannabis, or the approximately \$90 million figure.
- The investigation involving approximately 75,977 plants, two companies, nursery licenses, falsified CCTT records, or the site containing approximately 20 tons of unlicensed cannabis.
- The referral of allegations to the California Department of Justice, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, or related follow-up.

The DCC is in the process of gathering, collecting, and reviewing records for applicable exemptions to determine if your request seeks any disclosable records, and will require an additional 14 days to make such a determination.

Regards,

Lullette McManus

Supervisor I

Legal Affairs Division

844-61-CA-DCC (844-612-2322)
www.cannabis.ca.gov



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From: Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 2:20 PM

To: Public Records@Cannabis <publicrecords@cannabis.ca.gov>

Subject: PRA request — index/log of requests submitted by Paige St. John / Los Angeles Times concerning DCC investigator resignation and related investigation

*****CAUTION*** THIS EMAIL ORIGINATED OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS CONTROL!**

DO NOT: Click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

NEVER: Provide credentials on websites via a clicked link in an Email.

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Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 6, 2026 at 7:53 AM

To: "Public Records@Cannabis" <publicrecords@cannabis.ca.gov>

Ms. McManus,

A short note to narrow my request of August 25, on which the Department issued a determination notice on September 4.

The original request asked for an index of Public Records Act requests submitted by Paige St. John or the Los Angeles Times that concern any of seven listed subjects. That phrasing asks the Department to read each request and judge whether it falls within those subjects — work I do not need the Department to do.

I am therefore withdrawing the seven-subject limitation and asking instead for the index of requests submitted by Paige St. John, the Los Angeles Times, or an identifiable Los Angeles Times requester from January 1, 2021 to the present, without regard to subject matter — with whatever fields the Department's system carries, particularly the subject or description field and the disposition.

This should be a simpler query than the one I originally posed, not a broader one, and any work already done under the original phrasing remains within it. I am not asking for the contents of anyone's requests or of the records produced in response to them — only the Department's own tracking record. The express carve-out in my August 25 request stands: no reporter notes, no source identities, no privileged material.

I do not intend this to restart any determination period and would ask that it not be treated as a new request.

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Darryl Cotton

9/6/26, 7:54 AM

Gmail - PRA request — index/log of requests submitted by Paige St. John / Los Angeles Times concerning DCC investigator resignat...

619.954.4447