



Darryl Cotton &lt;151darrylcotton@gmail.com&gt;

**§ 81008 request — Statements of Economic Interests and related filings, Department of Cannabis Control / CalCannabis officials, 2019–2023**

10 messages

**Darryl Cotton** <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>  
To: CPRA@fppc.ca.gov  
Cc: Press@fppc.ca.gov

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 8:52 AM

To whom this may concern:

This is a request under Government Code § 81008. That section provides that a report or statement filed under the Political Reform Act “is a public record open for public inspection and reproduction during the filing officer’s regular business hours, commencing as soon as practicable, and no later than **the second business day** after the day it was received,” and that “[c]onditions shall not be **imposed** upon persons asking to inspect or reproduce reports and statements filed under this title, and information or identification shall not be required from these persons.”

Copies are to be provided at a charge not to exceed ten cents (\$0.10) per page, plus a retrieval fee not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00) per request for statements five or more years old. A request for more than one statement at the same time is a single request.

Accordingly, no showing of purpose, identity, or need is required, and the ten-day determination period of Government Code § 7922.535 does not govern. Items expressly designated below as CPRA requests are submitted in the alternative to the extent they are not Political Reform Act filings.

## Context

A parallel request has been directed to the Department of Cannabis Control for statements as to which the Department is the filing officer. This request is directed to the Commission for statements, filings, and related records the Commission holds — including any statement of an official for whom the Commission rather than the Department is the filing officer under Government Code § 87500, and any statement forwarded to or retained by the Commission.

I make no allegation of wrongdoing by any person named below. These are public disclosure documents that the Political Reform Act makes available to any member of the public.

## Searches already performed — I am not asking the Commission to duplicate work

Before submitting this request I searched the Commission’s public **Search Filed Form 700s** portal ([form700search.fppc.ca.gov](https://form700search.fppc.ca.gov), DisclosureDocs eRetrieval v.3.26.0309) on **August 26, 2026**.

Screenshots of each query and result are retained. The results were:

| Query                  | Result     |
|------------------------|------------|
| Filer: Nicole Elliott  | No records |
| Filer: Richard Parrott | No records |
| Filer: Tabatha Chavez  | No records |
| Filer: Clint Kellum    | No records |

|                                        |                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Filer: David Hafner                    | No records        |
| Filer: Justin Elliott                  | No records        |
| <b>Agency: “cannabis”</b>              | <b>No records</b> |
| Agency: “governor” ( <i>control</i> )  | 295 records       |
| Filer: Gavin Newsom ( <i>control</i> ) | 19 records        |

The two control queries confirm the portal was functioning and that the search method was correct. The agency query for “cannabis” returned nothing even though the agency field matches on a contained string — the “governor” query returned entries for both “Governor” and “Lieutenant Governor” — so the Department of Cannabis Control does not appear in the portal under any agency name.

I therefore anticipate that the Commission is **not** the filing officer for the individuals and positions identified below, and that their statements are filed with and retained by the Department of Cannabis Control under Government Code § 81010. **Request 1 is accordingly the most important item in this letter.** If that is correct, please simply confirm it in writing; I am not asking the Commission to conduct a burdensome search for records it does not hold. Requests 4 through 7 are directed to records the Commission holds in its own right and are not affected.

### Request 1 — Filing-officer determination (*primary request*)

Please identify, for each individual and position listed in Requests 2 and 3, whether the **Commission** or the **Department of Cannabis Control** (or another agency) is the filing officer under Government Code § 81010, and where the Commission is not the filing officer, **identify the correct filing officer by name, title, and contact information.**

Please also confirm whether the Commission’s public Form 700 search portal is limited to filers described in Government Code § 87200 and to candidate filings, and whether statements of **designated employees** filed under an agency conflict-of-interest code are excluded from that portal. A written answer to this question will let me direct the balance of my requests correctly and will avoid further correspondence.

### Request 2 — Statements of Economic Interests, named individuals

For **calendar years 2019 through 2023 inclusive**, please provide all **assuming office, annual, and leaving office** Statements of Economic Interests (FPPC Form 700), including all schedules, attachments, and amendments, held by the Commission for the individuals below.

If the Commission holds no responsive statements for a given individual, **please state that in writing** rather than treating the item as denied. A written confirmation of no records is a sufficient and complete response to this item.

- **Nicole Elliott**, Director, Department of Cannabis Control, and any prior State position for which the Commission holds a statement
- **Richard Parrott**, in his capacity with CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing and/or the Department of Cannabis Control
- **Tabatha Chavez**, in her capacity with the Department of Cannabis Control compliance program
- **Clint Kellum**, Director, Department of Cannabis Control

### Request 3 — Statements of Economic Interests, by position

For the same period, all assuming office, annual, and leaving office statements held by the Commission for any person who held the following positions, in an acting, interim, permanent, or exempt capacity:

1. Director and Chief Deputy Director, Department of Cannabis Control.
2. Deputy Director, Assistant Deputy Director, and Chief over the Department's **Compliance** and **Enforcement** divisions or branches, however titled.
3. Deputy Director, Assistant Deputy Director, and Chief over the Department's **Licensing** division or branch, however titled.
4. Chief Counsel and Assistant Chief Counsel, Department of Cannabis Control.
5. The equivalent positions within **CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing** (California Department of Food and Agriculture) and the **Bureau of Cannabis Control** for the portion of the period preceding consolidation into DCC.

### Request 4 — Conflict-of-interest codes on file (*high priority*)

Please provide the **conflict-of-interest codes**, **designated-employee lists**, and **disclosure categories** on file with or approved by the Commission for the Department of Cannabis Control, CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing, and the Bureau of Cannabis Control, for each version in effect from 2019 through the present, together with any Commission correspondence approving or requiring amendment of those codes.

### Request 5 — Advice letters (*high priority*)

Please provide any **formal written advice letter** or **informal assistance letter** issued by the Commission under Government Code § 83114 to, or concerning, the Department of Cannabis Control, CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing, the Bureau of Cannabis Control, or any individual named in Request 2, from January 1, 2019 through the present. Advice letters are public records and are indexed by the Commission; a citation list identifying responsive letters is sufficient in the first instance, and I will request full copies from that list.

This request specifically includes any advice concerning:

- disqualification or recusal in cannabis licensing or enforcement matters;
- the post-government employment restrictions of Government Code § 87406 (Milton Marks Postgovernment Employment Restrictions Act of 1990) or § 87407;
- gifts, travel payments, or honoraria in connection with the cannabis industry.

### Request 6 — Enforcement records (submitted under the CPRA)

To the extent not exempt, please provide records identifying any **closed** Commission enforcement matter, stipulation, decision, or warning letter involving the Department of Cannabis Control, CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing, the Bureau of Cannabis Control, or any individual named in Request 2, from January 1, 2019 through the present.

I understand that records of open or pending investigations may be withheld. This item is directed to **closed** matters and to the Commission's public enforcement dispositions. If any portion is withheld, please state the express provision relied upon as required by Government Code § 7922.540, and release any reasonably segregable portion under § 7922.525.

## Request 7 — Form 806 and late-filing records (submitted under the CPRA where applicable)

1. Any **Form 806** (Agency Report of Public Official Appointments) filed by or maintained for the Department of Cannabis Control, 2019 through the present.
2. Any record of **late filing, non-filing, or amendment** of a Statement of Economic Interests by an individual named in Request 2 or holding a position listed in Request 3, including any notice, penalty assessment, or referral.

## Preservation demand

Government Code § 81009 requires filing officers to retain original reports and statements not otherwise specified for **not less than seven years**, and copies for not less than four years. Statements covering calendar year 2019, filed in 2020, therefore approach the end of the mandatory retention period during 2027.

I request that the Commission **preserve and refrain from destroying, transferring, or purging** all statements, indexes, logs, advice letters, and related filings within the scope of this request 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.

## Format and delivery

Electronic delivery is preferred. Where a filing is available through the Commission's online Form 700 search or its electronic filing system, a link or export is acceptable in lieu of copies. If a retrieval fee under § 81008 applies, please advise of the amount before it is incurred.

## Requester information

Provided voluntarily for delivery purposes only; § 81008 provides that identification shall not be required.

- **Name:** Darryl Cotton
- **Email:** [151darrylcotton@gmail.com](mailto:151darrylcotton@gmail.com)
- **Phone:** 619-954-4447
- **Address:** 6176 Federal Blvd., San Diego, CA 92114

Darryl Cotton  
619.954.4447

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**Shery Yang** <[syang@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:syang@fppc.ca.gov)>  
To: Darryl Cotton <[151darrylcotton@gmail.com](mailto:151darrylcotton@gmail.com)>

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 11:13 AM

Hi Darryl,

Thank you for your email.

Are you a reporter?

Thanks,

**Shery Yang (she/her/hers)**

Communications Director

Fair Political Practices Commission

1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, CA 95811

syang@fppc.ca.gov • (866) 275-3772

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**From:** Darryl Cotton <[151darrylcotton@gmail.com](mailto:151darrylcotton@gmail.com)>**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2026 8:52 AM**To:** CPRA <[CPRA@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:CPRA@fppc.ca.gov)>**Cc:** Press <[Press@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:Press@fppc.ca.gov)>**Subject:** § 81008 request — Statements of Economic Interests and related filings, Department of Cannabis Control / CalCannabis officials, 2019–2023

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [151darrylcotton@gmail.com](mailto:151darrylcotton@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**EXTERNAL EMAIL**

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**Darryl Cotton** <[151darrylcotton@gmail.com](mailto:151darrylcotton@gmail.com)>

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 11:44 AM

To: Shery Yang <[syang@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:syang@fppc.ca.gov)>

No, I am not.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Darryl Cotton

619.954.4447

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**Darryl Cotton** <[151darrylcotton@gmail.com](mailto:151darrylcotton@gmail.com)>

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 12:10 PM

To: Shery Yang <[syang@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:syang@fppc.ca.gov)>

Ms. Yang,

Thank you for the quick response. To supplement my earlier one-line answer: I am not a reporter. I am a member of the public and a California cannabis license applicant.

I want to be clear that I take your question as routine and intend no accusation by the following. But because this request is made under the Political Reform Act rather than the Public Records Act, and because I expect to rely on this correspondence later, I should note the governing language rather than let it pass without comment.

Government Code § 81008 provides that a report or statement filed under Title 9 “is a public record open for public inspection and reproduction during the filing officer’s regular business hours, commencing as soon as practicable, and no later than the second business day after the day it was received,” and that “[c]onditions shall not be imposed upon persons asking to inspect or reproduce reports and statements filed under this title, and **information or identification shall not be required from these persons.**”

Government Code § 7921.300 states the parallel rule for the Public Records Act: access may not be limited “based upon the purpose for which the record is being requested, if the record is otherwise subject to disclosure.”

Whether I am a reporter, and what I intend to do with these filings, is therefore not a permissible basis for granting, denying, delaying, or conditioning access. I answered voluntarily and I am glad to keep the exchange informal, but I would ask that my answer not be treated as a prerequisite to a response, and that no further identification be requested.

I would also note that the reply came from the Commission’s communications office rather than from the records unit, and that [CPRA@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:CPRA@fppc.ca.gov) was dropped from the thread. I have restored it on this message. My request was

addressed to [CPRA@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:CPRA@fppc.ca.gov), with the press office copied only as a courtesy. I have not yet received an acknowledgment from the records unit.

**The § 81008 availability date remains Friday, August 28, 2026** — the second business day after the Commission's August 26 receipt. Nothing in this exchange extends it, and I am not treating it as extended.

Please let me restate what would resolve most of this request in a single sentence.

**Request 1 is the item that matters.** I asked the Commission to confirm in writing (a) whether the Commission or the Department of Cannabis Control is the filing officer under Government Code § 81010 for the individuals and positions identified in my letter, and (b) whether the Commission's public Form 700 search portal is limited to filers described in Government Code § 87200 and to candidate filings, such that statements of designated employees filed under an agency conflict-of-interest code are excluded from it.

My own searches of the portal on August 26 returned no records for any of the six named individuals and no records for the agency term "cannabis," while control searches returned 295 records for "governor" and 19 for Gavin Newsom. I therefore expect the answer to Request 1 is that the Commission is not the filing officer and that the portal is so limited. **If that is correct, please simply say so in writing.** I am not asking the Commission to search for records it does not hold, and a written confirmation of no records is a complete and sufficient response to Requests 2 and 3.

Requests 4 through 7 are directed to records the Commission holds in its own right and are unaffected by the filing-officer question:

- Request 4 — the conflict-of-interest code and designated-employee lists for the Department of Cannabis Control, and for CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing and the Bureau of Cannabis Control for the pre-consolidation period, together with any amendments and the Commission's approvals of them.
- Request 5 — any advice letter issued under Government Code § 83114 to or concerning the Department or any official identified in my letter, including any advice under § 87406.
- Requests 6 and 7 — the related indexes, Form 806 filings, and late-filing or non-filing records described in my letter.

The preservation request in my letter also stands. Statements covering calendar year 2019, filed in 2020, approach the end of the seven-year retention period under Government Code § 81009 during 2027, and I have asked that responsive records be preserved pending completion of this request and any follow-on request or proceeding.

If the records unit needs anything from me to process this, please have them contact me directly.

Thank you for your time.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Darryl Cotton  
619.954.4447

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**Darryl Cotton** <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>  
To: Shery Yang <[syang@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:syang@fppc.ca.gov)>  
Cc: [CPRA@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:CPRA@fppc.ca.gov), [Press@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:Press@fppc.ca.gov)

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 12:24 PM

I am forwarding this response as I had inadvertently omitted the cc parties.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Darryl Cotton  
619.954.4447

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**CPRA** <[CPRA@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:CPRA@fppc.ca.gov)>  
To: Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>  
Cc: [Press@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:Press@fppc.ca.gov)

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 12:50 PM

This is in response to your request for public records under the California Public Records Act ("CPRA") (Gov. Code, § 7920.000 et seq.) that was received by the Fair Political Practices Commission (the "Commission") on August 26, 2026.

We will begin processing your request now and will notify you once we find the documents responsive to your request. Your request and our response are public records, which may be disclosed to the public upon receipt of a proper request for disclosure.

Thank you,

**Amanda Apostol**

Fair Political Practices Commission

1102 Q Street, Suite 3050 | Sacramento, CA 95811

[www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) | Phone: 916.322.5660 | Email: [aapostol@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:aapostol@fppc.ca.gov)

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**From:** Darryl Cotton <[151darrylcotton@gmail.com](mailto:151darrylcotton@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2026 8:53 AM

**To:** CPRA <[CPRA@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:CPRA@fppc.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Press <[Press@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:Press@fppc.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** § 81008 request — Statements of Economic Interests and related filings, Department of Cannabis Control / CalCannabis officials, 2019–2023

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**Darryl Cotton** <[151darrylcotton@gmail.com](mailto:151darrylcotton@gmail.com)>  
To: CPRA <[CPRA@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:CPRA@fppc.ca.gov)>, [aapostol@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:aapostol@fppc.ca.gov)  
Cc: Press <[Press@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:Press@fppc.ca.gov)>

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 3:13 PM

Ms. Apostol,

Thank you for the quick acknowledgment.

One clarification so nothing runs on the wrong timeline. Your message describes this as a CPRA request under § 7920.000 et seq. Requests 1 through 5 are made under **Government Code § 81008**, a Political Reform Act provision — only Requests 6 and 7 were submitted in the alternative under the CPRA.

That matters because § 81008 has no determination period: it requires that responsive statements be open for inspection no later than the **second business day after receipt**, which from your August 26 receipt is **Friday, August 28**. The ten-day CPRA determination period applies only to Requests 6 and 7, running to September 8.

Most of this can be resolved in a sentence. **Request 1** asks whether the Commission or the Department of Cannabis Control is the filing officer under § 81010 for the individuals in my letter, and whether the Commission's Form 700 portal is limited to § 87200 filers and candidate filings. I searched the portal on August 26 — all six names nil, agency "cannabis" nil, while controls returned 295 for "governor" and 19 for Newsom. If the Commission simply isn't the filing officer, saying so in writing fully answers Requests 2 and 3 and I won't press them.

Requests 4 and 5 — the conflict-of-interest codes and designated-employee lists, and any § 83114 advice letters including § 87406 advice — are records the Commission holds regardless.

A tracking number would be helpful if one's been assigned. My preservation request stands.

Thank you,

Darryl Cotton  
619.954.4447

[Quoted text hidden]

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Darryl Cotton  
619.954.4447

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**CPRA** <CPRA@fppc.ca.gov>  
To: Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 28, 2026 at 4:15 PM

Hello Mr. Cotton,

Please see the attachment in response to your request received on August 26, 2026.

Thank you,

**Amanda Apostol**

Fair Political Practices Commission

1102 Q Street, Suite 3050 | Sacramento, CA 95811

www.fppc.ca.gov | Phone: 916.322.5660 | Email: [aapostol@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:aapostol@fppc.ca.gov)

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**From:** Darryl Cotton <[151darrylcotton@gmail.com](mailto:151darrylcotton@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2026 3:14 PM

**To:** CPRA <[CPRA@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:CPRA@fppc.ca.gov)>; Amanda Apostol <[aapostol@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:aapostol@fppc.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Press <[Press@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:Press@fppc.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: § 81008 request — Statements of Economic Interests and related filings, Department of Cannabis Control / CalCannabis officials, 2019–2023

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**EXTERNAL EMAIL**

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**CPRA Response 2026-233 (Cotton).pdf**

83K

**Darryl Cotton** <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>  
To: CPRA <CPRA@fppc.ca.gov>, aapostol@fppc.ca.gov

Sat, Sep 5, 2026 at 11:36 AM

Ms. Apostol,

Attached is my letter of today's date responding to the Commission's letter of August 28 in CPRA 2026-233, together with Exhibits A through F. The package runs 25 pages, Bates numbered COTTON-FPPC-81008-001 through -025, with an index of exhibits at page 004 and bookmarks for navigation.

I accept two of the points in your letter and have narrowed my request accordingly: the Commission owes me no legal interpretation or analysis, and Requests 4 through 7 are properly Public Records Act items.

The letter asks for three things.

First, the list that Government Code § 81010(e) requires the Commission to maintain, limited to the four named individuals for 2019 through 2023. That is an existing record and requires no interpretation. If it reflects no filing for a given individual, that answers the item as to that person and I will not press it further.

Second, reconsideration of the treatment of Requests 2 and 3. Those seek Statements of Economic Interests — Form 700 — which are statements filed under the Political Reform Act, and on the rule your letter itself states they are § 81008 items.

Third, any published authority for the reading that § 81008 applies only to persons who appear in person. I have set out both operative versions of the section at Exhibit C, and the Commission's own Form 700 Filing Officer Duties guidance at Exhibit D, which appears to me to point the other way. If the Commission has a regulation, opinion, or advice letter supporting the narrower reading, I would be grateful for the citation and will consider it seriously.

My preservation request stands and is renewed in the letter.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Darryl Cotton  
619.954.4447

**2026.09.05 Cotton to FPPC - CPRA 2026-233 Response and Exhibits A-F (COMPLETE PACKAGE).pdf**

696K

**Darryl Cotton** <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>  
To: Press <Press@fppc.ca.gov>

Sat, Sep 5, 2026 at 11:41 AM

Forwarding for the record. Press@ was inadvertently omitted from the cc line of my message of this date.

----- Forwarded message -----

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

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9/5/26, 11:42 AM

Gmail - § 81008 request — Statements of Economic Interests and related filings, Department of Cannabis Control / CalCannabis off...

Darryl Cotton  
619.954.4447



**2026.09.05 Cotton to FPPC - CPRA 2026-233 Response and Exhibits A-F (COMPLETE PACKAGE).pdf**  
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