



Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>

Political Reform Act § 81008 request — Statements of Economic Interests, DCC/CalCannabis compliance and licensing officials, 2019–2023

4 messages

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

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 9:03 AM

This is a request under Government Code § 81008, not under the California Public Records Act. Section 81008 provides that a 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.”

Section 81008 further provides 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, this request is not subject to the ten-day determination period of Government Code § 7922.535, and no showing of purpose, identity, or need is required. I ask that the Department process it on the § 81008 timeline.

Request 1 — Conflict-of-interest code and designated-employee list

Please provide:

1. The Department of Cannabis Control’s current **conflict-of-interest code** adopted under Government Code § 87300 et seq., together with each version in effect from 2021 through the present.
2. The **designated-employee list** and **disclosure categories** appended to that code, for each version.
3. The corresponding conflict-of-interest code, designated-employee list, and disclosure categories for the **CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing** division of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and for the Bureau of Cannabis Control, as in effect from 2019 until those programs were consolidated into DCC.
4. The identity of the Department’s **filing officer** and **filing official** for purposes of Government Code § 81010.

These records establish which positions are required to file and are necessary for me to frame the balance of this request precisely.

Request 2 — Statements of Economic Interests, named individuals

Please provide all **assuming office**, **annual**, and **leaving office** Statements of Economic Interests (FPPC Form 700), including all schedules, attachments, and amendments, filed with or held by the Department for **calendar years 2019 through 2023 inclusive**, for the following individuals.

Each of the following is identified by name or by position in publicly available records, including a November 19, 2021 resignation email from a DCC/CalCannabis special investigator that was produced under the California Public Records Act and reported by the *Los Angeles Times* on March 3, 2025. I make no allegation of wrongdoing by any person named below; I am requesting public disclosure documents that the Political Reform Act makes available to any member of the public without a showing of cause.

- **Nicole Elliott**, Director, Department of Cannabis Control (and any prior State position for which the Department 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
- **David Hafner**, in his capacity as a Department spokesperson or communications official, if a designated filer

If the Department is not the filing officer for any individual named above, please so state and identify the agency or officer with whom that person's statements are filed.

Request 3 — Statements of Economic Interests, by position

Please provide all assuming office, annual, and leaving office Statements of Economic Interests, including all schedules and amendments, for **calendar years 2019 through 2023 inclusive**, for every person who held any of the following positions during that period, whether in an acting, interim, permanent, or exempt capacity:

1. Director and Chief Deputy Director of the 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. Supervising Special Investigator and Special Investigator Supervisor positions within the Compliance and Enforcement divisions.
4. Deputy Director, Assistant Deputy Director, and Chief over the Department's **Licensing** division or branch, however titled.
5. Chief Counsel and Assistant Chief Counsel.
6. The equivalent positions within **CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing** (CDFA) and the **Bureau of Cannabis Control** for the portion of the period preceding consolidation, to the extent the Department holds those statements.

Request 4 — Leaving office statements and separation records

For the period **January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023**, please provide:

1. All **leaving office** Statements of Economic Interests filed by persons separating from any position identified in Requests 2 and 3, as required by Government Code § 87204 and the Department's conflict-of-interest code.
2. Any record identifying persons in those positions who **separated from Department or CalCannabis employment** during that period, and the effective date of separation. A roster, personnel-action log, or organizational-chart series showing the change is sufficient; I am not requesting confidential personnel file contents.
3. Any **written advice, determination, or notice** issued by the Department, its Chief Counsel, or the Fair Political Practices Commission to any such person concerning the post-government

employment restrictions of Government Code § 87406 (the Milton Marks Postgovernment Employment Restrictions Act of 1990), or concerning § 87407.

Item 2 is submitted in the alternative under the California Public Records Act to the extent it is not a Political Reform Act filing.

Request 5 — Recusals and disqualifications

Please provide, for the period January 1, 2019 through the present, any record of a **recusal, disqualification, or written disclosure of a conflict** by any person identified in Requests 2 and 3 in connection with a cannabis license application, license issuance, enforcement action, or compliance matter, including any Form 806 (Agency Report of Public Official Appointments) maintained by the Department.

Preservation demand

Government Code § 81009 requires filing officers to retain original reports and statements not otherwise specified for a period of **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 Department **preserve, and refrain from destroying, transferring, or purging** all statements, logs, indexes, and related filings within the scope of this request, in whatever form maintained, pending completion of this request 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. If the Department maintains any of these filings in an electronic or web-published format, a link or export is acceptable in lieu of copies. If a retrieval fee under § 81008 applies, please advise of the amount before incurring it.

Requester information

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

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

Darryl Cotton
619.954.4447

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

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 3:47 PM

Greetings Darryl,

Thank you for contacting the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC). Please find the DCC Conflict-of-Interest code attached for your reference. Regarding your other inquiry, the Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) submitted by government officials and employees are managed by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). To obtain copies of specific Form 700 filings, we recommend contacting the FPPC directly. You can access their website at <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/>.

Best Regards,

Lullette McManus

Supervisor I

Legal Affairs Division

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



Department of
Cannabis Control
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From: Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:04 AM

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

Subject: Political Reform Act § 81008 request — Statements of Economic Interests, DCC/CalCannabis compliance and licensing officials, 2019–2023

*****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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 **DCC COI Code FINAL FPPC Approved_SOS Filed.pdf**
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Darryl Cotton <151darrylcotton@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 4:51 PM

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

Ms. McManus,

Thank you for the same-day response, and for the conflict-of-interest code.

The code you attached answers the routing question, and it answers it the other way. Page 1 provides:

"The Director must file their statements of economic interests electronically with the Fair Political Practices Commission. **All other individuals holding designated positions must file their statements with the Department.** All statements must be made available for public inspection and reproduction under Government Code, section 81008."

So the referral to the Commission is correct as to Nicole Elliott and Clint Kellum in their capacities as Director, and I will take those two filings to the FPPC. As to everyone else in my request, the Department is the filing officer by the terms of its own code, approved by the Commission on November 15, 2022 and filed with the Secretary of State on February 1, 2023.

Appendix A designates the following positions, among others, and my Requests 2 and 3 run to them:

- Compliance Division — Special Investigator; Supervisory Special Investigator (all levels)
- Enforcement Division — Investigator and Supervising Investigator (all levels)
- Deputy Director — Compliance, Enforcement, Licensing, and Legal Affairs Divisions
- Legal Affairs Division — Assistant Chief Counsel; Attorney (all levels)
- Executive Division — Chief Deputy Director; General Counsel
- External Affairs Division — Information Officer II

I am therefore renewing Requests 2 and 3 as to the statements the Department holds. Where the Department holds no statement for a named individual, a written confirmation of that fact is a complete response to that item and I will not press it further. Where the Department holds no statement for a named individual, a written confirmation of that fact is a complete response to that item and I will not press it further.

Four items from my August 26 letter remain open.

1. The filing officer. Request 1(4) asked the Department to identify its filing officer and filing official for purposes of Government Code § 81010. That has not been answered, and it is the answer that settles everything else in this exchange. One sentence does it.

2. Earlier versions of the code. The code you sent was approved by the Commission on November 15, 2022, filed with the Secretary of State on February 1, 2023, and effective March 3, 2023. Request 1(1) asked for each version in effect from 2021 through the present. The Department has existed since July 2021. Please provide any conflict-of-interest code in effect before March 3, 2023, together with any amendment adopted after it — or, if no code was in effect during that period, please say so in writing. Either answer is a complete answer to that item.

3. Predecessor agencies. Request 1(3) asked for the conflict-of-interest codes, designated-employee lists, and disclosure categories of CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing (CDFA) and the Bureau of Cannabis Control, as in effect from 2019 until those programs were consolidated into the Department. If the Department does not hold those records, or is not the filing officer for Richard Parrott in his CalCannabis capacity, please say so and identify the agency or officer that is.

4. Requests 4 and 5. These were not addressed. They ask for leaving office statements and the separation records identifying who filed them; any written advice, determination, or notice concerning Government Code § 87406 or § 87407; and any record of a recusal, disqualification, or written conflict disclosure, including any Form 806 (Agency Report of Public Official Appointments). Form 806 is maintained and posted by the agency rather than by the Commission, so the referral does not reach it.

On timing: § 81008 requires that responsive statements be open for public inspection and reproduction no later than the second business day after the day the request was received, which from the Department's August 26 receipt is Friday, August 28. I am not asking for the whole of this request by Friday. A date certain for production, together with the one-sentence answer to item 1 above, would let me narrow everything that follows.

If a retrieval fee applies under § 81008 to statements five or more years old, please tell me the amount before it is incurred. The statute caps that fee at five dollars per request, and a request for more than one statement at the same time is a single request.

Finally, my preservation request from the August 26 letter was not addressed in your reply. It stands, and I renew it.

Thank you again for the quick turnaround.

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Darryl Cotton
619.954.4447

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

Sat, Sep 5, 2026 at 10:59 AM

Ms. McManus,

Attached is my letter of today's date concerning my August 26 request under Government Code § 81008, together with Exhibits A through F. The package runs 46 pages, Bates numbered COTTON-DCC-81008-001 through -046; an index of exhibits appears at page 004.

In short: the § 81008 availability date was Friday, August 28, and I have had no response to my reply of August 26 at 4:51 PM. The letter sets out four outstanding items. The first — the identity of the Department's filing officer and filing official under Government Code § 81010 — can be answered in a single sentence and would resolve most of the rest.

I have narrowed one item. Based on records produced by the Fair Political Practices Commission, I have withdrawn item 1(3) as to CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing and directed that portion to the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

My preservation request stands and is renewed in the letter.

I would welcome a call if any part of the scope would be easier to work through that way.

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Darryl Cotton
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2026.09.05 Cotton to DCC - Section 81008 Letter and Exhibits A-F (COMPLETE PACKAGE).pdf
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