



## Open Session Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2026  
11:01 am – 1:57 pm

Cannabis Control Appeals Panel  
400 R Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

### Members present:

- Dr. Diandra Bremond, Chairperson (in Sacramento County – In Person)
- Cathryn Rivera, J.D. (in Sacramento County – In Person)
- Josh Newman (in Sacramento County – In Person)

### Staff present:

- Anne Hawley, Executive Director, Cannabis Control Appeals Panel
- Christopher Phillips, Chief Counsel, Cannabis Control Appeals Panel
- Sarah M. Smith, Senior Staff Attorney, Cannabis Control Appeals Panel
- Brian Hwang, Senior Staff Attorney, Cannabis Control Appeals Panel
- Melita Deci, Administrative and Business Services Coordinator, Cannabis Control Appeals Panel
- Ruben Garza, Office Technician, Cannabis Control Appeals Panel

### Summary:

#### 1. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum.

Chairperson Diandra Bremond called the teleconference meeting to order at 11:01 am.

Melita Deci took the roll call vote. Panel Members Diandra Bremond, Cathryn Rivera, and Josh Newman were present. A quorum was established.

#### 2. Approval of the Minutes.

Chairperson Bremond asked the Panel if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 28, 2026, meeting. There were no additions or corrections. No comments from the public.

Motion (Rivera): Approve the minutes of the April 28, 2026, meeting as submitted. Seconded (Newman). Melita Deci took a roll call vote on the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

### **3. Hearing.**

The Panel heard oral argument on CCAP Case No. 2026-04-DCC-0002. Appellant is Euphoric Life, Inc. and Respondent is the Department of Cannabis Control. This is an appeal from Department Case No. DCC25-00004-CON. The subject of oral argument is the Department's motion to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction or, alternatively, to vacate the automatic stay.

Both parties were represented by counsel. Appellant was represented by Nooshin Dalili, who appeared remotely before the Panel. The Department was represented by Christopher Lamerdin, who appeared remotely before the Panel.

Following oral argument, Bremond informed both parties that the Panel will proceed with the next agenda item (Agenda Item #4). After completion of that agenda item, the Panel will go into closed session to deliberate on the Department's motion.

### **4. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy to Place Time Limitations on Public Comments.**

Chairperson Bremond introduced Chief Counsel Chris Phillips and Senior Staff Attorney Brian Hwang to present a proposal to place time limitations on public comments before this Panel. This is potentially an action item.

This is a follow up to the Chairperson's request at the last meeting in April to discuss public comment time limits at a future meeting.

Currently, the Panel lacks any guidelines regarding public comment time limits. This agenda item therefore proposes updating the Panel Handbook to set clear procedures moving forward. Staff surveyed numerous state boards and bodies, and identified best practices.

Hwang then summarized the two proposed revisions to the Handbook. The first revision is the inclusion of a public comment time limit policy which outlines the rules for setting and managing time limits. The second revision is to update the Panel Chair's list of responsibilities to reflect their additional duties under the proposed public comment time limit policy.

Hwang then opened the floor for any questions.

No comments from the public. No comments from the Panel.

Motion (Newman): Approve the two proposed updates to the Panel Handbook. Seconded (Rivera). Melita Deci then took a roll call vote to approve the proposed updates to the Handbook. The Panel voted 3-0 to approve the proposed updates.

## **5. Closed Session.**

Open session suspended at 11:37 am for the Panel to deliberate on the Department's Motion to Dismiss Appeal or, in the Alternative, to Vacate Stay in CCAP Case No. 2026-04-DCC-0002 under closed session – under the authority of Government Code section 11126(c)(6).

Open session resumed at 12:31 pm. Chairperson Bremond informed both parties that the Panel completed its deliberation and will take the matter under submission. Bremond instructed the parties that they will be notified when the Panel issues a ruling on the Department's motion.

## **6. Strategic Planning.**

Chairperson Bremond introduced Sarah Irani and Trisha St. Clair, Strategic Business Analysts and Facilitators for the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), to guide the Panel through today's SOLID workshop. DCA's SOLID unit assists agencies in conducting environmental scans, forming strategic plans, and addressing opportunities and challenges the agency may face.

Irani and St. Clair (DCA SOLID) began by first reviewing the Panel's commitment to DEIA. DEIA stands for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. They discussed the benefits of DEIA and how the Panel should consider this factor in its strategic planning.

DCA SOLID then examined the Panel's existing strategic planning process. They explained that the Panel's Missions, Values, and Vision are foundations of the planning process. Goals and Objectives build upon that foundation. They then reviewed the Panel's existing Mission Statement, list of Values, and Vision Statement with current panel members.

Next, DCA SOLID focused on the four major goals of the strategic plan with the Panel: (1) Decision Making; (2) Outreach & Education; (3) Organizational Effectiveness; and (4) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. They had the Panel identify multiple objectives per goal. The Panel identified 13 total objectives with an initial timeline of three years to meet the objectives.

DCA SOLID closed by discussing the next steps of the process. They will formulate a draft plan, send the draft to the Executive Director for additional edits and approval, then schedule a follow-up action planning with Panel staff to develop a plan for accomplishing the objectives.

Following the workshop, Bremond thanked Irani and St. Clair for their assistance and hard work on this project.

No comments from the Panel. No comments from the public.

## **7. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda.**

Chairperson Bremond warned any comment should not involve pending or future appeals, complaints, applications, or any disciplinary actions that may come before the Panel.

No comments from the public.

**8. Future Agenda Items.**

No comments from the Panel. No comments from the public.

**9. Adjournment.**

Motion (Newman). Adjourn the meeting. Seconded (Rivera). Meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.