



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency
Healthy People, Healthy Communities
Environmental Health Division



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 3, 2017
To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
From: Trey Strickland, Environmental Health Director
Subject: Cannabis Cultivation Site – Septage Options

Currently, the following options are available for cannabis cultivation sites regarding the disposition of septage. These options are not specific to cannabis cultivation; they apply in any relevant situation.

Cannabis cultivation sites with proposed/existing structures which do not require a Planning & Building Services Building Permit do not require a permitted septic system. In these circumstances a portable toilet would be acceptable.

Cannabis cultivation sites with proposed/existing commercial structures (Building Permit likely required) are mandated to be connected to an approved septic system per Mendocino County Code Section 16.08.015(A), which states “All structures from which or in which domestic waste may be generated shall be connected to an approved sewage system approved by the County of Mendocino.” **EH staff and County Counsel are reviewing whether County Code could be revised to allow portable toilets (in lieu of approved septic systems) without conflicting with State Water Resource Control Board regulations.**

Cannabis cultivation sites which have an existing residence with a permitted septic system can utilize our bedroom addition policy, which would allow a new restroom accommodating up to 10 people/employees to be plumbed into the existing septic system, provided that: 1) the existing septic system is functioning adequately, and 2) the septic replacement area is sized to accommodate the additional load.

CC: Carmel J. Angelo, Mendocino County CEO
Tammy Moss Chandler, Mendocino County HHSA Director
Anne Molgaard, Mendocino County HHSA CFO