

The Humboldt County Abatement program has been an absolute disaster for the people of the county. I refer you to the excellent analysis of the facts about the program by Nichole Norris, published by Kym Kemp on her Red Headed Blackbelt website. Many of the problems with the program originate in it's attempt to use nuisance law to deal with cannabis, which is already covered quite well under the Health and Safety Code. The Humboldt County Planning and Building Department administers the cannabis abatement program, but uses the civil administrative process rather than the courts and criminal process. The result is what you might expect from a program in which non-lawyers attempt to convert civil process to achieve criminal justice. The program is rife with legal problems from it's lax procedures, and with sky high fines and an aggressive administration is more of a terror program than a legal one. It's not "your money or your life" but it is "your money or your property." Humboldt county has extorted millions of dollars from it's property owners, many of whom are not responsible for the cannabis upon which the fines are based - fineing the innocent for cannabis planted by trespassers, fineing the present property owners for unpermitted grading done by prior owners, - and assuming greenhouses are the same thing as ilegal cannabis farms. The program is under court challenge on a number of isssues, and you would do well to wait until the smoke of the legal battle clears before exposing Mendocino county to potential exposure to similar lawsuits brought by your citizens.

I hope you get to have some testimony from victims of Humbolt's abatements, and listen to it with compassion and wisdom. I am available to consult with you pro bono on the legal problems with the program at length.

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