

Dear BOS,

All these good, small growers who came forward early, who have done everything they could to be compliant, and who have been paying fees and true-ups are now being threatened with failure.

I keep asking, how have we ended up here?

After much investigation, my primary answer involves lack of leadership, staff turnovers and, more recently, no transparency/communication from BPS.

We are all driven by fear at this point that staff won't perform, no matter what path we go down. With all this information (or lack of) you need to make a proper, well educated decision. Communication and sharing ideas for solutions are valuable in a small community like this and for small farmers like us, it is vital. Please create a strong standing committee so we can all solve this together as a team.

To make something happen, one must believe in it. I don't think staff believes in nor understands our General Plan Mission Statement nor the spirit of our ordinance. I do not know how we are being represented or how much intense energy is being COMMITTED to our process. We like it small, we like it real, we like it sustainable. I am sure that we will do whatever it takes to get our farmers through, we have the energy and the passion. We, as in, we the farmers and environmentalists working with the BOS and staff. Mendocino is a poster child for environmental fervor. Good communication with the relevant agencies (MCRCD, CDFW, CDFA) should make it possible to continue our goals and growth without a lot of cost. No communication obviously makes everything impossible.

State is still working on their protocols and procedures. With proper guidance and communication we can help lead the way on a grander scale as well. Help other counties be able to craft their future they want.

Our story is still in the making. We will go down in the history books like Seabiscuit if we can pull this together and save our mighty little farmers. I'll bet on us!

Let's get those permits processed! Get to work BPS!

Thank you,

Traci Pellar