

To the Board of Supervisors and Cannabis Program,

I am continually distressed and frustrated with the county re: our cannabis applications. It will come as no surprise to anyone that the county's portal is the topic of conversation amongst all cultivators who are aware of its existence. It is poorly conceived and even more badly executed.

Here is a **partial** list of what we've been dealing with:

1- A full fifty percent of our original deficiencies spread over two permits were mistakes made by the planner. They were not honest mistakes. These are the people we're going to have to pay to review our submissions?

2- Re: SIUR's, here is the wording on the Portal re: SIUR's:

'Will you be providing a Small Irrigation Use Registration (SIUR)? If so, how many?'

'If the applicant plans to use a surface water diversion to irrigate cannabis, submit a valid SIUR.'

This correctly attempts to sort applicants by whether or not they plan to use a water diversion to irrigate cannabis. But we were told that we were required to provide one in spite of having declared that we would not be using a surface water diversion. Requests for an explanation as to why instructions provided in the Portal contradicted direction from Cannabis Program Staff have been ignored. If this is something that needs clarification (read: correction) on the portal then why hasn't that clarification been made?

Furthermore, there were no directions given on where to upload the SIUR.

3-m Here is the wording on the Structures List:

'Please complete this form showing the building(s) and structures used in the County of Mendocino Cannabis Program.'

The directions clearly state that we should list all buildings and structures used in the County of Mendocino Cannabis Program, which any rational person would interpret to mean cannabis cultivation. But we were told to list all buildings and structures on the property regardless of use, most of which are not used for cultivation. Requests for an explanation as to why instructions provided in the Portal contradicted direction from Cannabis Program Staff have been ignored. If this is something that needs clarification (read: correction) on the portal then why hasn't that clarification been made?

4- They insisted that we update our Site Map to reflect the information on the Structures List. Our maps were already signed off as being adequate.

5- E-mails from the Cannabis Program are not signed by the individual who is corresponding. I insisted that the person with whom I was corresponding with on one e-mail thread identify themselves. It was Kristin Nevedal. All other e-mails do not identify the county representative

writing. This is troubling because it is confusing (e.g. how do I know that who I'm corresponding with is privy to prior conversations?) and also because it lacks the simplest accountability.

6- Calls to the Planning Department requesting guidance or information have thus far been ignored. That's *de rigueur* for the last several **years**. My complaints to the BOS and Planning department have gone unanswered other than Supervisor Haschak's reply that he would mention it to them.

We're exhausted by the adversarial position the county has taken for nearly the entire time we've been part of the cannabis program in all of its iterations. Communication is terrible, transparency is non-existent and it's blatantly obvious that we are held in the lowest regard possible.

Meanwhile, cultivators who decided to thumb their noses at the county suffer no loss of revenue from the taxes you're so keen to levy, the application fees or numerous other charges you're demanding while doing nothing to assist us in becoming successful in the program.

It would appear that the county feels it will have no price to pay for what some are calling governmental malfeasance. I disagree.

Gabriel Ferreira