


Dear Supervisors

I'm sure you've been getting tons of feedback on all the problems with the MCP Portal. I thought you'd like to see a concrete example of the serious flaws in the way this program is being implemented. Here is some recent communication regarding the requirement of demonstrating compliance for ponds.

I submitted a Grading Permit for a pond to the MCP program through the portal. Here is the response I received from a reviewer having the initials RF. The X denotes the submission to be insufficient.

 the required permit is a Pond Exemption		of Environmental Health that the well does not require a permit. Pond Permit , if the applicant plans to use a pond to irrigate cannabis, submit a pond permit or proof from Mendocino County Department of Environmental Health that the pond does not require a permit.
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This response makes no sense on the face of it as a Pond Exemption is an exemption from the requirement of obtaining a permit. However, I did not have faith in the reviewer taking my word for this rather obvious conclusion, so I contacted Planning and Building. I want to say kudos to Planning and Building because they immediately responded with a telephone call and the following email:

I'm sure I don't need to point out that permit applicants are presently experiencing a great deal of stress. The market for cannabis has collapsed, we are in the middle of harvest, and we are battling a looming deadline for the portal to close. Having incompetent reviewers under ordinary circumstances would be bad enough but adding misery to our already burdened circumstances is not only wrong but should be dealt with appropriately by those in charge.

Thank you for considering my concerns and others who are experiencing similar difficulties with the Portal.

Sincerely,

Charles Sargenti