

**pbscommissions - Temporary tents on the coast for Restaurants**

Mendocino County

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**From:** Sandra McElroy <sandra.mcelroy@me.com>  
**To:** <pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org>  
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**Subject:** Temporary tents on the coast for Restaurants

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Planning & Building Services

To whom it may concern on the building department and historical review board, I own a restaurant in town, Trillium Cafe, and have had to spend tones of money just to stay open during this pandemic, to keep up with the ongoing challenges of running a business and keeping it open with the continued changes put forth by the county and state.

Today I met with Matt Rowland about putting a tent over my garden, which I have already spend \$10,000 to reinvent to make it through this time. But now I hear we need to get a permit to put the tent over the garden tables for a few months. I as a business owner think the board should waive these fees for this period, until things can go back to normal. We have no choice for the foreseeable future in order to remain open. We aren't allowed indoor dining, and even when we are allowed, it is only going to be a small percentage, which won't be enough to cover costs. These health restrictions are costing small businesses so much more money than it cost us before to remain open. I am spending over \$300 a week on just propane alone, and renting heaters is another \$30 each per month, and if I rent a tent, that is \$500 or more per month, this is all adding up significantly. And now for small restaurants to have to pay \$400 to be put on the historical agenda just to have a temporary tent over the garden for a few months, seems unnecessarily adding insult to injury during these difficult times, when businesses are just barely hanging on.

Please consider waiving the fees to get the permit to do tents for small businesses that have no choice but to continue to work outdoors.

Thanks so much,

Sandra McElroy

Owner Trillium Cafe & Inn