

Jocelyn Gonzalez-Thies

From: Lisa Goldman <goldmanlisa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 4:36 PM
To: Julia Krog; pbscommissions; bos
Cc: Eric Goldman
Subject: Please keep the tents!!!

Mendocino County

SEP 08 2023

Planning & Building Services

Hi -

We own a home in Caspar, which we sometimes rent out as a vacation home.

I would like to voice our strong support for keeping the restaurant tents up in Mendocino. As someone living with compromised lungs, I have absolutely relied on restaurants with covered outdoor seating the past 3 years. And, not only me, but my entire extended family and friends, in order to protect me, have also relied on these as well.

If the tents are taken away and outdoor eating options significantly reduced, it will not result in our community returning to indoor eating. Rather, we will simply stay home. (Our caution has worked well - I have been able to avoid Covid and other respiratory contagions - and it will never be worth the health risk for us to resume unmasked indoor eating while these illnesses persist.)

Not only do the tented outdoor eating spaces provide a safe environment for higher risk families like ours, we also find them super pleasant -- the fresh air, the reduced noise, the space, the pets -- it's far superior to indoor spaces and capitalizes on the best that Mendocino has to offer. Furthermore, they have been installed very tastefully and we find them appealing and inviting - the sign of a welcoming and thriving community (the opposite of an eyesore). We go out of our way to patronize restaurants with tented spaces that make year-round enjoyment of the outdoors accessible to all.

Finally, my heart breaks for the businesses that struggled and continue to fight to stay alive through these past difficult years. These small, local businesses are the lifeblood of Mendocino. They invested in these tents at great expense to serve the community in a time of great need -- it's terrible to think that our repayment for their effort is to inflict more hardship on them to remove these tents and force them to waste this investment and endure more lost business.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE find a way to allow the tents to stay up!

Thank you,
Lisa Goldman

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Every Breath I Take - a blog about my journey with lung cancer: <http://lisa.ericgoldman.org>