

**James Feenan**

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**From:** Kathleen Cameron <kcameron@mcn.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 1, 2024 5:43 PM  
**To:** pbs@mendocinocounty.go  
**Cc:** pbscommissions; Liam Crowley  
**Subject:** MHRB April 8, 2024 Meeting -- Streamlining Memo  
**Attachments:** MHRB Streamlining - Rule and Bylaw Amendments.doc

Mendocino County

APR 02 2024

Planning & Building Services

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Please pass my comments to Planning Director Julia Krog and the members of MHRB.

Thank you,  
Kathleen Cameron

RE: MHRB Streaming and Rule and Bylaw Amendments

April 1, 2024

APR 02 2024

Director Julia Krog,

Planning &amp; Building Services

It is obvious from your Memorandum that the County of Mendocino views the Mendocino Historical Review Board as a burden....a financial hardship, a time management strain, and an overall bother to the Planning Department.

I find these attitudes reprehensible given the important historical status of the Town of Mendocino and its placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Relaxing Code Standards by amending MHRB Rules and By-laws could have serious consequences, resulting in negative impacts on the integrity of the Historic District. Placement on the National Register is a valued achievement which past Review Boards have helped retain by upholding strict Code Standards—the very Standards that past County Supervisors have mandated.

I understand that the BOS directed you to find solutions to achieve relief in resource management, but the additional language that you suggest to ARTICLE II – DUTIES - SECTION 1 is ambiguous and a rubber stamp to permit applications.

As a tourist town, Mendocino generates substantial revenue for county government. Visitors come to Mendocino for its environmental beauty, Victorian architecture and unique historical character. These qualities are worthy of the upmost preservation and local protection. Recommending “capturing the spirit of the law” is completely objectionable!

Regarding your concerns about “safety or the quality of life of the occupants”, are you aware of the California Historical Building Code which addresses these issues? The CHBC is just as valid as the CBC!

*“One of California’s most valuable tools for the preservation of historic resources is the **California Historical Building Code (CHBC)**, which is defined in **Sections 18950 to 18961 of Division 13, Part 2.7 of Health and Safety Code (H&SC)**. The CHBC provides alternative building regulations for permitting repairs, alterations and additions necessary for the preservation, rehabilitation, relocation, related construction, change of use, or continued use of a qualified historical building or structure.”*

I encourage the Review Board to reject any additional language to ARTICLE II – DUTIES - SECTION 1 and carefully examine your other “Requests”. They may benefit the Planning Department, but they do not benefit the *Mendocino and Headlands Historic District*.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Cameron