

BASICS TO ADDRESS CURRENT DOCUMENTED HARM - DRAFT
Community Designed Amnesty Program
For Unpermitted Buildings In Mendocino County

Note: Must Align with State Law AB2533 [See 2533]. Includes City of Berkeley Programs & Others

To address our urgent housing and economic crises, we the people of Mendocino County propose an amnesty program for identified permit violations *that protects our existing housing, even if unpermitted*, and aligns our County with the State of California Law 2533 while addressing our communities' housing, socio-economic, and environmental needs, including protecting vulnerable elders, disabled residents, and others on fixed or low incomes. This Draft incorporates the basic principles of the community-designed Housing Amnesty Plan we seek to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors to halt the humanitarian crisis resulting from the current full code enforcement policy in use by the County.

- Our County creates a pro-housing mandate - with amnesty that protects our existing housing and farms - to ensure that all our community members have the basic right to stable income-based housing, food security, health, dignity, and human rights, and secures an equitable housing, economic and climate resilient future for all of us.
- Our County creates an ADU and JADU legalization process that provides permits for previously unpermitted ADUs, JADUs, or other dwelling units built before 2020, unless the unit is a genuine threat to health, safety, or the environment. [2533]
- County cannot deny permits because the unit does not meet applicable construction code requirements or lacks construction permits. [2533]
- County cannot charge penalty fees or excessive permit fees. [2533]
- Must grant five-year delay of code enforcement for owners to meet the basic health and safety code unless there is a genuine threat to health and safety. [2533]
- The permit process is one of cooperation with a clear design pathway to permit.
- May engage a confidential third-party inspector before applying for permits. [2533]
- County cannot use a complaint driven process that invites malicious abuse.
- County provides financial and compassionate assistance for our financially vulnerable elders, disabled, and other citizens to gain permits.
- County Code Enforcement cannot create economic or other harm to our most financially vulnerable elders, disabled or other citizens.
- The appeal process must be affordable and address basic health and safety.
- We establish a Community Appeals Board to oversee the appeal process.
- Code compliance currently in process is placed within the amnesty program, unless there is a genuine threat to health, safety, or environment.
- Code enforcement cannot lead to unnecessary gutting of living spaces to storage shed classification or tear downs unless **the Community Appeals Board deems the structure unsound or unsafe.**