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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
LIBRARY**

Date: February 14, 2025

Dear Friends of the Fort Bragg Library, Inc.,

As you may be aware, the concept of expanding the Fort Bragg Library has been in front of the Board of Supervisors on more than one occasion. On August 16, 2016, the Board approved a library expansion in concept, including the future acceptance of the parcel at 421 Whipple Street, provided a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is completed with the Friends and no County funds are obligated. On April 23, 2023, the Board again gave direction to staff regarding an MOU with the Friends, and the transfer and merging of property to prepare for the branch expansion project at no cost to the General Fund.

The Friends have now submitted building plans to the City of Fort Bragg for the "Ft. Bragg Library Addition." We understand the Friends would like to break ground on this project within the next few months. However, the Board of Supervisors' expectation that an MOU be developed between the Friends and the County has not yet been fulfilled. The MOU will ensure the library expansion project successfully benefits the community and the County Library for decades to come.

The MOU would ensure clarity as to how this new Fort Bragg Library Addition will be paid for, built, maintained, and operated. The MOU could reflect Mendocino County facility standards and coordinate review of plans and building materials with County staff. There is reference on the plans for a "Phase II" that would physically link the addition to the existing library; the MOU can address current expectations as to the conditions that would allow this to happen. Until the buildings are physically linked, the MOU should also provide clarity as to the way these buildings would independently function. From a review of the existing plans, it isn't clear where the primary public entrance would be to the addition before Phase II is completed. A final, significant issue the MOU would address is whether this project will trigger statutory prevailing wage requirements.

I'd like to schedule a meeting as soon as possible to begin discussions on the content of an MOU as an expectation of the Board. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. I look forward to working together and the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Mellisa Hannum
County Librarian/Director