

Darcie Antle
Chief Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

CONTACT INFORMATION
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010
Ukiah, California 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4441
FAX: (707) 463-7237
Email: bos@mendocinocounty.gov
Web: www.mendocinocounty.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Mendocino will conduct a public hearing to establish a new special benefit assessment for the operation and maintenance of Willits Creek and FirCo Emergency Access Routes on July 23, 2024 at 9 a.m. located at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070, Ukiah, CA 95482.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors proposes to establish a special benefit assessment pursuant to the provisions of the Benefit Assessment Act of 1982, California Government Code §§ 54703, et seq., to fund road repairs and ongoing maintenance of the Willits Creeks and FirCo Emergency Access Routes (EARs) for safe access and passage through established emergency routes.

The reason for levying the special benefit assessment within the Brooktrails, Spring Creek, Sylvandale, and Gates Subdivisions is to maintain access alternatives for ingress/egress of equipment and resources during emergency events (primarily dry weather access during wildfires) and to operate and maintain drainage and flood control for the alternative access roads.

The special benefit assessment will provide enhanced access alternatives for ingress/egress of equipment and resources by establishing regular operation and maintenance of designated road surfaces, drainage, flood control, and vegetation on the FirCo Haul Road and the Willits Creek Trail routes so that they may be used by emergency service vehicles in case of an emergency.

The rate of the special benefit assessment is set at \$30.88 per developed parcel and \$1.39 per undeveloped parcel, until improved, with the ability to make annual increases each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the West Region. The proposed assessment is set to recover immediate road repairs needed for drainage and to install, repair, and maintain culverts, perform roadside fuel clearing, and install new gates and turnouts in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7 Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 State Minimum Fire Safe Standards and includes costs for ongoing routine maintenance such as vegetation firebreak maintenance and road surfacing and drainage conduit function. The proposed benefit assessment term is set at 20 years. The total amount of the assessment against all parcels receiving a special benefit is \$56,735 per year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that prior to making a final determination thereon, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will establish a new special benefit assessment for the operation and maintenance of Willits Creek and FirCo emergency access routes. Said Public Hearing will commence on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070, Ukiah, CA. The hearing may be continued from day to day, commencing at 9:00 a.m., until concluded but not to exceed a total of ten calendar days.

Meetings are live streamed and available for viewing online on the Mendocino County YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/MendocinoCountyVideo> or by toll-free, telephonic live stream at 888-544-8306

The public may participate digitally in meetings in lieu of personal attendance. Comment may be made in any of the following ways: via written comment to bos@mendocinocounty.gov, through our online eComment platform at <https://mendocino.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, through voicemail messaging by calling 707-234-6333, or by telephone via telecomment. Information regarding telecomment participation can be found at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/agendas-and-minutes>

Questions regarding the Public Hearing may be directed to the Executive Office at 707-463-4441.

DARCIE ANTLE
Clerk of the Board

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GLENN MCGOURTY
First District

MAUREEN MULHEREN
Second District

JOHN HASCHAK
Third District

DAN GJERDE
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Fifth District



**Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment
for the Willits Creek and Firco Emergency Access Routes**

PROPOSITION 218 NOTICE & BENEFIT ASSESSMENT BALLOT PROCEDURES

Why did you receive this ballot?

On May 21, 2024, by its adoption of Resolution No. [##-###], the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors proposed to establish a special benefit assessment pursuant to the provisions of the Benefit Assessment Act of 1982.

The enclosed ballot is for the use of the property owner(s) who will receive a special benefit as a result of the proposed special benefit assessment which has been proposed for private road maintenance over two alternative routes that can be used for emergency services traffic; routes commonly referred to as the FirCo Haul Road and the Willits Creek Trail Road. This private road maintenance over two alternative routes is being proposed as a means to protect area occupants by reducing emergency equipment traffic over the County maintained public roads serving the following areas:

Brooktrails, Spring Creek, Sylvandale, and Gates Subdivisions

The reason that an assessment is proposed for your parcel, or parcels, is that many property owners and/or registered voters within the aforementioned areas have asked the County of Mendocino to provide the above-described alternative routes. Based on this request, the Board of Supervisors has determined that your parcel, or parcels, is/are specially benefitted by the proposed FirCo Haul Road and the Willits Creek Trail Road maintenance service if provided.

The basis upon which the proposed assessment was calculated was determined by preparing a budget with the estimated annual costs to provide private road maintenance service including vegetation clearance, road drainage ditches and conduit cleaning and replacement, and road surface gravel and grading treatments. Said maintenance services will ensure that alternative dry weather access is at the ready for emergency equipment over FirCo Haul Road and the Willits Creek Trail Road in order for evacuation traffic to have full use of 3.5 miles of Sherwood Road from the Poppy Drive intersection to North Main Street Willits. The annual cost was divided between the parcels that receive a special benefit from the aforementioned maintenance services.

The proposed special benefit assessment in fiscal year 2024/25 is \$30.88 per improved parcel and \$1.39 for unimproved parcel. For each fiscal year after 2024/25, the special benefit assessment will be \$30.88 per year assessment for improved parcels and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels until improved—along with the ability to make annual increases based on the CPI as necessary—for ongoing routine private road maintenance service including vegetation clearance, road drainage ditches and conduit cleaning and replacement, road surface gravel and grading treatments.

The total amount of the special benefit assessment against all parcels receiving the special benefit is \$56,735 per year. The amount chargeable to your parcel is \$30.88.

The special benefit assessment rate may be increased by a percentage that does not exceed the percentage increase in Consumer Price Index for the Western Region (the "CPI"), most recently published for each applicable fiscal year by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor and its value

twelve months before. The assessment rate will be increased only when necessary to meet approved expenses, and would not increase automatically each year. If in any year the assessment rate is not increased, or is increased by an amount less than the increase in the CPI, the difference between the rate of increase in the assessment rate and the rate of increase in the CPI will remain available for use in future years to raise the assessment rate as necessary to meet approved expenses. The Engineers Report anticipates future projects beyond normal routine maintenance that could result in a needed assessment rate above CPI and in such case the assessment cannot be raised without another vote; however, the full incremental applications of CPI will be applied until those future project needs exceed the ability to meet needs and only then will an increase another vote be pursued.

How long will the assessment last?

This \$30.88 per year assessment for improved parcels and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels until improved - along with the ability to make annual increases based on the CPI as necessary-- is set at 20 years with an assessment expiration at the end of fiscal year 2044/2045. Unimproved parcels that are later improved will be assessed \$30.88 per year after the improvement. Assessments cannot be raised beyond the annual CPI without another vote.

A "YES" vote means:

A "Yes" vote for the assessment means:

The County is authorized to levy \$30.88 per year assessment for improved parcels and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels until improved - along with the ability to make annual increases based on the CPI as necessary, effective for twenty years. Unimproved parcels that are later improved will be assessed \$30.88 per year after the improvement. Assessments cannot be raised beyond the annual CPI without another vote.

A "NO" vote means:

A "No" vote for the assessment means:

This \$30.88 per year assessment for improved parcels and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels, until improved may not be levied and the private road maintenance over two alternative routes to be used for emergency services traffic will not be performed by the County if a majority of the votes returned oppose the assessment.

Who may complete a ballot?

A special benefit assessment ballot may be completed by (1) sole owner, (2) an owner acting on behalf of a spouse who holds a community property interest, all joint tenants, or all tenants in common, (3) a general partner or legal representative of a corporate general partner, (4) a legal representative of a corporate landowner, trust, estate, or public agency, or (5) as a tenant of the parcel whose lease or other rental agreement expressly requires that the tenant directly pay assessments, such as the proposed assessment.

Proportional assessment ballots

If a parcel has multiple owners, any owner may request a proportional assessment ballot. If the ownership interest of the owner is not shown on the last equalized secured property tax assessment roll, such request must include evidence, satisfactory to the County, of the owner's proportional rights in the parcel. The County will provide the proportional ballot to the owner at the address shown on the assessment roll. Any request for a ballot to be mailed to another location must be made in writing and must include evidence, satisfactory to the County, of the identity of the person requesting the ballot. Each proportional ballot will be marked to show the date on which the ballot was provided, to identify it as a proportional ballot and to indicate the owner's proportional rights in the parcel. The County will keep a record of each proportional ballot provided to an owner.

Duplicate ballots

If an assessment ballot is lost, withdrawn, destroyed, or never received, the County will mail or otherwise provide a duplicate ballot to the owner upon receipt of a request in writing delivered to the County Executive Office. The duplicate ballot will be marked to show the date on which the ballot was mailed or provided and to identify it as a duplicate ballot or a duplicate proportional ballot.

Only assessment ballots provided by the County will be accepted

The County will only accept ballots mailed or otherwise provided to owners by the County. No facsimile, mechanically duplicated, or other ballots will be accepted.

Return of ballots**Who may return ballots?**

An assessment ballot may be returned by the owner of the parcel or by anyone authorized by the owner to return the ballot.

Where to return ballots

Ballots may be mailed to the address indicated on the ballot. Ballots may also be delivered in person to the Mendocino County Registrar of Voters located at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, Ukiah, CA 95482 or Brooktrails Community Service District located at 24860 Birch Street, Willits, CA 95490 before the close of the public hearing on July 23, 2024.

When to return ballots

All returned ballots must be received by Mendocino County Registrar of Voters before the Board of Supervisors closes the public hearing on the proposed assessment. Mailed ballots received on the hearing date will only be counted if the ballots are received by the Mendocino County Registrar of Voters before the conclusion of the public hearing. The County makes no representation whether the public input portion of the public hearing will be concluded on the date scheduled for commencement of the public hearing or continued to a later date.

Marking and signing the ballot

To complete an assessment ballot, the owner of the parcel must (1) mark the appropriate box supporting or opposing the proposed assessment, and (2) sign, under penalty of perjury, the statement on the ballot that the person completing the ballot is the owner of the parcel or the owner's authorized representative. Only one box may be marked on each ballot. Ballots must be completed in ink.

Withdrawal of assessment ballots

After returning an assessment ballot to the County, the person who signed it may withdraw the ballot by submitting a written statement to the County directing staff to withdraw the ballot before the close of the public hearing on the proposed assessment. When ballots for the assessment are tabulated, County staff will segregate withdrawn ballots from all other returned ballots. County staff will retain all withdrawn ballots and will indicate on the face of such withdrawn ballots that they have been withdrawn. If any ballot has been withdrawn, the person withdrawing the ballot may request a duplicate ballot.

Changes to assessment ballots

To change a ballot that has been submitted, the person who has signed it must (1) request the ballot be withdrawn, (2) request a duplicate ballot, and (3) return the duplicate ballot fully completed by the deadline noted above. Each of these steps must be completed as set forth above.

Which assessment ballots will be counted?

Only ballots which are received by the County in compliance with these procedures will be counted. Ballots received by the Mendocino County Registrar of Voters after the close of the public input portion of the public hearing on the proposed assessment will not be counted. Ballots which are not signed by the owner will not be counted. Ballots with no boxes marked, or with more than one box marked, will not be counted. Ballots withdrawn in accordance with these procedures will not be counted. None of these is a valid ballot.

The County will keep a record of each proportional or duplicate ballot mailed or otherwise provided to an owner and will verify, prior to counting any duplicate ballot, that only one ballot has been returned for the parcel (or for an owner in the case of proportional ballots).

The following rules will apply if more than one valid ballot for a parcel (or owner) has been returned. If a non-duplicate ballot has been returned, the County will count the non-duplicate ballot and disregard all duplicate ballots. If only duplicate ballots have been returned, the County will count the duplicate ballot first issued by the County and disregard subsequently issued duplicate ballots. If an owner returns both a nonproportional ballot and a proportional ballot, the County will count the proportional ballot and disregard the non-proportional ballot.

When and where ballots will be tabulated

The tabulation of ballots will be performed, in view of those present, at the public hearing following the close of the public input portion of the public hearing. The public hearing may be continued from time to time for the purpose of tabulating ballots. Ballots will not be unsealed until the tabulation begins.

How ballots will be tabulated

The voting is weighted by the amount each property owner pays. The weighting of the vote is required by Proposition 218, which passed in 1996.

During and after the tabulation, the assessment ballots and the information used to determine the weight of each ballot shall be treated as disclosable public records, as defined in Govt. Code Section 6252, and equally available for inspection by the proponents and the opponents of the proposed assessment. The ballots shall be preserved for a minimum of two years, after which they may be destroyed as provided in the Govt. Code Sections 26202, 34090, and 60201.

Ballots may be counted by hand, by computer or by any other tabulating device. Ballots will be tabulated by adding the ballots received in opposition to the assessment and adding the ballots received in favor of the assessment. Ballots shall be weighted according to the proportional financial obligation of the property with respect to which they are cast; provided, however, that proportional ballots shall also be weighted with respect to the ownership interests of each proportional ballot submitted. If one or more proportional ballots are received for a parcel and a non-proportional ballot is returned for the parcel, the non-proportional ballot will be disregarded (if the same owner has returned a proportional ballot) or treated as a proportional ballot (if the same owner has not returned a proportional ballot).

Who will tabulate the ballots?

Ballots will be tabulated by designated County staff who do not have a vested interest in the outcome of the proposed assessment. County staff may be assisted by consultants to the County.

Results of tabulation

The results of the tabulation will be announced following the completion of the tabulation and entered in the minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting. If ballots submitted in opposition to the proposed assessment exceed ballots submitted in favor of it (as tabulated above), the assessment will not be imposed.

Resolution of disputes

In the event of a dispute regarding whether the signer of a ballot is the owner of the parcel to which the ballot applies, County staff will make such determination from the last equalized assessment roll and any evidence of ownership submitted to the County before the conclusion of the public hearing. The County will be under no duty to obtain or consider any other evidence as to ownership of property and its determination of ownership will be final and conclusive.

In the event of a dispute regarding whether the signer of a ballot is an authorized representative of the owner of the parcel, County staff may rely on the statement on the ballot signed under penalty of perjury that the person completing the ballot is the owner's authorized representative and any evidence submitted to the County before the conclusion of the public hearing. The County has no duty to obtain or consider any other evidence as to whether the signer of the ballot is an authorized representative of the owner and its determination will be final and conclusive. Any other dispute shall be resolved by the County staff.

Public record

During and after the tabulation, assessment ballots shall be treated as disclosable public records and be equally available for inspection by the proponents and opponents of the proposed assessment.

Public hearing

The Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing on July 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070, Ukiah, CA 95482.

You are invited, but not required, to attend the public hearing and to present oral or written testimony to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to challenge the Board of Supervisors' action on these matters in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the County at or prior to the public hearing. At the public hearing, the County will consider all objections or protests, if any, to the proposed assessment. The public hearing may be continued from time to time. During the public hearing, the Board will receive any last minute ballots and count the ballots. All ballots must be in the Registrar of Voters possession by the end of the public hearing in order to be counted.

For More Information

Please consult a copy of the Engineer's Report for more detailed explanation at:

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/economic-development>

Mendocino County Executive Office
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4441

EMAIL: econdev@mendocinocounty.gov

Enclosed you will find a ballot, which is incorporated into this notice by reference, on which you may indicate your support for or opposition to the proposed assessment.



**Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment
for the Willits Creek and Firco Emergency Access Routes**

PROPOSITION 218 NOTICE & BENEFIT ASSESSMENT BALLOT PROCEDURES

Why did you receive this ballot?

On May 21, 2024, by its adoption of Resolution No. [##-###], the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors proposed to establish a special benefit assessment pursuant to the provisions of the Benefit Assessment Act of 1982.

The enclosed ballot is for the use of the property owner(s) who will receive a special benefit as a result of the proposed special benefit assessment which has been proposed for private road maintenance over two alternative routes that can be used for emergency services traffic; routes commonly referred to as the FirCo Haul Road and the Willits Creek Trail Road. This private road maintenance over two alternative routes is being proposed as a means to protect area occupants by reducing emergency equipment traffic over the County maintained public roads serving the following areas:

Brooktrails, Spring Creek, Sylvandale, and Gates Subdivisions

The reason that an assessment is proposed for your parcel, or parcels, is that many property owners and/or registered voters within the aforementioned areas have asked the County of Mendocino to provide the above-described alternative routes. Based on this request, the Board of Supervisors has determined that your parcel, or parcels, is/are specially benefitted by the proposed FirCo Haul Road and the Willits Creek Trail Road maintenance service if provided.

The basis upon which the proposed assessment was calculated was determined by preparing a budget with the estimated annual costs to provide private road maintenance service including vegetation clearance, road drainage ditches and conduit cleaning and replacement, and road surface gravel and grading treatments. Said maintenance services will ensure that alternative dry weather access is at the ready for emergency equipment over FirCo Haul Road and the Willits Creek Trail Road in order for evacuation traffic to have full use of 3.5 miles of Sherwood Road from the Poppy Drive intersection to North Main Street Willits. The annual cost was divided between the parcels that receive a special benefit from the aforementioned maintenance services.

The proposed special benefit assessment in fiscal year 2024/25 is \$30.88 per improved parcel and \$1.39 for unimproved parcel. For each fiscal year after 2024/25, the special benefit assessment will be \$30.88 per year assessment for improved parcels and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels until improved—along with the ability to make annual increases based on the CPI as necessary—for ongoing routine private road maintenance service including vegetation clearance, road drainage ditches and conduit cleaning and replacement, road surface gravel and grading treatments.

The total amount of the special benefit assessment against all parcels receiving the special benefit is \$56,735 per year. The amount chargeable to your parcel is \$1.39.

The special benefit assessment rate may be increased by a percentage that does not exceed the percentage increase in Consumer Price Index for the Western Region (the "CPI"), most recently published for each applicable fiscal year by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor and its value

twelve months before. The assessment rate will be increased only when necessary to meet approved expenses, and would not increase automatically each year. If in any year the assessment rate is not increased, or is increased by an amount less than the increase in the CPI, the difference between the rate of increase in the assessment rate and the rate of increase in the CPI will remain available for use in future years to raise the assessment rate as necessary to meet approved expenses. The Engineers Report anticipates future projects beyond normal routine maintenance that could result in a needed assessment rate above CPI and in such case the assessment cannot be raised without another vote; however, the full incremental applications of CPI will be applied until those future project needs exceed the ability to meet needs and only then will an increase another vote be pursued.

How long will the assessment last?

This \$30.88 per year assessment for improved parcels and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels until improved - along with the ability to make annual increases based on the CPI as necessary-- is set at 20 years with an assessment expiration at the end of fiscal year 2044/2045. Unimproved parcels that are later improved will be assessed \$30.88 per year after the improvement. Assessments cannot be raised beyond the annual CPI without another vote.

A "YES" vote means:

A "Yes" vote for the assessment means:

The County is authorized to levy \$30.88 per year assessment for improved parcels and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels until improved - along with the ability to make annual increases based on the CPI as necessary, effective for twenty years. Unimproved parcels that are later improved will be assessed \$30.88 per year after the improvement. Assessments cannot be raised beyond the annual CPI without another vote.

A "NO" vote means:

A "No" vote for the assessment means:

This \$30.88 per year assessment for improved parcels and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels, until improved may not be levied and the private road maintenance over two alternative routes to be used for emergency services traffic will not be performed by the County if a majority of the votes returned oppose the assessment.

Who may complete a ballot?

A special benefit assessment ballot may be completed by (1) sole owner, (2) an owner acting on behalf of a spouse who holds a community property interest, all joint tenants, or all tenants in common, (3) a general partner or legal representative of a corporate general partner, (4) a legal representative of a corporate landowner, trust, estate, or public agency, or (5) as a tenant of the parcel whose lease or other rental agreement expressly requires that the tenant directly pay assessments, such as the proposed assessment.

Proportional assessment ballots

If a parcel has multiple owners, any owner may request a proportional assessment ballot. If the ownership interest of the owner is not shown on the last equalized secured property tax assessment roll, such request must include evidence, satisfactory to the County, of the owner's proportional rights in the parcel. The County will provide the proportional ballot to the owner at the address shown on the assessment roll. Any request for a ballot to be mailed to another location must be made in writing and must include evidence, satisfactory to the County, of the identity of the person requesting the ballot. Each proportional ballot will be marked to show the date on which the ballot was provided, to identify it as a proportional ballot and to indicate the owner's proportional rights in the parcel. The County will keep a record of each proportional ballot provided to an owner.

Duplicate ballots

If an assessment ballot is lost, withdrawn, destroyed, or never received, the County will mail or otherwise provide a duplicate ballot to the owner upon receipt of a request in writing delivered to the County Executive Office. The duplicate ballot will be marked to show the date on which the ballot was mailed or provided and to identify it as a duplicate ballot or a duplicate proportional ballot.

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The County will only accept ballots mailed or otherwise provided to owners by the County. No facsimile, mechanically duplicated, or other ballots will be accepted.

Return of ballots**Who may return ballots?**

An assessment ballot may be returned by the owner of the parcel or by anyone authorized by the owner to return the ballot.

Where to return ballots

Ballots may be mailed to the address indicated on the ballot. Ballots may also be delivered in person to the Mendocino County Registrar of Voters located at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, Ukiah, CA 95482 or Brooktrails Community Service District located at 24860 Birch Street, Willits, CA 95490 before the close of the public hearing on July 23, 2024.

When to return ballots

All returned ballots must be received by Mendocino County Registrar of Voters before the Board of Supervisors closes the public hearing on the proposed assessment. Mailed ballots received on the hearing date will only be counted if the ballots are received by the Mendocino County Registrar of Voters before the conclusion of the public hearing. The County makes no representation whether the public input portion of the public hearing will be concluded on the date scheduled for commencement of the public hearing or continued to a later date.

Marking and signing the ballot

To complete an assessment ballot, the owner of the parcel must (1) mark the appropriate box supporting or opposing the proposed assessment, and (2) sign, under penalty of perjury, the statement on the ballot that the person completing the ballot is the owner of the parcel or the owner's authorized representative. Only one box may be marked on each ballot. Ballots must be completed in ink.

Withdrawal of assessment ballots

After returning an assessment ballot to the County, the person who signed it may withdraw the ballot by submitting a written statement to the County directing staff to withdraw the ballot before the close of the public hearing on the proposed assessment. When ballots for the assessment are tabulated, County staff will segregate withdrawn ballots from all other returned ballots. County staff will retain all withdrawn ballots and will indicate on the face of such withdrawn ballots that they have been withdrawn. If any ballot has been withdrawn, the person withdrawing the ballot may request a duplicate ballot.

Changes to assessment ballots

To change a ballot that has been submitted, the person who has signed it must (1) request the ballot be withdrawn, (2) request a duplicate ballot, and (3) return the duplicate ballot fully completed by the deadline noted above. Each of these steps must be completed as set forth above.

Which assessment ballots will be counted?

Only ballots which are received by the County in compliance with these procedures will be counted. Ballots received by the Mendocino County Registrar of Voters after the close of the public input portion of the public hearing on the proposed assessment will not be counted. Ballots which are not signed by the owner will not be counted. Ballots with no boxes marked, or with more than one box marked, will not be counted. Ballots withdrawn in accordance with these procedures will not be counted. None of these is a valid ballot.

The County will keep a record of each proportional or duplicate ballot mailed or otherwise provided to an owner and will verify, prior to counting any duplicate ballot, that only one ballot has been returned for the parcel (or for an owner in the case of proportional ballots).

The following rules will apply if more than one valid ballot for a parcel (or owner) has been returned. If a non-duplicate ballot has been returned, the County will count the non-duplicate ballot and disregard all duplicate ballots. If only duplicate ballots have been returned, the County will count the duplicate ballot first issued by the County and disregard subsequently issued duplicate ballots. If an owner returns both a nonproportional ballot and a proportional ballot, the County will count the proportional ballot and disregard the non-proportional ballot.

When and where ballots will be tabulated

The tabulation of ballots will be performed, in view of those present, at the public hearing following the close of the public input portion of the public hearing. The public hearing may be continued from time to time for the purpose of tabulating ballots. Ballots will not be unsealed until the tabulation begins.

How ballots will be tabulated

The voting is weighted by the amount each property owner pays. The weighting of the vote is required by Proposition 218, which passed in 1996.

During and after the tabulation, the assessment ballots and the information used to determine the weight of each ballot shall be treated as disclosable public records, as defined in Govt. Code Section 6252, and equally available for inspection by the proponents and the opponents of the proposed assessment. The ballots shall be preserved for a minimum of two years, after which they may be destroyed as provided in the Govt. Code Sections 26202, 34090, and 60201.

Ballots may be counted by hand, by computer or by any other tabulating device. Ballots will be tabulated by adding the ballots received in opposition to the assessment and adding the ballots received in favor of the assessment. Ballots shall be weighted according to the proportional financial obligation of the property with respect to which they are cast; provided, however, that proportional ballots shall also be weighted with respect to the ownership interests of each proportional ballot submitted. If one or more proportional ballots are received for a parcel and a non-proportional ballot is returned for the parcel, the non-proportional ballot will be disregarded (if the same owner has returned a proportional ballot) or treated as a proportional ballot (if the same owner has not returned a proportional ballot).

Who will tabulate the ballots?

Ballots will be tabulated by designated County staff who do not have a vested interest in the outcome of the proposed assessment. County staff may be assisted by consultants to the County.

Results of tabulation

The results of the tabulation will be announced following the completion of the tabulation and entered in the minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting. If ballots submitted in opposition to the proposed assessment exceed ballots submitted in favor of it (as tabulated above), the assessment will not be imposed.

Resolution of disputes

In the event of a dispute regarding whether the signer of a ballot is the owner of the parcel to which the ballot applies, County staff will make such determination from the last equalized assessment roll and any evidence of ownership submitted to the County before the conclusion of the public hearing. The County will be under no duty to obtain or consider any other evidence as to ownership of property and its determination of ownership will be final and conclusive.

In the event of a dispute regarding whether the signer of a ballot is an authorized representative of the owner of the parcel, County staff may rely on the statement on the ballot signed under penalty of perjury that the person completing the ballot is the owner's authorized representative and any evidence submitted to the County before the conclusion of the public hearing. The County has no duty to obtain or consider any other evidence as to whether the signer of the ballot is an authorized representative of the owner and its determination will be final and conclusive. Any other dispute shall be resolved by the County staff.

Public record

During and after the tabulation, assessment ballots shall be treated as disclosable public records and be equally available for inspection by the proponents and opponents of the proposed assessment.

Public hearing

The Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing on July 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070, Ukiah, CA 95482.

You are invited, but not required, to attend the public hearing and to present oral or written testimony to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to challenge the Board of Supervisors' action on these matters in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the County at or prior to the public hearing. At the public hearing, the County will consider all objections or protests, if any, to the proposed assessment. The public hearing may be continued from time to time. During the public hearing, the Board will receive any last minute ballots and count the ballots. All ballots must be in the Registrar of Voters possession by the end of the public hearing in order to be counted.

For More Information

Please consult a copy of the Engineer's Report for more detailed explanation at:

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/economic-development>

Mendocino County Executive Office
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4441

EMAIL: econdev@mendocinocounty.gov

Enclosed you will find a ballot, which is incorporated into this notice by reference, on which you may indicate your support for or opposition to the proposed assessment.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BALLOT

Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment
for the Willits Creek and Firco Emergency Access Routes - 2024-2025 Tax Year

Return of Ballots:

Ballots may be mailed to the address below	Ballots may be delivered in person at the locations below
Mendocino County Registrar of Voters 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020 Ukiah, CA 95482 Attn: Sherwood Corridor Special Assessment	Brooktrails Community Service District 24860 Birch Street, Willits, CA 95490 (M-F, 8am-5pm) Mendocino County Registrar of Voters 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, Ukiah, CA 95482

SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AMOUNT: \$30.88 for improved parcels per year and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels, until improved, with the ability to make annual increases each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the West Region from April of the prior assessment year to the current assessment year. TOTAL annual maintenance and administration costs is \$56,735. The proposed benefit assessment term is set at 20 years. Unimproved parcels that are later improved will be assessed \$30.88 per year after the improvement.

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER (APN): 000000000
SITE ADDRESS: 0000 POPPY TER, WILLITS
ASSESSMENT FOR YOUR PARCEL IS \$30.88.

Ballot Question:

Shall the County of Mendocino be authorized to levy a Special Benefit Assessment ("Assessment") to solely be utilized to finance the maintenance of the Willits Creek and Firco Emergency Access Routes road surfaces, drainage, and vegetation to enhance emergency equipment ingress and population escape egress during wildfires? The new assessment will be \$30.88 for improved and \$1.39 for unimproved parcels—with the ability to make annual increases based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the West Region as necessary—the basis upon which the proposed assessment was calculated is contained on page 5 of the engineer's report located at <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/economic-development>. The proposed special benefit assessment term is set at 20 years. Unimproved parcels that are later improved will be assessed \$30.88 per year after the improvement.

☐ YES

☐ NO

Ballot Declaration:

I, the undersigned, declare that I am authorized to cast all the vote on the assessment for the parcel identified by the Tax Parcel Number set forth above as (1) sole owner, (2) an owner acting on behalf of a spouse who holds a community property interest, all joint tenants, or all tenants in common, (3) a general partner or legal representative of a corporate general partner, (4) a legal representative of a corporate landowner, trust, estate, or public agency, or (5) as a tenant of the parcel whose lease or other rental agreement expressly requires that the tenant directly pay assessments, such as the proposed assessment.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this declaration made this _____ day of _____, 2024, at _____, _____ is true and correct.

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BALLOT

Sherwood Corridor Special Benefit Assessment
for the Willits Creek and Firco Emergency Access Routes - 2024-2025 Tax Year

Return of Ballots:

Ballots may be mailed to the address below	Ballots may be delivered in person at the locations below
Mendocino County Registrar of Voters 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020 Ukiah, CA 95482 Attn: Sherwood Corridor Special Assessment	Brooktrails Community Service District 24860 Birch Street, Willits, CA 95490 (M-F, 8am-5pm) Mendocino County Registrar of Voters 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020, Ukiah, CA 95482

SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AMOUNT: \$30.88 for improved parcels per year and \$1.39 per year for unimproved parcels, until improved, with the ability to make annual increases each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the West Region from April of the prior assessment year to the current assessment year. TOTAL annual maintenance and administration costs is \$56,735. The proposed benefit assessment term is set at 20 years. Unimproved parcels that are later improved will be assessed \$30.88 per year after the improvement.

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER (APN): 000000000
SITE ADDRESS: 0000 POPPY TER, WILLITS
ASSESSMENT FOR YOUR PARCEL IS \$1.39.

Ballot Question:

Shall the County of Mendocino be authorized to levy a Special Benefit Assessment ("Assessment") to solely be utilized to finance the maintenance of the Willits Creek and Firco Emergency Access Routes road surfaces, drainage, and vegetation to enhance emergency equipment ingress and population escape egress during wildfires? The new assessment will be \$30.88 for improved and \$1.39 for unimproved parcels—with the ability to make annual increases based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the West Region as necessary—the basis upon which the proposed assessment was calculated is contained on page 5 of the engineer's report located at <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/economic-development>. The proposed special benefit assessment term is set at 20 years. Unimproved parcels that are later improved will be assessed \$30.88 per year after the improvement.

☐ YES

☐ NO

Ballot Declaration:

I, the undersigned, declare that I am authorized to cast all the vote on the assessment for the parcel identified by the Tax Parcel Number set forth above as (1) sole owner, (2) an owner acting on behalf of a spouse who holds a community property interest, all joint tenants, or all tenants in common, (3) a general partner or legal representative of a corporate general partner, (4) a legal representative of a corporate landowner, trust, estate, or public agency, or (5) as a tenant of the parcel whose lease or other rental agreement expressly requires that the tenant directly pay assessments, such as the proposed assessment.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this declaration made this _____ day of _____, 2024, at _____, _____ is true and correct.

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____