



Redwood Valley Grange No. 382

8650 East Road / P.O. Box 464, Redwood Valley CA 95470

August 16th, 2021

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

This is a funding proposal for the needs of the Redwood Valley Grange.

Background: The Redwood Valley Grange is part of a community of local Granges. There are 8 in Mendocino County, all of which are part of the State and National Grange: Little Lake, Laytonville, Fort Bragg, Whitesboro, Manchester, Anderson Valley and Redwood Valley. Officially named The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, the Grange is a social organization in the United States that encourages families to band together to promote the economic and political well-being of the community and agriculture. It dates back to 1867 and was created to help the devastated farms after the Civil War.

The Grange is non-partisan and non-denominational, The National Grange has helped secure passage of many national laws such as the 1890 Sherman Anti-Trust Act, the 1913 Federal Income Tax, 1919 Universal Suffrage, 1933 Farm Credit Act and 1941 Livestock Theft Act. In 1945 the Grange advised the US delegation at the founding of the UN. In the 1960's-1970's, the Grange helped develop Ag programs for Peace Corps.

Our Redwood Valley Grange has been here since 1917. The Grange hall on East Road was built in 1921 on land donated by local rancher J.M. Wooley, who also donated the land the now empty Redwood Valley School sits on. The Grange hall and land is owned by The Redwood Valley Grange.

Our local Grange has been a vital community presence for years. Early Grangers worked with other citizens to bring improvements to the valley such as roads, bridges, postal service, a fire department, electrical service and a dog catcher among others.

It has functioned as a community center which was exemplified in the aftermath of the October 2017 Redwood Complex Fire which burned hundreds of homes and killed 9 individuals in Redwood Valley. The Grange opened its doors as soon as repopulation occurred and served free hot meals and meals to go for weeks. Folks could use computers, recharge cell phones, find lost pets, connect with neighbors, get free haircuts, counseling and countless other services. It served as a donation/distribution center for supplies and food. Red Cross and FEMA used the hall to support survivors. County officials used the hall to hold community meetings and to provide services. NCO, Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Adventist Health and other community organizations also used the hall. All of this was done at no charge to anyone.

Here is the problem: The Redwood Valley Grange is a non-profit entity. The main source of income for paying the bills has been hall rentals. Hall rentals have ceased with the pandemic, along with the income. It costs the Grange approximately \$20/hour when the building is used. The Grange hall is 100 years old this month and is in real need of upgrades and repairs.

- The kitchen needs an upgrade and plans are in the works to upgrade to commercial standards. County Environmental Health has been encouraging this as our county has a shortage of code kitchens. The Grange has applied for a permit to operate a commercial kitchen and has been cleared to begin construction. The cost of this upgrade including electrical service upgrades will be approximately **\$500,000**.
- Two of the three HVAC units need replacing. Both are over 20 years old. Estimates from contractors are approximately **\$25,000**.
- In order to apply for grant funding, ADA compliance is required. An inspection revealed compliance work needed: plumbing in the restrooms, door hardware and parking lot/access modifications. Estimate **\$20,000**
- The Masonite siding needs to be replaced in sections and needs a coat of paint. Estimate **\$5000**. In addition:
 - There are structural and foundation issues which need to be addressed.
 - The flooring in main hall needs replacement.
 - The ceiling in the main hall needs replacement.
 - The main hall has no insulation at all.

The total need amounts to **\$550,000**.

The benefits: Redwood Valley Grange will continue to be a vital community center serving the community in the many ways it does including emergency services and vital community meetings.

Groups who have regularly used the hall can continue to do so including: RVMAC, 4-H, Sons of Italy, Yoga for the People, Mendocino County Animal Shelter Care-a-Van mobile spay/neuter clinic, Survivors of Suicide, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, among others.

Community events will continue to happen such as Local Women's Music Festival, Annual Winter Craft Fair, Family Game Night, Puzzle, Produce and Seed Exchanges, informational seminars & workshops on drought, wildlife control, gardening and consensus building to name a few. Musician Gear Swaps, Rummage Sales, Art Shows, dances, concerts and of course the famous monthly Pancake Breakfasts will continue. The Grange is also a polling location during elections.

The hall will also continue to be rented as a venue for private parties, weddings, receptions, baptism parties, Quinceaneras, memorials and other events. The hall will continue to be used by the Hispanic community for many of their events and celebrations. The Redwood Valley Grange prides itself on being able to rent the hall at comparatively low prices, making it available to everyone. It is one of very few venues in the area.

Another major benefit to the local community and the larger County community will be the addition of a commercial kitchen. Food trucks and other food vendors will be able to use the Grange kitchen as a required commissary kitchen, of which there is a shortage in the county. The kitchen will also be rented out which will add to the income needed to run the Grange.

The Redwood Valley Grange has been serving our community for 100 years and wants to be here for the next 100 years. Please help us help the community by funding this request.

Respectfully submitted for the Redwood Valley Grange No. 382,

Marybeth Kelly

Secretary, Redwood Valley Grange