

Howard. N. Dashiell
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

Road Commissioner
County Engineer, RCE 42001
County Surveyor, PLS 7148



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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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VOICE (707) 463-4363 FAX (707) 463-5474

April 14, 2016

Carmel J. Angelo, CEO
Executive Office
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Mendocino Historic Review Board (MHRB) Appeal: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb bulb out, sidewalk segment, and switch back ADA ramp at the corner Main and Kasten Streets, Mendocino, CA

Dear Ms. Angelo:

On April 4, 2016, the Mendocino Historic Review Board (MHRB) approved our above-referenced project with the condition that we also build stairs. The adjacent property owner had said he would build stairs, however, on advice of counsel he decided he should not. From the beginning, MCDOT's project was to apply for and build an ADA ramp in conformance with current codes and standards, leaving an area for stairs if another applicant ever wanted to undertake such a project. MCDOT has concerns over item 9(b) of MHRB's decision, specifically requiring MCDOT to build the stairs. Mendocino County Planning and Building requested that MCDOT prepare an appeal statement expressing our main concern or objection.

MCDOT does not feel that we are obligated to build stairs simply because the adjacent owner could not or would not do so. It is my opinion that it is better for the public welfare to build one good ADA compliant ramp, accessible for all pedestrian use, for which we have Caltrans standardized plans. Furthermore, as a Professional Engineer, I believe that putting in stairs, in addition to an ADA compliant ramp, could be confusing to visually-impaired pedestrians. Historically, there were never stairs at this location. MCDOT's project only replaces what existed in the past – the original wooden ramp and the more recent asphalt ramp – neither of which had stairs. Current codes and standard would not allow for the past ramps to be replaced as they existed historically. The MCDOT project provides access for all; therefore, we hope the Board of Supervisors will reverse the MHRB decision and allow our project to proceed without requiring MCDOT to add stairs.

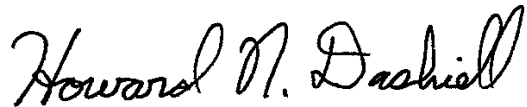
This project will construct an ADA compliant curb ramp leading to a new segment of sidewalk at the northeasterly corner of Kasten and Main Streets, adjacent to 45098 Main Street, in the town of Mendocino. The new segment of sidewalk will be 25 feet of sidewalk northerly on Kasten Street leading to a "switch-back" ADA compliant ramp to the existing upper level porch area.

Construction consists of an approximate 50 feet by 5 feet concrete pedestrian accessible path with curbs. We will construct the street curb return with a crosswalk connection and relocate the existing storm drain inlet to a curb inlet. Although not required to be approved by the Mendocino Historic Review Board, we will also construct a new storm drain to avoid existing improvements. This last storm drain is subject to modification based on underground conflicts.

In our MHRB application dated April 4, 2016, MCDOT indicated that when a stair project was proposed, we would remove or modify the wooden guide rail we installed when the noncompliant asphalt ramp was removed in the fall of 2015. As there is not a subsequent stair project planned and because the wooden guide rail provides additional safety assistance, MCDOT has modified our plans to leave the wooden guide rail in place indefinitely.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 707-463-4363.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard N. Dashiell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'H' and 'D'.

Howard N. Dashiell
Director