

Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council
Comments to the County of Mendocino
On the Municipal Advisory Council Policy
Submitted August 8, 2016

Discussion: The RVMAC met on August 2, 2016 to consider proposed language on the July 14, 2016 draft document of a Mendocino County Municipal Advisory Council Policy. The proposed language addresses the procedure for MACs to advise government entities and other organizations outside of the County government. The RVMAC offers the following input:

- Resolutions are formal tools used by governing bodies that are empowered to make decisions
- Municipal Advisory Councils are not governing bodies, but rather advisory bodies, composed of community volunteers, and are not empowered to make decisions
- Municipal Advisory Councils were established by California Code 31010 to create a community voice for unincorporated areas of a county "to advise".
- The July 14, 2016 draft document is clear about the advisory role of Municipal Advisory Councils in two instances as noted below:
 - Introduction: "While the concerns, insight, and discussions relayed by the MAC are key components in the deliberative process regarding the county zoning ordinance, the county general plan or local community plan, Members do not make or set County policies, ordinances or laws."
 - General Provisions 11.e: "In addition, a MAC may comment to government entities and other organizations outside of the County government on items *not specified* above by adopting a resolution that shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors that clearly states that views expressed are solely those of the said MAC and do not necessarily represent the official position of the County."

Recommendation: The RVMAC interpretation and understanding in this matter is that our voice to any entity is (1) always and only in an advisory capacity and (2) that it is the voice of the Redwood Valley community, period. The RVMAC declares that a resolution would create an additional and unnecessary step in our mandate to give voice to matters of concern to the Redwood Valley community.

The RVMAC urges the Board of Supervisors to allow for a simpler and more congenial way for MACs to address all government entities, including those to the Board of Supervisors.

Rather than create a resolution, the RVMAC proposes that a MAC give comment by writing a letter on its MAC letterhead stationery. When addressing entities other than the Board of Supervisors, the letter would clearly state that this advice is the voice of the specific MAC on a matter of concern for that community, and not necessarily the opinion of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.