

May 29, 2017

John McCowen

Chairman

Dan Hamburg

Supervisor, District 5

Board of Supervisors

County of Mendocino

RE: Economic Development and Financing Corporation and West Company Proposal

Mr. McCowen and Mr. Hamburg:

Our capacity to ignite economic development in our county is in a precarious state. Our county needs innovation, diversified growth and increased tax receipts to bolster general revenues and deliver much needed economic prosperity to the residents of our county.

Mendocino County has two organizations doing important work in economic development. One is focused on access to capital the other on microenterprise technical assistance. Both organizations are important contributors to economic development and each play a small part on diversified growth. We believe the time is right to consider a single comprehensive entity that will build capacity and generate revenue needed by the county and have meaningful impact on economic prosperity for our residences.

The Economic Development and Financing Corporation and West Company are requesting county financial support and recognition of a proposed alliance between the two organizations that will form one "go-to" Economic Development organization to serve the county. The objectives of the new alliance is to provide cities, county officials and business leaders with increased services and a single point of contact to help raise the economic vitality of Mendocino. We believe that the combined expertise of this alliance will make significant strides to foster business growth by streamlining engagement, synergizing communities and sharing outcomes.

After our meeting with you on April 27, both boards took action to engage a variety of stakeholders in the process of developing this proposal. They included city officials from Willits, Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Pt. Arena, as well as several business leaders in the community. Every individual cast a vote of support for the need to have a dynamic enterprise that will provide a single point of contact for robust, collaborative, economic development activity in Mendocino County.

We are grateful for your interest in this endeavor. Enclosed is our proposal for your consideration to secure earmarked funds for this effort. Our organizations plan to attend the June 6 public hearings however should any questions arise please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

John Goldsmith
Acting Chair, EDFC

Kevin Michel
Acting Chair, West Company