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To: <bos@mendocinocounty.org>

Date: 3/26/2018 8:49 AM

Subject: Library-Parks-Museum merger

Dear Board Members,

I urge you not to allow the proposed incorporation of the Public Library with our Parks Department and Museum. When Measure A came on the ballot I posted a sign in my front yard (which was in the trailer park two blocks north on Main Street) and talked about it with my neighbors, many of whom used the library but were confounded that it was open so rarely. Remember that? I moved to town in 2004 and my work schedule meant it was nearly impossible for me to check out a book, and people told me it used to be even worse than that in years past. Libraries matter; they are the intellectual heart of a community and in many ways a silent provider of services to the homeless, unemployed, and otherwise disenfranchised. Measure A has not solved every problem the library faces, but it has enabled them to reach the community with an expanded range of services. That's what I voted for.

If the Museum and Parks need funding, they can make each a similar case to the public. If they need access to more resources or would like to work cooperatively on projects, there's no need to combine all three under one umbrella to force a collective; let the participants choose how they wish to collaborate. In fact, if this is not just about giving two separate agencies access to funding intended for a third with limited or no accountability, prove it: Select a variety of projects to work on as a triad for a year, and if at the end of that time all three are better for the collaboration and no one group has been overdrawn upon, bring that before the public and I'll be happy to reconsider it. I can see many ways where working together would be beneficial, but I don't believe that's the intention behind this proposal. Measure A has given our community a revitalized library; it's what we asked for and what we have paid into with our tax dollars. Let that continue, and vote no on this incorporation.

Thank you,
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