



MENDOCINO COUNTY *MEMORANDUM*

Date: January 21, 2021

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor McCowen

Subject: **Second District Supervisor's Report**

Second District Supervisor Report:

- January 8 the Homeless Action Ad Hoc Committee (McCowen and Gjerde) met with the Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care (CoC) Strategic Planning Committee to participate in the review and approval of the prioritization of Goals, Strategies and Action Steps contained in the draft outline for Mendocino County's Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness. The CoC is working with consultant Mari Rodin who is assisting in writing the plan which incorporates the majority of the Marbut report recommendations.
- January 10 the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC) met in Willits with Kitchen Table Consulting acting as facilitators. There was lively discussion regarding the role of the MCCAAC committee in forming ad hoc committees vs. the forming of Focus Groups as described in the foundation documents for the MCCAAC. Draft bylaws were reviewed and continued to the next meeting. A highlight of the meeting was discussion by the members of their reasons for and interest in applying to serve on the MCCAAC. The MCCAAC agreed to hold regional meetings (Coastal, Willits, Ukiah) of the members prior to next meeting which will be in March.
- January 13 the North Coast Railroad Authority met in Eureka and heard updates regarding the construction of elements of the Humboldt Bay Trail which have moved forward following an NCRA led effort in 2013 which resulted in a community consensus including rail and trail advocates, Humboldt County, the cities of Eureka and Arcata, Cal-Trans, the Coastal Commission and the Humboldt Council of Governments and which has resulted in funding commitments to complete the 14.6 mile Humboldt Bay Trail. NCRA also received an update on progress in developing Final Bid Specifications for Ukiah Depot Improvements. Senator McGuire's office continues to assist in encouraging the Judicial Council of California (JCC) to take the necessary steps to approve moving forward with the completion of the Ukiah Depot project which has been at a standstill due to JCC refusal to release funds for work completed in 2017 and additional funding allocated to complete the balance of the infrastructure improvements. Senator McGuire's office and NCRA continue to work with the State to secure the release of funds appropriated to assist NCRA in completion of State mandated assessments of NCRA's assets and liabilities, and the potential for trail development along the rail corridor. Last week the JCC finally moved forward with demolition of the remnants of two warehouses owned by JCC that were located on the 4.1 acre parcel owned by the JCC at the Ukiah Depot site.

- January 16 the Fire and EMS Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee (Williams and McCowen) met in Boonville with an ad hoc committee of the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association (McCowen participating by phone) to discuss funding options to support ambulance service.
- January 16 the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority meeting was canceled.
- January 16 the City of Ukiah held a special meeting to revisit action taken on August 27, 2019 affirming the adopted 1984 “ridge to ridge” Sphere of Influence (SOI) as the preferred SOI for the General Plan update currently under way. On August 27 the City Council was advised by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Executive Director that the preferred SOI was too expansive and included too much agricultural land to be consistent with State law and local LAFCO policy. Although City staff proposed, and the City Council unanimously approved a somewhat reduced proposed SOI it is the opinion of the LAFCO Executive Director that it is still inconsistent with State law and local LAFCO policy and for the same reasons. The “reduced” SOI includes virtually all of the Ukiah Valley including Talmage and the subdivisions in the eastern foothills. The Council unanimously approved the proposed SOI with very little discussion.
- January 17 the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program block grant (RFFC) Ad Hoc Committee met in Ukiah to discuss the process for accomplishing the RFFC scope of work for utilization of the \$4 million in block grant funding previously received. The NCRP received a very interesting presentation utilizing Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) to map fire hazard severity overlain with structure locations.
- (PS: January 8 I did not meet with staff as part of the Cannabis Cultivation Ad Hoc Committee (previously McCowen and Haschak) because effective January 7 I was no longer a member of the Ad Hoc due to my concern over the obvious Brown Act implications of the formation of a third cannabis ad hoc committee for Mendocino County which (as stated in the Agenda Summary for the item) includes Supervisors who “represent both the Cannabis Economic Development Ad Hoc and Cannabis Cultivation Ad Hoc.” The Agenda Summary clearly contemplates the sharing of information across the spectrum of cannabis ad hoc committees. In order to avoid the obvious perception and likely reality of a Brown Act violation I chose not to continue my participation in the Cultivation Ad Hoc Committee.)