

# County of Mendocino

State of California

## Legislative Platform



Scenic Route  
Courtesy: Sarah McKenzie

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FIRST DISTRICT .....	CARRE BROWN
SECOND DISTRICT .....	JOHN MCCOWEN
THIRD DISTRICT .....	TOM WOODHOUSE
FOURTH DISTRICT .....	DAN GJERDE
FIFTH DISTRICT .....	DAN HAMBURG

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Carmel J. Angelo

2017



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## 2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors' mission is to create and maintain a responsive and responsible government that enhances the quality of life of the people of Mendocino County.

The County's mission is to deliver services that meet: Public safety, health, social, cultural, education, transportation, economic, and environmental needs of our communities.

### ***Goals to achieve our Mission Statement:***

- ◆ To treat all people with dignity and respect. To create a County employee culture where each citizen is treated in a courteous, professional, and sensitive manner.
- ◆ To forge effective working relationships within the community in both the private and public sectors. Through such cooperation we can maximize services to our citizens. Having engaged people will achieve organizational goals.
- ◆ To develop a work environment and employee culture that strives for excellence. Training and development opportunities and career advancement will be highly valued by the organization.
- ◆ To streamline our governmental processes so that excellent service delivery is responsive, reliable, and cost effective. Productivity and efficiency are important organizational values which result in maximum benefits for all concerned.
- ◆ To manage our fiscal resources effectively and responsibly. To plan and budget in a way that recognizes the financial limitations of the County, and enhances the long term economic viability of the County and its citizens.

**Adopted August 19, 1999**

By the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

# MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**Carre Brown**  
District 1



**John McCowen**  
District 2



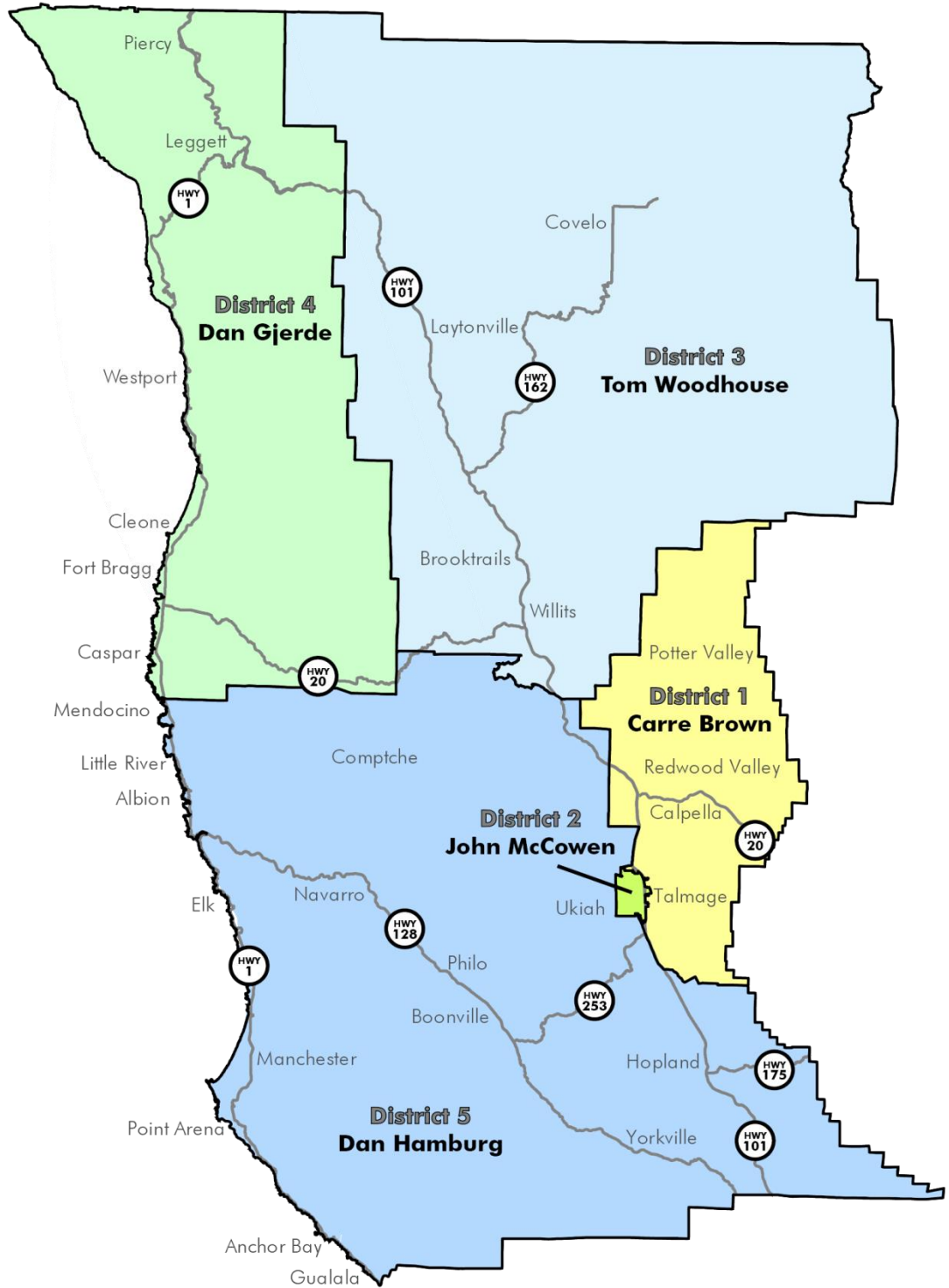
**Tom Woodhouse**  
District 3



**Dan Gjerde**  
District 4



**Dan Hamburg**  
District 5



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TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221 • FAX: (707) 463-7237 • BOS@CO.MENDOCINO.CA.US • [WWW.CO.MENDOCINO.CA.US/BOS](http://WWW.CO.MENDOCINO.CA.US/BOS)



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## OVERVIEW

### EXPERIENCE MENDOCINO COUNTY WILDERNESS - WAVES - WINERIES

Mendocino County is located about 100 miles north of San Francisco and is bordered by Sonoma County to the south, Humboldt County to the north, Lake County to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The County has a population of approximately 90,000 with about 16,000 people living in Ukiah, the largest city and the County seat. Additionally, there are three incorporated cities: Willits, Fort Bragg and Point Arena. Mendocino County encompasses an area of over two million acres or approximately 3,500 square miles and is known for its redwood forests, 120+ miles of rugged coastline, picturesque villages and award winning wineries - and is larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. There are seven parks located throughout the County – each with its own “personality”, showcasing a different facet of Mendocino County’s wealth of natural resources. In addition, Ukiah has recently added a Skateboard Park and Dog Park. Residents and visitors enjoy camping, fishing and water sports at Lake Mendocino as well as throughout the coastal areas of Mendocino County. Combining the best of the outdoors with the finest aspects of living well, Mendocino County embodies the very best that California and Mother Nature have to offer.

### COUNTY STRUCTURE

Mendocino County is a general law county established in 1850 by the State legislature and is a political subdivision, or unit, of the State. The County is represented by five non-partisan, elected members comprising the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors is the governing body and sets policy and priorities for the County. The County is responsible for providing municipal programs and services in unincorporated areas of the County, and its powers are limited to those granted by the State. The County implements many programs in the areas of health, welfare and law enforcement, which are mandated, regulated and mostly funded by the State. The Board of Supervisors has limited authority over the policy and administration of these programs. The County also provides local services, such as public safety, libraries, land-use planning, county road construction and maintenance, and a museum.

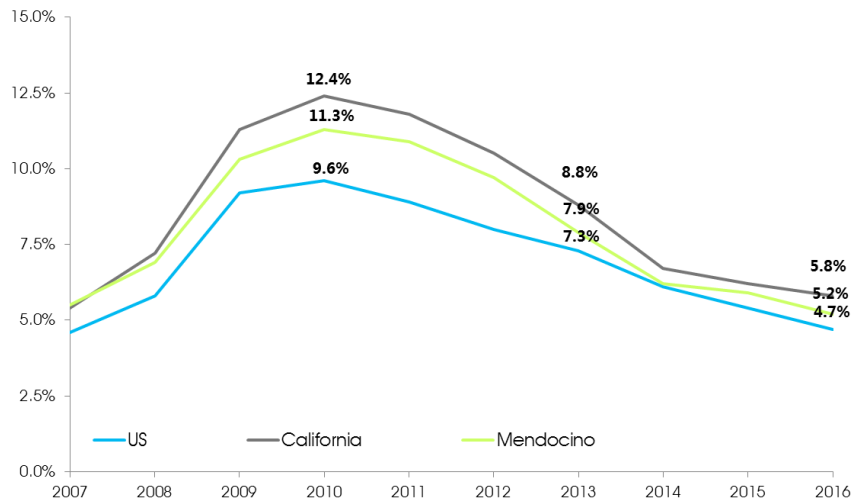
### COMMUNITY PROFILE

US Census Bureau Quick Facts	Mendocino County	California
Population, 2015 estimate	87,649	39,144,818
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	87,840	37,254,503
Percent change, April 4, 2010 to July 1, 2015	-0.02%	5.1%
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2015	6.0%	6.4%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2015	21.7%	23.3%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2014	19.8%	13.3%

## Mendocino County Community Indicators

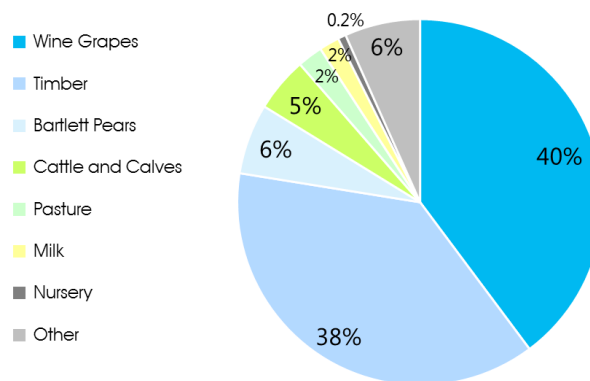
Median Household Income (U.S. Census 2014)	\$43,290
Population in Unincorporated area	67%
Poverty Rate (U.S. Census 2013)	18.8%

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

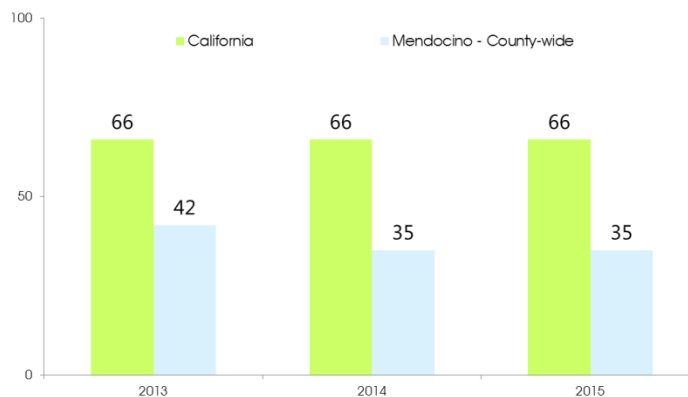


Source: State of California, Employment Development Department  
United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

### AGRICULTURE VALUE



### PAVEMENT CONDITION INDEX (PCI)





# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## 2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

### LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM OVERVIEW

Pursuant to County Policy No. 19, the Board of Supervisors adopts an annual Legislative Platform reflecting the County priorities for legislative advocacy, state and federal funding, and issues of interest to local government. The purpose of this Legislative Platform is to clearly outline the positions of the County on priority issues and matters that impact the County's ability to operate effectively, while allowing the considerations of legislative and budget issues that arise during the legislative session. The Board referred the development of the 2017 Legislative Platform to the General Government Standing Committee, comprised of Supervisor Carre Brown and Supervisor Dan Gjerde, to work with County Department Heads and Executive Office staff in developing a framework of issues for Board consideration.

On December 20, 2016, the Board adopted the 2017 Legislative Platform reflecting the County's legislative priorities and policies for the upcoming legislative cycle. In adopting an annual legislative advocacy platform, the Board of Supervisors strives to enhance the quality of life in Mendocino County through effective state and federal legislation.

### STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & FOCUS AREAS

In adopting this year's legislative platform, the following serve as Mendocino County's priorities and focus areas for Federal and State legislative advocacy:

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#### **LOCAL CONTROL**

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**Summary:** The County of Mendocino seeks to protect local government revenue and preserve local self-governance. As the nation and the State grapple with revenue shortfalls and governmental restructuring and increasing demand for services, it is critical that every effort to support and promote local control is fully embraced to allow the County to exercise maximum flexibility in carrying out its policy and program mandates, while supporting our unique rural needs.

- Support flexibility in county program implementation to reflect unique local needs.
- Support funding consistency for local government programs.
- Protect local government revenues from state taking or borrowing.
- Advocacy for the unique needs of our rural communities including fiscal, programmatic, and regulatory consideration.
- Promote predictable funding levels for local program, especially public safety and health and human services, to allow counties to plan for program administration.

- Support legislation that allows for local Cap and Trade revenues to be used in a more flexible manner regarding project selection while promoting cost-effectiveness, technological feasibility, innovation, collaboration, economic development and sustainability.

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## REGULATORY MANDATES AND REFORM

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**Summary:** As local government faces reduced resources to carry out a myriad of programs and services, we join other California counties in advocating for greater flexibility and relief from over-regulation, relief from unfunded state mandates, and opposition to the further degradation of state funding for county programs.

- Support legislative reform that would promote regulatory approaches or mandates that transfer state responsibilities to local agencies without constitutionally protected funding sources.
- Support CEQA reform to facilitate public projects providing essential services.
- Support efforts to improve or streamline CEQA efficiency without losing sight of the ultimate goal to thoroughly identify environmental impacts and mitigations.
- Support policy and legislation to encourage economic development by streamlining duplicative regulations, providing tax incentives for business expansion or creation and implementing administrative efficiencies.
- Pursue legislation that would specifically allow for the appointment of an alternate Trustee to the Mendocino County Employees Retirement Association Board of Retirement who would have voting authority in the absence of a Trustee appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
  - The proposed alternate Trustee would be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and would vote in any circumstance where any of the four Board of Supervisors appointees to the Board of Retirement is unable to vote.
  - The proposed alternate Trustee would be fiduciary of the retirement association and subject to the education and other requirements similarly to other Trustees on the Board of Retirement.

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## TRANSPORTATION

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**Summary:** One of the major functions of county government is to build and maintain a network of infrastructure facilities including a network of local streets, roads, and bridges. State and federal transportation funding has been in steady decline over the years as existing funding sources have been retargeted to meet more urban and suburban (growing) region's infrastructure needs to the detriment of rural communities. Furthermore, the declining or stagnant funding levels are losing buying power due to the inflation in oil and energy costs over time both of which directly impact materials (aggregate cement and oil) need for roads and bridges. Mendocino County's local streets and roads continue to deteriorate – our existing Pavement Condition Index is 37, maintenance backlog is \$625 million and funding shortfall is \$9 million per year. Without an influx of new statewide revenues the backlog of projects will grow and the price tag will continue to increase. Mendocino County supports transportation policy that encompasses preservation and maintenance of the existing highway system including the secondary or rural highway network, long-term funding with a portion dedicated to local infrastructure needs, and improved connectivity between local, regional and statewide transportation systems. Additionally, the County supports and encourages the use and development of transit and non-motorized transportation, facilities and infrastructure.



- Advocate for state Legislature to address transportation funding for State and local transportation networks by providing new sustainable funding for infrastructure, incorporating the priorities identified in the Resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors on August 18, 2015, **(Attachment A)**.
- Support surface transportation policy that encompasses preservation and maintenance of the existing highway system, including the secondary or rural highway network, and connectivity between local, regional and statewide transportation systems.
- Support State and Federal long-term transportation funding, including revenue streams for local streets, roads and bridges.
- Support a robust investment in transportation infrastructure large enough to demonstrate tangible benefits to taxpayers and the traveling public.
- Support legislative provisions requiring new transportation revenues to be invested into the existing transportation system, including local streets, roads and state highways.
- Support long-term solutions to address the declining gas tax revenues (the California excise tax on gasoline - 18 cents per gallon - has not been raised in 20 years (1994)).
  - In September 2016, for the first month ever, counties (and cities) received ZERO dollars in price-based gas tax revenues because the bond-debt service requirements exceeded revenues generated (a seriously dire unanticipated consequence of the 2010 transportation tax swap).
  - As a result, the County of Mendocino, will have to cut purchase of materials and equipment to conserve cash in a tight budget. This means that rock for gravel roads and patch materials will be delayed and staff will grade and clean ditches where material purchase is not needed.
- Support equitable revenue sharing between Federal, State and local jurisdictions for transportation, ensuring road maintenance costs are shared equally, in order to support a comprehensive road and highway network.
- Support funding opportunities for restoration of rail infrastructure from Windsor to Willits and in the Humboldt Bay area.
- Support Cap and Trade revenues generated from fuels by reinvesting back into transportation program and projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support legislation and funding mechanisms that support and encourage the use of transit and development to non-motorized transportation, facilities and infrastructure.
- Support legislation that enhances the safety of county streets and arterials for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic.

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## WATER

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**Summary:** The scarcity of water in the West makes it a crucial resource for the communities, industries, habitats, and farms it supports. Clean, reliable water supplies are essential to maintain and improve quality of life in Mendocino County. The statewide emergency drought declaration, unprecedented groundwater legislation and uncertainties in local and state regulatory and economic climates are cause for the County to continue to be proactive regarding water policy. The County supports legislation and advocacy efforts that protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.

- Support policy and legislation that addresses the ongoing drought emergency and statewide drought directives.

- Promote regional and statewide collaborative efforts to address drought conditions.
- Support continued water conservation efforts.
- Support State funding for storm water infrastructure improvements and compliance with storm water quality regulations.
  - Engage with the State and Regional Water Board regarding National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.
  - Support local reimbursements for the implementation of NPDES requirements.
- Advocate for Proposition 1 water bond guidelines and funding distribution that ensure regional and disadvantaged communities have maximum opportunity to draw down grant funding for local projects.
  - Support pursuing available grant funding to assist with drought mitigation infrastructure projects, water supply planning efforts, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act compliance, stormwater programs and other water board mandates.
- Support local control in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the development of a Groundwater Suitability Agency (GSA) and development/implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- Support continued local collaboration between agencies and stakeholders in the implementation of SGMA requirements.
- Support the creation of an Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority and the collaborative development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Ukiah Basin.
- Engage in the local SGMA implementation for any new medium or high priority basins identified in Mendocino County in future Bulletin 118 revisions.
- Advocate for locally beneficial legislation related to SGMA that may be introduced in the 2017 session.
- Support increased federal funding in order to continue work on the Feasibility Study for the raising of Coyote Valley Dam consistent with the Feasibility Study Cost Share Agreement signed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and the Inland Water and Power Commission (IWPC), of which Mendocino County is a member.
- Support full federal environmental restoration funding to allow the USACE to mitigate water quality impacts identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service Jeopardy findings under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and contained within the Russian River Biological Opinion.
- Advocate the revising of the Operations Manual passed by Congress in 1958 for the Coyote Valley Dam water releases to address year-to-year carry over supply issues in Lake Mendocino and to protect listed fish.
- Engage in the operating re-licensing process for FERC Project No. 77 – the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project.
- Monitor the legal challenges to the Waters of the United States rule (by the EPA and Army Corps) aimed at re-defining the definition of "Waters of the US" inside the Clean Water.
  - Continued to advocate for developing a new rule that would not inappropriately or unnecessarily expand coverage to new land features or waters or broaden the overall jurisdiction of the agencies. Additionally, the detrimental impacts and burdens to municipalities and agriculture nationwide could be more thoroughly assessed and minimized.
  - Support Congressional efforts for the development of a new rule.

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## CANNABIS

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**Summary:** Mendocino County supports the State’s medical marijuana regulatory framework and will continue to advocate maintaining local government’s flexibility and authority to address individual community needs through local control measures. Mendocino County supports the principles of legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana pursuant to the Board’s policy statement adopted June 5, 2007, and the North Coast Policy Statement adopted on May 5, 2015. Mendocino County supports federal initiatives to either repeal or modify the federal prohibition of marijuana, and encourages federal recognition of state laws regulating medical marijuana.

- Support the principles of legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana pursuant to the Board’s policy statement adopted June 5, 2007 (**Attachment B**).
- Support the North Coast Counties Marijuana Policy State adopted by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on May 6, 2015 (**Attachment C**).
  - Advocate for cannabis policy that reflect the priorities outlined in the statement in the categories of local control, revenue and taxation, environmental protection and economics.
- Support the Children’s Health Committee’s Policy Statement on Marijuana and Youth adopted by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on August 16, 2016 (**Attachment D**).
- Engage in the rule making process for the California Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA).
- Support a repeal or modification of federal prohibition of cannabis and efforts for the de-scheduling or rescheduling of cannabis as a Schedule 1 Federally Classified Substance.
- Advocate for Federal and State legislation and funding to combat illegal trespass cultivation of cannabis on public and private lands.
  - Advocate for solutions to stem illegal cannabis cultivation in all areas of the county by working with private property owners, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resource Control Board and other regulatory entities to address this problem.
- Support administrative penalties that cover the cost of site clean-up and restoration to mitigate for the impacts to the land, water quality and quantity.
- Support adequate funding to address illegal water diversion, water pollution, erosion, poisoning of wildlife, and other environmental damage associated with trespass cannabis growing operations.
- Support a pro-active engagement and advocacy in the implementation and integration of the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act with Proposition 64, legalizing adult recreational use of cannabis.
  - Advocate for emergency legislation addressing Proposition 64 implementation to provide clarity as the state develops adult use regulations for 2018.
  - Support legislative action to allow recreational cannabis users to purchase cannabis at medical retail outlets, in the interim of adult use state licenses.
- Support efforts to convene stakeholder workgroups to prepare for the legalization of cannabis in California.

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## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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**Summary:** Mendocino County advocates for economic and community development opportunities suitable to our rural community's unique character through business development. The County supports legislative efforts designed to foster economic development tools and funding options for effective programs and job creation. The County supports legislative efforts that promote strategic land use and development practices that maintain and/or increase local control.

- Support continued State funding for the California Coastal Commission (CCC) and for the Local Coastal Program (LCP) Local Assistance Grant Program.
- Support continued State funding for the California Coastal Conservancy to support local projects.
- Support CSAC Coastal Counties Association efforts/engagement in developing better working relations between the California Coastal Commission and local government.
- Support legislation that encourages the creation of jobs near housing to improve the jobs / housing balance.
- Support legislation that provides ongoing state funding for mandated planning projects such as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), General Plan Housing Element updates, and other planning initiatives under AB 32 and SB 375.
- Support legislation that will extend the period of time that jurisdictions have to develop and implement their Housing Elements following the release of a regional SCS.
- Support legislative actions that protect the rights of jurisdictions to plan and govern their own communities.
- Oppose legislation that creates restrictions on local control of land use and development.
- Oppose legislative actions or reform measures that penalize jurisdictions for non-compliance with state-mandated Housing Element update schedules.
- Collaborate with the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County (BAMC) and the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC) to facilitate the deployment of a robust countywide fiber backbone infrastructure that will enhance economic development and stimulate affordable broadband access to all homes, businesses, schools, libraries, public safety facilities, health services and other institutions throughout Mendocino County.
- Continue to work with other northern California counties to identify and meet regional needs using a comprehensive, integrated approach to expand broadband infrastructure into our communities.
- Support development of locally-based models for energy delivery/energy independence including wind, solar, and geothermal energy.
- Support efforts for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) which allows cities and counties to aggregate the buying power of individual customers within a defined jurisdiction in order to secure alternative energy supply contracts.
- Support legislation that fosters, promotes, and creates incentives for the adoption, use, and economic benefits of renewable and sustainable energy endeavors benefitting Mendocino County.
- Support legislation amending the Solar Rights Act (CA Civil Code 714) to exempt Historic Districts that have adopted standards for the installation of alternative energy systems.



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## Agriculture

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**Summary:** Mendocino County recognizes the importance of agriculture and its contribution to our local economy. Mendocino County will continue to advocate for the protection of agricultural lands, agricultural economic development activities, encourage sustainable agricultural practices and support growing local and regional food systems.

- Support the restoration of Williamson Act (the California Land Conservation Act) Subvention.
  - Mendocino County, like most other rural counties, is dependent on State funding to offset the loss of property tax revenue to the County. This program has been hugely beneficial to our agricultural county. Without a resumption of subvention payments, the County budget will suffer a detrimental impact.
- Support local and regional food system initiatives to promote availability of local goods and food service markets in retail, institutional, and commercial operations, including projects that capitalize on food system opportunities by developing regional food hubs, i.e., centralized facilities designed to aggregate, store, process, distribute, and/or market locally produced food products.
- Support Restorative funding for the Division of Measurement Standards, within the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure that consumer protection and commercial device accuracy support is maintained.
- Oppose any legislation that ends the State Organic Program and registration fee used for statewide enforcement performed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the County Agricultural Commissioners.
  - California's State Organic Program (SOP) protects consumers, producers, handlers, processors and retailers by establishment of standards under which fresh agricultural products/foods may be labeled and/or sold as "organic". Active local enforcement lends credibility to the organic label and assurance to consumers seeking organic foods. The SOP establishes a registration fee to identify and confirm who in the State is making organic food claims in the marketplace and the validity of those claims. There currently exists no viable alternative to achieve the same level of consumer protection from fraudulent labeling of organic products, which the State Supreme Court recently ruled (S21630) is a public right.

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## Public Safety

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**Summary:** Mendocino County strongly supports community safety by providing high quality public safety services to maintain health and safety standards for its residents. The County supports additional State and Federal funding and tools to enhance law enforcement programs and the safety of its residents and public safety employees.

- Support legislation that provides public safety funding through state and federal block grants.

- Supports local flexibility in the administration and implementation of programs funded by Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 (AB 109). The continued success of implementation activities associated with realignment is dependent upon adequate funding.
  - We believe that the State should assume cost increases associated with state-imposed program changes and expansions, as well as federal maintenance of effort mandates.
  - Oppose State and/or federal funding reductions that shift responsibility for services, administration or fiscal support to rural counties.
- Support legislative and administrative efforts to address broadband outages impacting our Enhanced 911 (E 9-1-1) services to ensure redundancy and reliable service.
- Support the repeal of the State Responsibility (SRA) Fire Prevention Fees (ABX129), which imposes fire prevention fees within State Responsibility Areas served by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire).
  - Explore legislative options for a local share of the fee for local fire service providers in the absence of fee repeal.

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## ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH

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**Summary:** Mendocino County supports efforts to conserve and preserve the county’s natural resources to help restore its fisheries, maintain healthy forests, and ensure agriculture is preserved for future generations. The County supports activities and policies that promote public health and wellness, maintaining residents’ quality of life.

- Advocate for the appropriation of remaining Cap and Trade funds from FY 16-17 auction revenues and a portion FY 16-17 funds for local level projects.
  - Support the development and expansion of Cap-and-Trade funding programs specifically targeted at rural communities.
- Oppose the use of the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) to identify “disadvantaged communities” for the purposes of allocating Cap-and-Trade funds.
  - The CalEnviroScreen tool is flawed and excludes many rural communities that would be included as “disadvantaged” under other methodologies (such as the one outlined in the Public Resources Code).
- Support the allocation of Cap and Trade revenues for the development of forestry sector greenhouse gas reduction projects.
- Years of extremely dry conditions are taking a toll on forested lands across the state with rapid tree mortality. The County supports State and Federal local assistance, financial resources, regulatory relief and assistance with outreach and coordination efforts to address health and safety risk from dead and dying trees, including areas within the coastal range overseen by the California Coastal Commission.
- Support the long-term reauthorization of the State and Federal Payment-in-lieu-of-taxes program, which provides payments to local governments that help, offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable State and Federal lands within their boundaries.
- Support long-term federal reauthorization and full funding for Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act (SRS), which provides funding for rural counties and school districts to replace revenue from dwindling forest receipts due to national decline in timber harvesting.

- Explore legislative and regulatory options to manage the Tule Elk populations within the Potter and Round Valley regions of Mendocino County.
- Support legislative efforts to provide sustaining wages to IHSS workers while limiting the County's obligation to increases in local required funding.
- Support efforts to sustain or restore funding for Health and Human Services for HHS safety-net programs and regulations, including: CalFresh Categorical Eligibility; School Lunch Programs; Health Care Enrollment (inmates); Preventing Elder and Dependent Care Abuse; Fees and Charges for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly; Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Drug Abuse Prevention and Safe Disposal Program; Childhood Vaccinations; and Child Welfare/Fatality Case notifications.
- Support additional funding and programs that provide improved access to local mental health services, including increased and consistent funding for mental health housing programs, crisis support, and jail diversion programs.
- Support the state's efforts to create a Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, which will provide an integrated safety-net delivery system by better coordinating substance abuse disorder, physical and mental health services through a coordinated continuum of services to Medi-Cal members.
- Support sustainable funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems.
- Monitor the impacts of Federal deficit-reduction on California's Health and Human Services programs

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## LIVABILITY

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**Summary:** A vibrant community is full of energy and life, characterized by investment in its people, its culture, and its physical environment. Our environment has a direct effect on the community's overall quality of life. Mendocino County supports programs, services and development that enhance quality of life, as well as improving the neighborhoods we already have in order to create a sense of place and community. Essential to a vibrant community is strong community involvement, the celebration of arts and cultural diversity, and a focus on resource conservation. The County advocates for funding that enhances our ability to improve residents quality of life.

- Advocate for expansion of rural broadband and important issues including: universal right to service which includes maintaining landline connections to those areas without adequate fixed wireless or mobile cellular coverage, adequate funding from state and federal programs such as the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) and Connect America Fund (CAF) for the deployment of broadband infrastructure projects, and requiring accurate reporting of data used in Broadband mapping.
- Advocate for funding to address and support:
  - Bridging the digital divide.
  - Art and culture exhibits at public buildings to engage community to read and learn and appreciate art and culture.
  - Advancing literacy.
  - Library programming for the community.
- Support legislation clarifying Special District and Librarian salary provisions for County Free Libraries.

- Support legislation that provides local, federal and state funding for parks and recreation programs.
  - Advocate prioritizing funding for trail maintenance for state and federal parks.
- Support opportunities to increase the accessibility and use of the outdoors and embrace legislation and funding opportunities that enhance outdoor recreational activities and access that will also positively impact Mendocino County's economy.
- Oppose closure of State Parks, especially such closures that impact Mendocino County.
- Support funding for transit-oriented development.
- Support investment in youth programs and vocational education.
- Promote policies that increase quality housing and support affordable housing financing and homeownership grant programs.
- Support efforts to address housing support and housing assistance efforts at the state and local levels. Long-term planning, creative funding, and accurate data on homelessness are essential to addressing housing security and homelessness issues.





# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

### ELECTED STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

<b>JIM WOOD, ASSEMBLYMAN (D)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly District Website: <a href="http://asmdc.org/members/a02/">http://asmdc.org/members/a02/</a> Phone: (707) 463-5770 – Ukiah Office Phone: (916) 319-2002 – Sacramento Office	<b>MIKE MCGUIRE, STATE SENATOR (D)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Senate District Website: <a href="http://sd02.senate.ca.gov/">http://sd02.senate.ca.gov/</a> Phone: (707) 468-8914 – Ukiah Office Phone: (916) 651-4002 – Sacramento Office
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### ELECTED CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

<b>JARED HUFFMAN, CONGRESSMAN (D - SAN RAFAEL)</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Congressional District United States House of Representatives Website: <a href="http://huffman.house.gov/">http://huffman.house.gov/</a> Phone: (707) 962-0933 – Fort Bragg Office Phone/Fax: (707) 671-7449 – Ukiah Office Phone: (202) 225-5161 – Washington, D.C. Office	<b>KAMALA HARRIS, SENATOR - ELECT (D)</b> United States Senate Website: Phone: (510) 286-8537 – Bay Area Office Phone: (202) 224-3553 – Washington, D.C. Office
	<b>DIANNE FEINSTEIN, SENATOR (D - SAN FRANCISCO)</b> United States Senate Website: <a href="http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/">http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/</a> Phone: (415) 393-0707 – San Francisco Office Phone: (202) 224-3841 – Washington, D.C. Office



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RESOLUTION NO. 15-129

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TO PROVIDE NEW SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR  
STATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. has called an extraordinary session to address the immense underfunding of California's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties own and operate more than 81 percent of streets and roads in California, and from the moment we open our front door to drive to work, bike to school, or walk to the bus station, people are dependent upon a safe, reliable local transportation network; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino has participated in efforts with the California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities, and California's Regional Transportation Planning Agencies to study unmet funding needs for local roads and bridges, including sidewalks and other essential components; and

WHEREAS, the resulting 2014 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment, which provides critical analysis and information on the local transportation network's condition and funding needs, indicates that the condition of the local transportation network is deteriorating as predicted in the initial 2008 study; and

WHEREAS, the results show that California's local streets and roads are on a path of significant decline. On a scale of zero (failed) to 100 (excellent), the statewide average pavement condition index (PCI) is 66, placing it in the "at risk" category where pavements will begin to deteriorate much more rapidly and require rehabilitation or rebuilding rather than more cost-effective preventative maintenance if funding is not increased; and

WHEREAS, the results show that the County of Mendocino's local streets have an average pavement index of 35, placing at 57 out of 58 California Counties; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino is dedicating unprecedented levels of additional General Fund dollars to repair and repave County roads, but available General Fund dollars are scarce and also needed for ever-increasing operational costs, including pension costs; and

WHEREAS, if funding remains at the current levels, in 10 years, 25 percent of local streets and roads in California will be in "failed" condition; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties need an additional \$1.7 billion just to maintain a status quo pavement condition of 66, and much more revenue to operate the system with Best Management Practices, which would reduce the total amount of funding needed for maintenance in the future; and

WHEREAS, models show that an additional \$3 billion annual investment in the local streets and roads system is expected to improve pavement conditions statewide from an average "at risk" condition to an average "good" condition; and

WHEREAS, if additional funding isn't secured now, it will cost taxpayers twice as much to fix the local system in the future, as failure to act this year will increase unmet funding needs for local transportation facilities by \$11 billion in five years and \$21 billion in ten years; and

WHEREAS, modernizing the local street and road system provides well-paying construction jobs and boosts local economies; and

WHEREAS, the local street and road system is also critical for farm to market needs, interconnectivity, multimodal needs, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, police, fire, and emergency medical services all need safe reliable roads to react quickly to emergency calls and a few minutes of delay can be a matter of life and death; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and preserving the local street and road system in good condition will reduce drive times and traffic congestion, improve bicycle safety, and make the pedestrian experience safer and more appealing, which leads to reduce vehicle emissions helping the State achieve its air quality and greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals; and

WHEREAS, restoring roads before they fail also reduces construction time which results in less air pollution from heavy equipment and less water pollution from site run-off; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the local system, the state highway system needs an additional \$5.7 billion annually to address the state's deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in order to bring the local system back into a cost-effective condition, at least \$7.3 billion annually in new money going directly to cities and counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO strongly urges the Governor and Legislature to identify a sufficient and stable funding source for local street and road and state highway maintenance and rehabilitation to ensure the safe and efficient mobility of the traveling public and the economic vitality of California.

RESOLVED FURTHER, THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO strongly urges the Governor and Legislature to adopt the following priorities for funding California's streets and roads.

1. Make a significant new investment in transportation infrastructure. Any package should seek to raise at least \$6 billion annually and should remain in place for at least 10 years or until an alternative method of funding our transportation system is agreed upon.

2. Focus on maintaining and rehabilitating the current system. Repairing California's streets and highways involves much more than fixing potholes. It requires major road pavement overlays, fixing unsafe bridges, providing safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians, replacing storm water culverts, as well as operational improvements that necessitate the construction of auxiliary lanes to relieve traffic congestion choke points and fixing design deficiencies that have created unsafe merging and other traffic hazards. Efforts to supply funding for transit in addition to funding for roads should also focus on fixing the system first.

3. Equal split between state and local projects. We support sharing revenue for roadway maintenance equally (50/50) between the state and cities and counties, given the equally pressing funding needs of both systems, as well as the longstanding historical precedent for collecting transportation user fees through a centralized system and sharing the revenues across the entire network through direct subventions. Ensuring that funding to local governments is provided directly, without intermediaries, will accelerate project delivery and ensure maximum accountability.

4. Raise revenues across a broad range of options. Research by the California Alliance for Jobs and Transportation California shows that voters strongly support increased funding for transportation improvements. They are much more open to a package that spreads potential tax or fee increases across a broad range of options, including fuel taxes, license fees, and registration fees, rather than just one source.

Additionally, any package should move California toward an all-users pay structure, in which everyone who benefits from the system contributes to maintaining it – from traditional gasoline-fueled vehicles, to new hybrids or electric vehicles, to commercial vehicles.

5. Invest a portion of diesel tax and/or cap & trade revenue to high-priority goods movement projects. While the focus of a transportation funding package should be on maintaining and rehabilitating the existing system, California has a critical need to upgrade the goods movement infrastructure that is essential to our economic wellbeing. Establishing a framework to make appropriate investments in major goods movement arteries can lay the groundwork for greater investments in the future that will also improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

6. Strong accountability requirements to protect the taxpayers' investment. Voters and taxpayers must be assured that all transportation revenues are spent responsibly. Local governments are accustomed to

employing transparent processes for selecting road maintenance projects aided by pavement management systems, as well as reporting on the expenditure of transportation funds through the State Controller's Local Streets and Roads Annual Report.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor McCowen, seconded by Supervisor Woodhouse, and carried this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015, by the following vote:


AYES: Supervisors Brown, McCowen, Woodhouse, Gjerde and Hamburg

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Clerk of the Board

  
CARRE BROWN, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

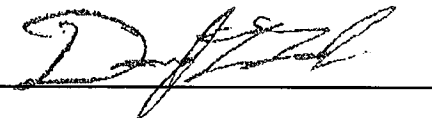
  
Deputy


I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DOUGLAS L. LOSAK, Interim County Counsel



  
Deputy





**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

501 Low Gap Road • Room 1090  
Ukiah, California 95482

June 5, 2007

Honorable Mike Thompson  
United States House of Representatives  
231 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

For over 40 years, local government has been engaged in the "war on marijuana." Communities throughout the nation are in turmoil over the legitimate use of medicinal marijuana, while also living in fear of criminal activity associated with large illegal marijuana grows and the abundance of high power weapons in small rural communities. This is a law enforcement issue, a public health issue, an air quality issue, a revenue issue, and a divisive community issue.

Following the implementation of Proposition No. 215, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, California residents have become immersed in the debate over legitimate medicinal marijuana use, while also staunchly advocating for the prosecution of criminal behavior associated with illegal large scale marijuana operations. To further exacerbate this situation, SB 420 (Vasconcellos) enacted in 2003 regulates the minimum number of plants allowable for medical use, while also allowing local jurisdictions to adopt/enforce standards and guidelines within their own jurisdictions. Compliance with the State administered California Medical Marijuana Identification Program further compounds the challenge, and blurs the lines of authority between state and local governance. Lastly, in 2000, 60% of Mendocino County voters voted in favor of Measure G, demonstrating support of the personal cannabis initiative.

The role of local law enforcement has become increasingly clouded due to conflicts in State and Federal regulations. As an example, medicinal marijuana "use" is legal under State law, however, "possession and transportation" is illegal and subject to prosecution, placing law enforcement officers in an untenable situation.

California residents exist in a state of a "tug-of-war" over the interpretation of federal, state, and local law. Ballot initiatives are popping up everywhere; each day we learn of colleagues in a similar situation in another town, another city, another county, or another state, who are facing these same issues and challenges.

Calling upon local jurisdictions to adopt individual guidelines, along with the determination of prosecution and enforcement subject to each entity's interpretation, is not the solution. The time has come to call upon our leaders in federal government to initiate, sponsor, and support legislation that calls for the legalization, regulation, and taxation of this multi-billion dollar crop. In Mendocino County alone, the crop value is purported to be in excess of \$5,000,000,000. Local government is in dire need of identifying stable revenue streams, and through your able leadership, we are confident that a taxing mechanism can be achieved.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

MICHAEL M. DELBAR  
First District

JIM R. WATTENBURGER  
Second District

JOHN PINCHES  
Third District

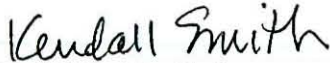
KENDALL SMITH  
Fourth District

J. DAVID COLFAX  
Fifth District

Page Two  
June 5, 2007

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors urgently requests your immediate attention to this matter. We welcome a contingent of legislative representatives to visit our County to lead the policy discussion in embarking upon a collective effort to legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendall Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kendall Smith, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer, United States Senate  
Senator Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate  
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Senator Patricia Wiggins, California State Senate  
Assemblymember Patty Berg, California State Assembly  
Mr. Don Peterson, Peterson Consulting, Inc.  
Mr. Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde and Fay  
President George W. Bush



## North Coast Counties Marijuana Policy Statement

## Attachment C

### Preamble

North Coast Counties have unique insight into the significant problems and opportunities posed by statewide regulation and potential legalization of adult recreational use of marijuana. Inconsistent State and Federal laws and existing ambiguities in State law have caused significant economic, environmental, and public safety impacts to North Coast Counties related to the cultivation and distribution of marijuana. We strongly encourage the adoption of comprehensive State marijuana policies that will protect local communities and governments and also respect local control.

There is a need for certain and uniform state regulation while at the same time allowing local governments the flexibility to address individual community needs. State regulation should set clear minimum guidelines and should expressly not preempt local government control. State law and policy should reflect the basic reality that economic effects, environmental impacts, and community sensitivity vary widely from rural to urban areas and from one area to another, and have a direct impact on local quality of life. It is imperative that counties retain local control to address impacts appropriately from rural to urban communities.

### Policy Statements

#### I. Local Control

- State leadership is critical to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework which clearly delineates the roles of local and state government.
- Minimum statewide standards on a range of issues including licensing, safety, accounting, state taxation, cultivation standards, distribution and consumer standards should be developed with local input.
- A statewide regulatory program must explicitly preserve the right of local jurisdictions to regulate items of local concern including authority to: issue business licenses and impose local taxes to produce funding streams to fully cover local costs; to enact land use regulations; and to enact other restrictions applicable to the cultivation, distribution, and sale of marijuana based on a local governing body's determination of local needs.
- Existing local authority to regulate or prohibit the indoor or outdoor cultivation of marijuana and the establishment of dispensaries in certain areas must be explicitly preserved.
- The right of local jurisdictions to provide for the health, safety and welfare of their constituents must be respected within an overall state regulatory framework.

#### II. Revenue & Taxation

- Counties must have the ability to impose fees and fines to recover direct costs of local regulation and code enforcement with respect to all aspects of marijuana cultivation, sales and distribution.
- Counties must have the option to adopt local excise and sales taxes to recover enforcement, environmental and other costs, subject to uniform statewide tax cap limits.

- State and local marijuana related excise and sales tax limits must be set at a level that does not discourage transition to a regulated market.
- Counties must be granted flexibility to further incentivize the transition to a regulated market, for instance, by deferring full imposition of the adopted local tax structure.
- Marijuana, no matter its use (medical or recreational), must be subject to state and local taxation in the same manner and at the same level in order to provide regulatory certainty and avoid the difficulties inherent in establishing a dual system of administration.

### III. **Environmental Protection**

- Environmental protection and remediation shall be paramount in any regulatory and/or funding framework.
- Best management practices must be developed and adopted.
- Current environmental enforcement should remain the responsibility of existing regulatory agencies.
- Adequate and flexible enforcement tools must be available to local jurisdictions, including the availability of incentives to encourage responsible environmental practices.
- Counties must receive adequate funding from the state to compensate for local environmental enforcement and remediation including legacy impacts.

### IV. **Economics**

- Legalization of marijuana for adult recreational use will have economic implications for North Coast Counties. To mitigate negative effects, the state must allocate a portion of state revenue to assist counties.
- A statewide regulatory program must provide economic development assistance including job training to help North Coast counties of origin successfully rebuild their traditional resource based economies while transitioning to a fully regulated legalized marijuana industry.
- State leadership is also necessary to address larger education and research programs beyond the purview of individual counties. Much like tobacco, the state must allocate funds to implement research, education and prevention programs, particularly for youth, to mitigate marijuana abuse and dependence.
- To ensure that counties can differentiate their products in the marketplace a statewide chain of custody certification program is needed to allow local branding that highlights regional strains, sustainable environmental practices, responsible processing, and ethical business behavior. Chain of custody certification will increase value to local producers and encourage consumers to make responsible purchasing decisions.

### **Conclusion**

North Coast Counties support a comprehensive state regulatory framework that explicitly preserves existing local control, while protecting the environment, local economies and quality of life. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional language and information that supports these policy concepts.





## Policy Statement on Marijuana and Youth

The *Mendocino County Policy Council on Children and Youth* and the *Child Abuse Prevention Commission* recognizes that local and state elected officials are currently developing policies and regulations related to medical cannabis and/or the potential legalization of the adult use of marijuana in California. As a community-based coalition interested in promoting and protecting the health and wellness of children; we are concerned that the perspective of youth prevention may be overlooked as local jurisdictions develop policies and guidelines for complex issues such as local control, revenue and taxation, environmental protection, and economics. In response, we recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt the following policies and instruct staff to implement them. We also recommend that the Board of Supervisors submit this Policy Statement on Marijuana and Youth as an addendum to the County's 2016 Legislative Platform.

This statement assumes that legislation as it relates to the legalization of marijuana will maintain a prohibition of personal use for youth under the age of 21.

Suggested language:

### **V: Youth Prevention**

- Marketing and advertising of marijuana to youth must be prohibited in accordance with the same guidelines used to regulate the marketing of tobacco. Such regulation includes, but is not limited to; banning marijuana companies from sponsoring sporting and entertainment events, outlawing free marijuana samples and giveaways, prohibiting television and radio advertisements that promote marijuana use, and prohibiting billboards that advertise the sale of marijuana.
- Retail marijuana products must include a cautionary assertion that reads: "This product is not intended for consumption by children and adolescents under the age of 21, and is unsafe for pregnant women."
- Marijuana products (such as edibles and beverages) must be clearly labeled with potency information, be sold only in opaque child-proof packaging, and be accompanied by the mandatory distribution of educational materials regarding the risks of accidental ingestion by children or household pets.
- Indoor and outdoor marijuana gardens and marijuana retailers must not be allowed within 1,000 feet of a school, licensed child care center or home, recreational facility, playground, or park.
- Public events that include the promotion or sale of marijuana must require identification verifying legal age for admittance.
- A portion of local tax revenue, and a minimum of 20% of statewide tax revenue, generated from marijuana and marijuana-related product sales, wholesale or retail, must be earmarked for local prevention activities including public awareness campaigns devoted to the impacts of marijuana on youth and pregnant women; addressing the impact of marijuana on the developing brain, the risks of second-hand smoke, the legal implications of use by youth, and the potential adverse impact of use on future life opportunities.