

Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council
PO Box 372 Covelo, CA 95428
"Serving the People of the Greater Round Valley Area"

March 22, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: MOVE 2030

Dear Supervisors,

On July 29th and September 2nd of 2020, the Round Valley Area MAC held public meetings to gain input and ideas on economic and community development priorities for the Round Valley Area. Attached to this letter is that list of priorities.

One of the items that came up as the most needed to facilitate economic development in our downtown core of Covelo was the need for a fire suppression water system. Over the past decade several commercial buildings have been lost or demolished for various reasons, including 4 commercial structures being completely destroyed by fire in the past year alone. Because there is no municipal water system in the community, the cost of rebuilding many of these lost commercial structures, as well as developing much needed multi-family housing on R3 zoned land that sits vacant, the cost of rebuilding is much more expensive.

In working to pursue this primary goal identified by the MOVE 2030 process, RVAMAC Council members have attended several meetings with various local agencies in hopes that one of them would be able to take on this project. Because this process is being led by volunteers and our local agencies have very limited staff, we have yet to find a lead agency that can help facilitate the development of this fire suppression system or even take on a planning project to determine the needed steps and identify funding sources to get the project moving.

As we work as volunteers to undertake this monumental fire suppression water system project, as just one of many economic

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development projects that our community has identified, it becomes clear that it would be incredibly helpful to have a community liaison within the County to help guide and support our community's efforts.

It is clearly the County's goal to support the types of project we're working on here in Covelo:

General Plan Action Item DE-187.1: Work aggressively with water and sewer service providers to overcome current and projected system and supply deficiencies necessary to serve planned community growth.

Action Item DE-187.2: Support funding applications to improve and expand water and sewer service capabilities in areas planned for future growth or to resolve existing deficiencies.

Policy DE-216: Development shall facilitate and integrate the ability for fire protection agencies to access and maintain fuel and firebreaks, water supplies, and emergency access routes.

Without a County liaison dedicated to supporting communities with projects, it makes it challenging for the County to follow these General Plan policies of offering support. It would be very helpful if the County could find ways to build capacity within the County government to support our community's strategic planning and economic development activities. I am sure that we are not the only community facing such daunting projects who could also use some technical expert direction and assistance at times.

We have really enjoyed working in our community as a part of the greater MOVE 2030 process, which has generated a lot of excellent ideas and helped to build bridges within the county where ideas and information continue to flow. We look forward to helping develop creative ways we can continue to work together to support and foster much needed economic growth in our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Stull-Otto

Presiding Officer
Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council

Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council (RVAMAC) MOVE 2030 Priorities
Updated September 2, 2020

Built Environment & Infrastructure

- Develop a community emergency water system for fire prevention in the downtown core to reduce the cost of development. This has been identified as the very high priority item for economic development.
- Assure there are adequate sidewalks, benches, garbage cans to provide a comfortable and clean space for the community.
- Work with MCOG, CalTrans, and County DOT to continue to fund improvements needed for the safety of the downtown core and school zones.
- Explore and expand local electrical energy generation, micro-grid possibilities, and emergency back-up systems.
- Explore opportunities for expanding internet access.

Local Government Partnerships and Regulation

- Encourage the County to create a long-range planning and economic development division to dedicate time to advance planning throughout the County and assure there is dedicated staff time to assist the Round Valley Area with developing a long-range vision and practical steps.
- Work with the County to develop an ongoing forum for dialogue around planning and economic development.
- Work with the County and community stakeholders on mapping to identify areas for development and assess zoning, infrastructure, and clean-up needs, and other regulatory challenges that need to be updated to better serve the community. Include street improvement plans in mapping.
- Improve cannabis ordinance.
- Work with the County to develop a list of available Grants and partner with appropriate agencies in applying for these.

Community

- Honor native culture and history of Round Valley by including native language and art on signs etc.
- Public Art and murals spaces, with youth participation.
- More places and events to provide space for all of the community to gather.
 - Community park space with bathrooms
 - Youth gathering spaces
 - Provide opportunities for the youth to participate in as many areas of community development as possible, to help create buy-in and foster an increased respect for their surroundings. Including having them help with building, landscaping, environmental restoration, and public art projects where appropriate.

Education and Job Training

- Work with the business community to identify and develop internship and training opportunities.
- Partner with Mendocino Community College to help provide low cost training to the community. Assure there is feedback from High school students & business owners to provide input on what kind of classes are offered here.
- Explore the development of a working hub, shared office space with internet access that could also provide assistance with job skills, such as resume development and identifying available grants and loans.

Business Development

- Identify and advertise grant opportunities for small business development and to provide funding for paid internships.
- Explore possible fundraising opportunities to provide small business loans/grants to locals.
- Identify ways to attract and support more industry in the Valley.
- Develop cooperative for cannabis farmers.