



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Executive Office

CARMEL J. ANGELO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482-3734

Email: ceo@mendocinocounty.org
Website: www.mendocinocounty.org

Office: (707) 463-4441
Facsimile: (707) 463-5649

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 20, 2021

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: County Executive Office

SUBJECT: Round Valley Indian Tribes (RVIT)/ County of Mendocino Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Support Clean Up Effort in Round Valley.

Background:

The following seven Tribes are included in the Round Valley Indian Tribes: Concow (a Maidu Tribe), Little Lake, Nomlacki, Pit River, Pomo, Wailacki, and Yuki. The floor of Round Valley contains a checkerboard of jurisdictional responsibility, with lands of the County's jurisdiction mixed throughout lands of the Round Valley Indian Tribes' jurisdiction.

Blight in many forms has become visible throughout the valley, on lands under jurisdiction of the Tribes and the County. This blight includes roadside litter, large illegal dump sites, hundreds of junk vehicles, and burn debris. The community is leading a focused effort to clean up, and organized volunteer efforts have been documented in at least two recent news articles:

1. <https://kymkemp.com/2021/03/08/taking-our-valley-back-round-valley-residents-band-together-to-clean-up-roadways/>
2. <https://willitsnews.com/2021/04/01/community-comes-together-to-cleanup-covelo/>

The jurisdictional patchwork ensures that the Tribes and the County working together will be able to benefit the entire community of Round Valley in ways that neither entity could accomplish alone.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Before the Board:

This non-binding MOU is intended to provide the framework for that partnership between the Tribes and the County. If grant funding is awarded, this partnership framework will allow for a more comprehensive, collaborative effort to support the community in cleaning up.

With an MOU in place between the County and Tribes, HCD will consider a multi-point Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application from the County for funding that is intended to address the existing symptoms of blight while providing ongoing resources to support the community interest in improving the environment. The Round Valley Indian Tribes would be joined in the grant-funded effort by the Mendocino Solid Waste Management

Authority (MSWMA, Mendo Recycle) and Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (RCD). If grant funds are received, the County and the Tribes would enter into an agreement to formalize the language of the MOU and implement this approach, intended to include:

1. Funding for the RCD to develop signs and a social media campaign in cooperation with RVIT re: environmental impacts of litter.
2. Funding for Mendo Recycle to offer additional tire amnesty and household hazardous waste collection events in Round Valley.
3. Funding for the RCD to hire California Conservation Corps (CCC) in support of community cleanup events.
4. Funding for the RVIT to remove up to 400 junk vehicles on Tribal lands.
5. Funding for Mendo Recycle to remove up to 150 vehicles on County lands.
6. Funding to purchase a large truck trailer ("possum belly") so RVIT has independent capacity to store/haul solid waste or recyclables from special projects.
7. Funding for Mendo Recycle to clean at least two illegal dump sites.
8. Funding for Mendo Recycle to hire two part time employees for two years to continue cleaning illegal dump sites.
9. Funding for Planning & Building Services to hire a .5 FTE (full time equivalent) Code Enforcement Officer (extra help or regular employee, depending on future staffing plans for the department) to support this effort with a focus on junk vehicles.
10. Funding for two Mendo Recycle employees and two RVIT employees or members to receive "HAZWOPER" Specialist certificate so they are properly trained to handle hazardous materials.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

The community engagement in Round Valley, and the demonstrated willingness to volunteer in support of cleanup efforts provides an invaluable component of long term success for permanently reduced blight within the valley. The proposed partnership between the RVIT and County is intended to address symptoms and provide solutions to this complex problem. In addition to the direct benefit for Round Valley which may be achieved through this MOU and related grant funds, the approach will provide benefit throughout the county. Mendo Recycle's lead role in this effort would help re-establish their organizational capacity to clean illegal dump sites in other places by leveraging this experience, the additional staffing, and the procurement processes that will be completed in support of Round Valley's cleanup.

It is recommended that the Board approve the MOU with the Round Valley Indian Tribes, creating a partnership framework for continued cleanup efforts in Round Valley, to be funded with a CDBG award if approved by the State.