

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Re: Support for Agenda Items 5C & 6A

Chair Gjerde and Honorable Members of the Board,

Thank you for your consideration of Agenda Item 5C which seeks CDBG funding for Blight Removal in Round Valley; Small Business Assistance and Planning and Technical Support for design of the proposed Ukiah Valley Senior and Community Center.

The proposed Ukiah Valley Senior and Community Center is a project of regional importance. The proposed location will provide greater visibility and accessibility to seniors and a new and expanded thrift store will support the financial sustainability of the Center. The Center will also provide additional and convenient options for meeting space for community organizations and individuals and for the County. The project will also improve conditions in a currently blighted area. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Center and the success of this important project.

The Blight Removal project in Round Valley will support the ongoing efforts of community members to clean up their community. Of equal or greater importance, the project is an opportunity to build on past successful collaborations with the Round Valley Indian Tribes (RVIT), most recently on Covid response, and furthers the government-to-government relationship between the County and RVIT. The project is particularly appropriate because of land ownership patterns in Round Valley and the fact that what occurs within the jurisdiction of one entity has impacts on the other.

Adoption of Agenda Item 6A authorizing the proposed MOU with the RVIT formalizes the government-to-government relationship as it relates to the Blight Removal project and is therefore a necessary companion to Agenda Item 5C

Thank you for your support of these vital community projects.

John McCowen