

CARMEL J. ANGELO
Chief Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 25, 2021

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, we write to voice our support for increased funding of the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, specifically for UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE). UCCE provides vital education programs_ serving both urban and rural communities throughout the State in partnership with County governments. The UCCE staff are our local experts who are making a difference in economic development, business resiliency, agriculture and natural resources sustainability, and healthy families and communities. As trusted long-term partners, we have observed their work to empower landowners, residents, and organizations at every level. Locally, UCCE has played an important role assisting landowners in the production of wine grapes, pears, livestock, forest products and management, stewardship of natural resources, enhancement of habitat and water for fish and wild life, the 4-H Program and community develop projects in partnership with our county for over 100 years.

Presently there are unfilled positions for UCCE Farm Advisors who would serve our Mendocino County Office in Winegrowing and Plant Science; Orchards and Specialty Crops: Irrigation and Soil Health; and the 4-H and Youth Development Advisor. With the onset of another drought, a difficult fire season and the COVID pandemic still in place, these positions if filled would assist us greatly in addressing many of the challenges facing our community. For a modest investment, the rate of return to our counties and State of California is substantial based on past experiences from the partnership between UC Cooperative Extension and our community. We encourage you to augment UCCE's budget in a way that will restore so many positions around the state that have not been filled during the past 5 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Gjerde, Chair

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