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**OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**

January 20, 2026

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I respectfully submit – in an abundance of caution -- this request for Board approval to expend \$600 in state asset forfeiture funds (held on account by and for the District Attorney) to allow DA personnel, particularly managers and personnel of the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations, to attend on February 10, 2026 the annual networking and fundraising event in Williams benefiting the California Highway Patrol (CHP) 11-99 Foundation. Originally invited to participate by the Colusa County District Attorney, Mendocino County District Attorney personnel have participated in this annual event and benefited from their attendance every year since 2012.

This requested expenditure is consistent with the authorized uses of state asset forfeiture funds, which are intended to support law enforcement purposes, including training, professional development, and activities that enhance interagency cooperation and effectiveness. Attendance at this event directly advances those objectives. The California statutory authority and case law underlying and supporting this request was previously provided each of you in early December in the District Attorney's audit response.

The CHP 11-99 Foundation provides critical financial assistance to the families of California Highway Patrol officers who are killed in the line of duty, as well as to officers who suffer catastrophic injuries. Supporting this foundation reflects a shared commitment among California law enforcement agencies to officer safety, mutual aid, and the welfare of those who serve the public under hazardous conditions.

In addition to its charitable purpose, the event provides valuable networking and professional engagement opportunities between both CHP and non-CHP law enforcement personnel. Participation allows local managers and investigators to strengthen working relationships with CHP managers and other personnel, as well as other regional, state, and local law enforcement partners who are annually in attendance, including, in the past, at least one California Governor and other elected officials. These relationships are essential to effective multi-agency investigations, information sharing, coordinated enforcement efforts, and successful prosecution of complex criminal cases -- particularly those involving narcotics trafficking, organized crime, and asset forfeiture itself.

Using state asset forfeiture funds for this purpose is appropriate and lawful because:

- The expenditure supports a clear law enforcement purpose.
- It enhances interagency collaboration and operational effectiveness.
- It contributes to the professional development of District Attorney personnel.
- It aligns with the statutory intent that forfeiture funds be reinvested into public safety and law enforcement capacity, rather than general fund uses.

Approval of this request will demonstrate Mendocino County's continued commitment to regional law enforcement partnerships, officer safety, and the responsible use of forfeiture funds in a manner that provides tangible public benefit.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or clarification.

Respectfully submitted,



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District Attorney

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cc: Interim County Counsel Kit Elliott