

**TEA 21 Application**  
**Mendocino Council of Governments**

Redwood Empire Railroad History Project Phase 2

Proposed by

County of Mendocino  
Mendocino County Museum

August 30, 1999

**Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) Application Form**  
**PART ONE: GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION**

ATTACH. #2

Project is located entirely within the RTPA.      RTPA/ County: Mendocino  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Proposal is statewide or multi-regional in scope.      Legislative District Number: 1  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Redwood Empire Railroad History Project Phase 2

<b>ADMINISTERING AGENCY APPLICANT Project Administrator/person with day-to-day responsibility for implementing project (Name, title, agency, address, phone, fax)</b>  Daniel Taylor, Director, Mendocino Co. Museum 400 East Commercial Street Willits, CA 95490 707-459-2736 (office) 707-459-7836 (fax)	<b>TEA FUNDS REQUESTED</b> \$ <u>1,408,000.00</u> <b>NON-FEDERAL TEA MATCH</b> \$ <u>227,000.00</u> <b>TOTAL TEA PROJECT COST</b> \$ <u>1,635,000.00</u>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TEA is a stand-alone project. <input type="checkbox"/> TEA is part of a larger project. <b>Total Project Cost</b> \$ _____ (Round dollars to nearest thousands)
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<b>Person who can answer questions about this application (Name, title, phone, fax)</b>  Daniel Taylor, Director, Mendocino Co. Museum 707-459-2736 (office) 707-459-7836 (fax)	<b>PARTNER(S) (Name, title, agency, address, phone, fax)</b> Gordon Logan, City Manager, City of Willits 111 E. Commercial Street Willits, CA 95490 707-459-4601 (office) 707-459-1562 (fax)
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**PROJECT SCOPE OF PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Describe the project's location, limits of work, size, etc. (Not the justification or benefits). Located on 3.5 acres of public-ly owned land at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits, CA, approximately 5 blocks east of US Hwy 101, 2 blocks east from the historic Northwestern Pacific RR Depot, directly across street from Recreation Grove Park and nearby County Branch Library, the Mendocino County Museum proposes constructing an attached 20,000 sq.ft. transportation museum building. The public facility's design includes classrooms, interpretive galleries, restrooms and landscaping.

**PROPOSED SCHEDULE:**

	<u>Quarter and Year</u>
Start Environmental Studies	2nd 2000
Draft Environmental Document	3rd 2000
Final Environmental Document	4th 2000
Begin Design Engineering	completed 8/1996
Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimates complete	" "
Start Right of Way Acquisition	4th 2000
Right of Way Certification	4th 2000
Ready to Advertise	1st 2001
Award Construction	2nd 2001
Project Completion (open for use)	4th 2001

**WHICH CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES ENCOMPASS THE TEA? (May be more than one.) \***  
 List approximate amount of federal TEA funds to be spent in each of the TEA categories:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| \$ _____ 1. Pedestrian or bike facilities     | \$ _____ 6. Historic transportation rehabilitation |
| \$ _____ 2. Acquisition of sites              | \$ _____ 7. Rails to trails                        |
| \$ _____ 3. Historic highway programs         | \$ _____ 8. Outdoor advertising removal            |
| \$ _____ 4. Landscaping/scenic beautification | \$ _____ 9. Archaeology planning/research          |
| \$ _____ 5. Historic preservation             | \$ _____ 10. Runoff water pollution control        |

Activities outside the categories: List approximate amount of federal TEA funds to be spent in activities outside the ten categories (must be necessary and incidental to the portion inside the categories): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Describe:

\* \$1,408,000.00 12. Establishment of transportation museums

# PART TWO: FUNDING

Prepared by Dan Taylor

) Museum Director

Agency Mendocino County Museum

Phone 707-459-2736

FAX 707-459-7836

## PROJECT COMPONENT COSTS

### PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING PHASE:

• Construction Documents	\$ 10,000.00	
• Environmental Documents	\$ 25,000.00	
<b>TOTAL PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING</b>		\$ 35,000.00

### RIGHT OF WAY PHASE (ACQUISITION):

• Capital	\$ 0	
• Support costs	\$ 0	
<b>TOTAL RIGHT OF WAY</b>		\$ 0

### CONSTRUCTION PHASE:

• Construction contract items	\$ 1,278,500.*	
Contingencies 10%	\$ 127,850.00	
Construction engineering	\$ 193,650.00	
<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION</b>		\$ 1,600,000.00

\*see next sheet for detail

## CASH FLOW CHART

	Fiscal Year 1998/99	Fiscal Year 1999/00	Fiscal Year 2000/01	Fiscal Year 2001/02	Beyond 2001/02
Preliminary Engineering	\$ 0	\$ 35,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Right of Way	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 0	\$ 35,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 0

## LOCAL FUNDING SHARE DETAIL

Phases	A Federal	+	B Match	=	C TEA Cost	D* Total Cost
Preliminary Eng	\$ 0		\$ 35,000		\$ 35,000	\$ 0
Right of Way	\$ 0		\$ 0		\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 1,408,000		\$ 192,000		\$ 1,600,000	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 1,408,000		\$ 227,000		\$ 1,635,000	\$ 0

\*Fill in column 'D' only when TEA is part of larger project, not a stand-alone project

### SOURCE(S) OF MATCH

(Spell out; No acronyms) Preliminary Engineering County of Mendocino/Private donations  
 Right of Way None Required  
 Construction County of Mendocino

**MAINTENANCE** Who will maintain? County of Mendocino

What is the source of maintenance funds? Mendocino County General Fund

**PART TWO: FUNDING (continued)****ITEM ESTIMATE - CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT ITEMS**

Item	Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
1.	Permits	L.S.	1	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
2.	Survey	L.S.	1	2,000.00	2,000.00
3.	Site Preparation	CY	2,000	31.50	63,000.00
4.	Concrete Forms	CY	99	525.00	52,000.00
5.	Structural Concrete	CY	300	203.33	61,000.00
6.	Lumber Materials	L.S.	1	175,000.00	175,000.00
7.	Carpenter Labor - Rough	L.S.	1	60,000.00	60,000.00
8.	Carpenter Labor - Finish	L.S.	1	165,000.00	165,000.00
9.	Doors and Frames	EA	52	1,500.00	78,000.00
10.	Cabinets and Millwork	L.S.	1	15,000.00	15,000.00
11.	Hardware	L.S.	1	8,500.00	8,500.00
12.	Plumbing	L.S.	1	65,000.00	65,000.00
13.	Electrical	L.S.	1	85,000.00	85,000.00
14.	Roof Trusses	L.S.	1	18,000.00	18,000.00
15.	Roof Cover	L.S.	1	35,000.00	35,000.00
16.	H.V.A.C. and Sheet Metal	L.S.	1	45,000.00	45,000.00
17.	Glass and Glazing	EA	20	300.00	6,000.00
18.	Sheetrock	S.F.	52,500	0.80	42,000.00
19.	Insulation and Sound Proofing	L.S.	1	120,000.00	120,000.00
20.	Finish Flooring	S.F.	6,400	3.75	24,000.00
21.	Paint and Decorating	L.S.	1	60,000.00	60,000.00
22.	Fire Sprinklers	L.S.	1	62,000.00	62,000.00
23.	Clean-up	L.S.	1	7,000.00	7,000.00
24.	Landscaping	L.S.	1	20,000.00	20,000.00
25.	Sidewalks	S.F.	1,500	4.00	6,000.00

**PART THREE: ASSURANCES**

**This page must be signed for the project to be considered for funding.**

Commitment/Prior Commitment:

Has the project Administering Agency certified that it is willing and able to maintain and operate the project?

Yes

No

Please describe the best evidence of the certification available. If none is available, when can one be provided?

County of Mendocino Resolution Number 99-187

Approved by Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, 8/24/1999

Project Administering Agency possesses legal authority to nominate transportation enhancement activity and to finance, acquire, and construct the proposed project; and by formal action (e.g., a resolution) the Administering Agency's governing body authorizes the nomination of the transportation enhancement activity, including all understanding and assurances contained therein, and authorizes the person identified as the official representative of the Administering Agency to act in connection with the nomination and to provide such additional information as may be required.

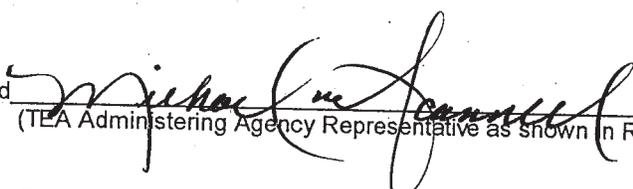
Project Administering Agency will maintain and operate the property acquired, developed, rehabilitated, or restored for the life of the resultant facility(ies) or activity. With the approval of the California Department of Transportation, the Administering Agency or its successors in interest in the property may transfer the responsibility to maintain and operate the property.

Project Administering Agency will give the California Department of Transportation's representative access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the transportation enhancement activity.

Project Administering Agency will cause work on the project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the State that funds have been approved by the Federal Highway Administration and that the project will be carried to completion with reasonable diligence.

Project Administering Agency will comply where applicable with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and any other federal, state, and/or local laws, rules and/or regulations.

I certify that the information contained in this transportation enhancement activity application, including required attachments, is accurate and that I have read and understand the important information and agree to the assurances on this form.

Signed   
(TEA Administering Agency Representative as shown in Resolution)

Date 8-27-99

Printed (Name and Title) Michael K. Scannell, County Administrative Officer

Administering Agency County of Mendocino

RESOLUTION NO. 99-187

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA NOMINATING THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FOR THE REDWOOD EMPIRE RAILROAD HISTORY PROJECT PHASE 2

WHEREAS, the United State Congress has enacted the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which is known as TEA 21; and

WHEREAS, TEA 21 public funds are available through competitive application to the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, which is known as the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG); and

WHEREAS, MCOG has adopted a local TEA 21 application process to determine how to distribute these public funds; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Museum has developed the Redwood Empire Railroad History Project and received ISTEAFunds for its Phase 1 which is currently under construction. And, it has been determined that Phase 2, known as The Exhibition and Learning Center, is eligible to apply for TEA 21 funds; and

WHEREAS, the Museum has searched several years for available funding sources to construct the Railroad History Project's Phase 2, and that TEA 21 funds present the only foreseeable source of construction funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (1) nominates the Museum's application for TEA 21 funds including all understanding and assurances contained therein; (2) authorizes Michael K. Scannell, County Administrative Officer to sign the application's assurances form; (3) certifies that the County of Mendocino will make adequate provisions for the construction, operation and maintenance of the project; and (4) will appropriate the necessary matching funds of \$192,000.

The foregoing Resolution was introduced by Supervisors Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Lucier, and carried this 24th day of August, 1999, by the following vote on roll call:

AYES: Supervisors Delbar, Lucier, Campbell, Colfax, Shoemaker  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chairman declared the resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

*Richard Shoemaker*

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST: KRISTI FURMAN  
Clerk of the Board

*Kristi Furman*

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

KRISTI FURMAN  
Clerk of the Board

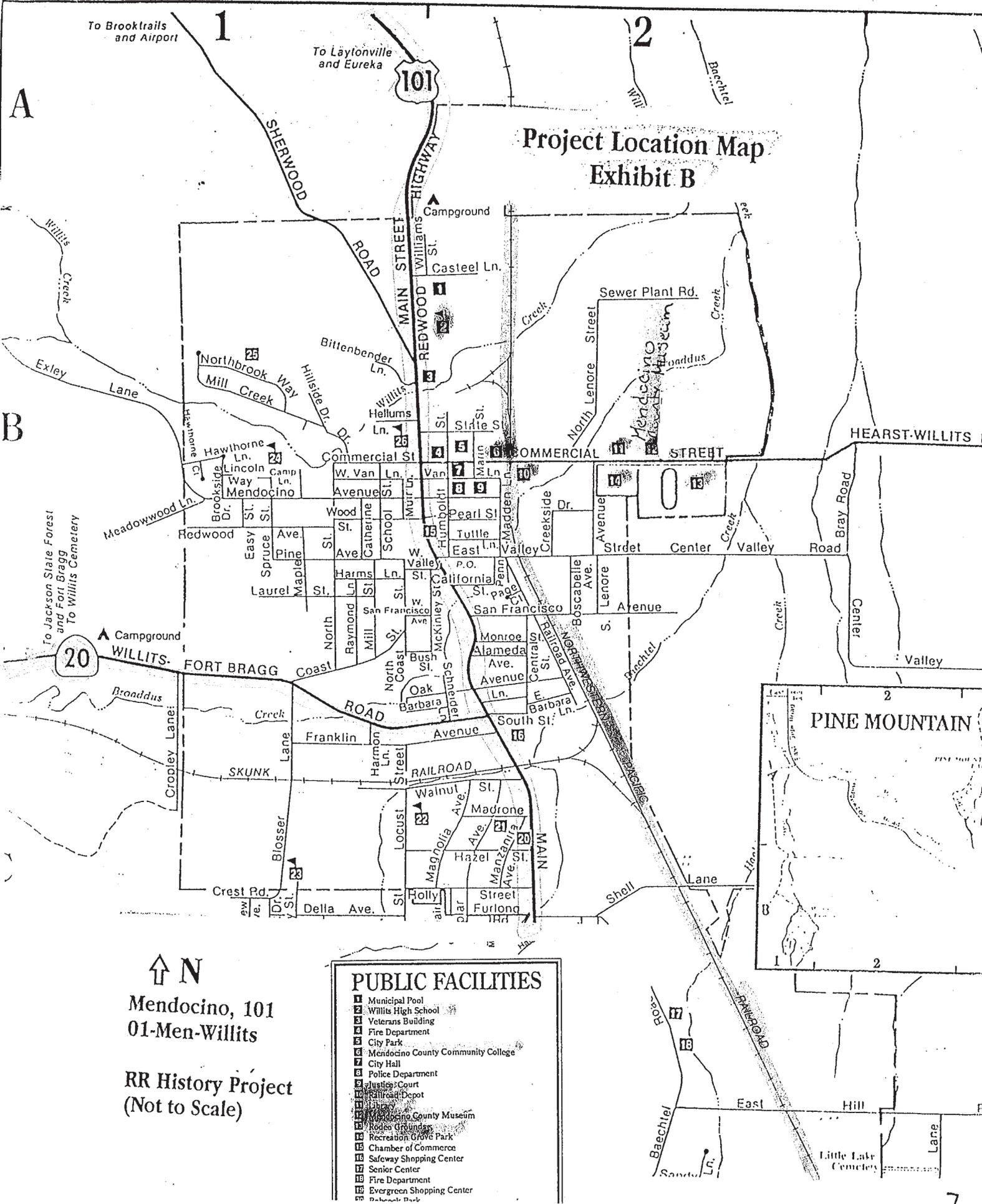
By: *Janelli Rau*  
DEPUTY

**Project Site Location Map  
and Master Plan**

Redwood Empire Railroad History Project Phase 2

Proposed by

County of Mendocino  
Mendocino County Museum



# Project Location Map Exhibit B

To Brooktrails and Airport

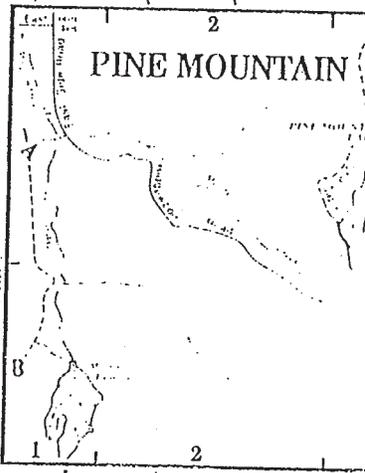
To Laytonville and Eureka

A

B

↑ N  
Mendocino, 101  
01-Men-Willits  
RR History Project  
(Not to Scale)

- PUBLIC FACILITIES**
- 1 Municipal Pool
  - 2 Willits High School
  - 3 Veterans Building
  - 4 Fire Department
  - 5 City Park
  - 6 Mendocino County Community College
  - 7 City Hall
  - 8 Police Department
  - 9 Justice Court
  - 10 Railroad Depot
  - 11 Mendocino County Museum
  - 12 Redden Grounds
  - 13 Recreation Grove Park
  - 14 Chamber of Commerce
  - 15 Safeway Shopping Center
  - 16 Senior Center
  - 17 Fire Department
  - 18 Evergreen Shopping Center
  - 19 Redden Park





# Screening Criteria

Redwood Empire Railroad History Project Phase 2

Proposed by

County of Mendocino  
Mendocino County Museum

1. **Transportation Enhancement** – The Project directly relates to the intermodal transportation system by proximity and function.

The Project is located on public land in Willits, near the geographical center of Mendocino County. Willits functions as a railroad community that is linked to the intercontinental rail system and California's Redwood Empire Region via two historic lines: The North Coast Railroad (formerly the Northwestern Pacific Railroad from Marin County to Humboldt Bay), and the California Western "Skunk" Railroad connecting the coastal city of Fort Bragg with Willits. A passenger serving depot building is located only 2 blocks away from the proposed Project site. Additionally, the Project is located five blocks east of US Highway 101 and less than 1 mile north of the US Highway 101- State Route 20 interchange. Pedestrian sidewalks connect the Project site located at 400 East Commercial Street to the intersection of US Highway 101.

Sufficient free public parking spaces already exists to accommodate passenger cars, recreational vehicles and handicap parking. Public transportation provided by the Mendocino Transit Authority serves coastal and inland fare zones bringing visitors to the Project site (bus stop is located four blocks away at City Park).

The proposed Project is over and above a normal project.

This Project encompasses the category – Establishment of Transportation Museums (Category 12).

The Redwood Empire Railroad History Project Phase 2 proposed as a transportation enhancement activity will be publicly owned, operated and maintained by the County of Mendocino and is intended solely for public use.

2. **Consistency** – The proposed Project is consistent with the Mendocino County Regional Transportation Plan regarding tourist-related services important to the regional economy of Mendocino County (October 7, 1996 edition, page A-60). The Project is included in the 1998-99 Mendocino County Overall Economic Development Plan (page 16) and is consistent with the California Transportation Plan's (Objective C, Policy 1, circa 1995 edition) objective promoting tourism and access to California's historic, scenic and recreational areas. Additionally, the proposed project is located on public land within Willits' city limits where the County Museum and County Branch Library are sited.

**3. Financial Requirements –**

The County of Mendocino and its Museum Department have the ability to meet all the financial obligations of the proposed project. The Museum Director has the experience of administering an ISTEA funded project (Redwood Empire Railroad History Project Phase 1) currently under construction.

The proposed project has completed construction design plans and specifications. These detailed documents were used in securing the construction cost estimate provided by the County of Mendocino General Services Department. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors and County Administrative Officer have acknowledged and approved the project's financial plan.

On August 24, 1999, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution # 99-187 committing the local funding share. This resolution also affirms the County's support to maintain the improvement.

**4. Project-specific Requirements**

- a. 16 copies attached including Resolution # 99-187 Letters of Support
- b. The Project is well defined. Over the past 10 years the Project's concept, design and intended scope of work has been reviewed by County officials, Willits City Officials, Museum staff and a broad base of community input. A Master Agreement exists between Caltrans and the County of Mendocino. Experience gained from administering the ISTEA-funded Phase 1 of the Railroad History Project will create a seamless project administration methodology. This prior ISTEA-funded project administration experience was valuable in assessing the costs of federal environmental documentation necessary to complete this proposed Project.
- c. The proposed activity, construction of a transportation museum building, is well-justified due to the completion of design specifications, public ownership of project site land, and a construction cost estimate that was carefully prepared by the County of Mendocino General Services' Building and Grounds Division. Additionally, the building design was prepared after careful analysis of railroad museum facilities operated by the State of California in Sacramento and Nevada State Railroad Museum located in Carson City.

- d. When completed the proposed Project will provide exhibition space to interpret the importance of railroads in the economic and social development of the Redwood Empire Region. Artifacts, photographs, maps and oral histories will be used. Restored steam-powered locomotives and other related rolling stock currently in the museum's collections will also be displayed. Educational activities for K-12 students and community college students will utilize the planned classroom space.
  - e. Our project as proposed will begin in the fiscal year funding is approved.
  - f. It is anticipated that this Project would qualify for **FONSI** designation (Finding Of No-Significant Impact). The Project site can be described as having minimal landscaping, irrigation and planted with a few oak and pine trees. The County Museum has used the land for nearly 30 years for its Mendocino Woods Living History Demonstrations cosponsored by Roots of Motive Power, Inc. Thus environmental clearances such as endangered species, wetlands, historic and cultural resources, right-of-way acquisition and public controversy should not extend the planned project timeline.
  - g. The County of Mendocino has a Master Agreement with Caltrans. The County will also be the responsible agency to administer and maintain the Project.
  - h. The Project is located on public land owned by the City of Willits and leased to the County of Mendocino for the specific purpose of operating a Museum. The lease agreement was signed in 1972 and extends for a period of 99 years with an automatic renewal clause.
- 5. Air Quality Requirements**  
The Project will have no discernable and/or unmitigatable impacts on air quality.
- 6. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirements**  
The Project's completed design plans and specifications meet all applicable ADA requirements, including those incorporated into the California Building Code.

**7. Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation**

During environmental review process a qualified professional will address Section 106 requirements relative to the Secretary of Interior standards. It is not anticipated that Section 106 will impact the construction of this transportation museum.

# **Scoring Criteria**

**Redwood Empire Railroad History Project Phase 2**

**Proposed by**

**County of Mendocino  
Mendocino County Museum**

## General Merit Criteria

1a.

The Project intends to construct a 20,000-sq. ft. transportation museum building that is open to the public year round. Admission will be free. This transportation museum's purpose will focus solely on utilizing existing collections of artifacts, original photographs and documents, maps and associated oral histories currently in the County Museum's permanent collections, and, add new artifact donations to professionally interpret the significance of the Redwood Empire's railroad history. Loaned materials from other museums and those held in private collections will also be used. If funded, the project will create a year round cultural tourism destination attraction for Mendocino County.

The Project's overall design features architectural elements that reflect the rich cultural heritage of Mendocino County. Design elevations incorporate structural lines based on turn of the century buildings built around the redwood logging industry and its use of steam powered railroads and related machinery. For example, the now deteriorating redwood building located at Camp 20 along State Route 20 (between Willits and Fort Bragg) served as an architectural model for the Project. Large open truss-beams will leave the museum visitor with a visual sense of walking back in time. The "locomotive" display area will provide a sensory experience that is exceptional because the visitor will be able to see, touch and smell these authentic components of a interpreted turn of the century railroad operation. While this will be a new building, it will have the appearance of using local historical design elements.

For more than 80 years Willits community life has formed around railroads. When the California Western Railroad was completed in 1911 linking the coastal town of Fort Bragg to Willits, community residents enjoyed travel by rail to civic celebrations. Today, in 1999, citizens continue to celebrate special events (Frontier Days, Community Festival, Celtic Faire) and the Lumberjack Handcar Races and Steam Festival. All these broadly publicized events are held around the Museum grounds and Project site. With the California Western Railroad attracting customers from all over the country, our Project will provide a uniquely complimentary and excellent educational experience stimulating public appreciation of rail transportation history. As a transportation museum focusing on the Redwood Empire, this Project will naturally provide a substantial cultural and educational benefit to all citizens of Mendocino County as well as regional populations in Sonoma County to the south and Humboldt County to the north.

The Project is located on East Commercial Street, affectionately referred to by many as the "East Commercial Street Cultural Corridor." If funded, the Project will utilize the expertise of Roots of Motive Power, Inc. volunteers. These "friends" of the museum have been actively restoring steam-powered machinery for more than 15 years. This organization, along with the Museum, is well known throughout the region for the quality of interpretive exhibits and public presentations demonstrating restored historic railroad and logging equipment. Our planned interpretive exhibits, using locally-documentable artifacts, will increase public knowledge of railroad operations during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century history of the region, and will result in increased public interest and appreciation of rail operations as part of the present transportation system mix of facilities.

Additionally, the Project will attract newly arrived area residents, many of whom are retired and looking for a meaningful opportunity to volunteer their leisure time contributing to community life. Phase 2 will provide local residents around the county with a strong sense of place and history within their community.

Finally, it is important to note that the County Museum draws its community support (artifact donors, Endowment Fund donors and educational activity volunteers) from all geographical parts of Mendocino County.

Most of the large artifacts associated with rail transportation that will be interpreted in this building have been recovered from public and private land associated with abandoned logging sites.

1b.

Publicly accessible educational demonstrations, exhibitions and related activities using historically significant railroad artifacts within this proposed transportation museum facility will create a year round inland tourist destination attraction. Local motels, restaurants and retail establishments will benefit. It is expected that the communities of Hopland and Ukiah will share in this cultural tourism economic growth, as Willits currently does not have the quality and quantity of tourism serving businesses or retail shopping opportunities.

The Project is also located next to the Willits Branch Library and across the street from Recreation Grove Park. These public facilities and the proposed transportation museum will be mutually beneficial and can create a strong sense of a landscape of community values (cultural, educational and recreational opportunity).

With the planned classroom space, all Mendocino County schoolchildren will enjoy an expanded educational experience at the Museum. Local teachers will have adequate room to instruct their students, review educational materials and stimulate thought-provoking discussion about the importance of transportation history in their lives. Throughout the year, elementary and secondary classes from Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma counties visit the Museum and view the historic railroad equipment. In addition to normal open hours, the Museum and its Roots of Motive Power volunteers prepare a special education day attracting more than 600 school children from Lake and Mendocino Counties.

The Project enhances the transportation's multimodal system through its location near, and within walking distance, of the historic NWP depot. Additionally, the Project is located only a few blocks away from Highway 101 and within one mile of the junction of this major north-south transportation artery with State Route 20 (also known as the Tahoe-Pacific Heritage Corridor). Currently, there is no transportation museum or interpretive center focused on transportation history located in the Redwood Empire Region. This Project, therefore, eliminates this deficiency.

1c.

The proposed Project addresses elements of the Mendocino County Regional Transportation Plan regarding tourist-related services important to the regional economy of Mendocino County (October 7, 1996 edition, page A-60). The Project is included in the 1998-99 Mendocino County Overall Economic Development Plan (page 16) and is consistent with the California Transportation Plan's (Objective C, Policy 1, circa 1995 edition) objective promoting tourism and access to California's historic, scenic and recreational areas.

1d.

This Project will reinforce the contemporary regional transportation system from an historical perspective because there are no other publicly accessible interpretive facilities in the region. The planned transportation museum will be open to the public year-round with publicized consistent hours. Admission will be free. Using existing transportation artifacts (CWR Engine #14, Holmes-Eureka Climax locomotive Number 4, CWR caboose #4, boxcar #462 and flatcar #370) as well as other artifacts associated with building the railroads, historic photographs, maps and associated oral histories, the planned museum will function as a preservation center attracting new donations of artifacts. Interpretive exhibits will inform visitors building their awareness of local transportation history and present them with a visual reminder of how life in the Redwood Empire Region used to look.

1e.

To date, the following community organizations have donated funds in support of Phase 2:

- \$36,200 used for construction plans and specifications from USDA Forest Service Option 9 Program
- \$3,000 produced promotional posters from USDA Forest Service Option 9 Program to raise additional funds for exhibition development
- \$32,500 in individual, business and community service club donations to be used for exhibition development (Bank of Willits, California Western Railroad, Willits Rotary Club, Soroptimist International of Willits, Willits Lions Club, Willits Garden Club, Willits Horsemen's Association)

Please see the attached letters of support from:

Congressman Mike Thompson  
City of Willits  
Mendocino College (2)  
Willits Chamber of Commerce  
Fort Bragg- Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce  
Great Ukiah Chamber of Commerce  
Roots of Motive Power, Inc.  
Economic Development Financing Corporation  
Swan and Associates  
California Western Railroad  
Mendocino County Promotional Alliance  
Inter Mountain Mfg.  
Redwood Coast Chamber of Commerce  
Blosser Lane Elementary School

1f.

The Project encompasses added benefit to the public transportation system by increasing ridership of tourists staying and residents living in the Ukiah community who choose to ride the available MTA bus serving Willits.

2.

The County Museum currently has an annual visitation of 25,000 people. This visitor count occurred in FY 1998-99 when the California Western railroad suspended train service to Willits during most of the year. CWR's annual ridership is estimated at 60,000. The building's design and its operational support provided by the County of Mendocino is intended to last forever (or at least as long as there is a local governmental jurisdiction). A competent professional employed by the General Services Department, Buildings and Grounds Division, of the County of Mendocino prepared the construction cost estimate. There will be no right-of-way acquisition costs as the project is located on publicly owned land. Additionally, with

design plans and specifications completed, the project will not incur any associated costs. Finally, preliminary engineering costs will be low since the project is located on minimally landscaped ground that has been used by the County Museum for its living history demonstration since 1972. It is important to note that administering this Project will be somewhat easier since the Museum Director has already successfully administered and ISTEAs-funded project (Redwood Empire Railroad History Project Phase 1).

## **Activity-Specific Criteria**

### **Historic/Archaeological Specific Division**

#### **Current recognized level of historic significance (federal, state, local) -**

Federal recognition of historic significance of this Project relates to the individual artifacts housed in the Museum's permanent collection. These artifacts (steam-powered locomotives and associated rolling stock) qualify and are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historical Places. One of the focus areas of interpretation will be the identification of historic transportation sites throughout Mendocino County and the Redwood Empire Region. The nearby Northwestern Pacific Railroad Depot has recently been listed on the National Register. Both artifacts and photographs of this building are currently part of the Museum's permanent collection and will be exhibited in the new transportation museum building described in this application as Phase 2.

The California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento and other regional historical organizations (California Historical Society and California Council for the Promotion of History) recognize through awards presented to the County of Mendocino and Mendocino County Museum the outstanding historical preservation efforts. The State of California through their Transportation Commission affirmed this Project's historic significance by approving for funding our application for ISTEAs funds for Phase 1.

Local businesses have also recognized the historical significance of this project by donating important logging artifacts used in transporting fallen timber to coastal mill sites. Louisiana Pacific Corporation donated several sets of railroad logging cars used circa 1925 at Northfork Camp along Big River near Mendocino. Additionally, on numerous occasions, the Board of Supervisors has recognized the historic preservation efforts of the museum through official and formal resolutions.

**Degree project activity will enhance, preserve, or protect the historic/archaeological resource -**

The proposed Project will preserve and protect historic railroad artifacts to a high degree. As irreplaceable objects, professional museum curators continually research documentary information, monitor an artifact condition, interpret its history and conduct meaningful oral history interviews with the people that helped shaped the Redwood Empire's railroad transportation history. As a primary interpretive tool, the museum will use these artifacts, original photographs, maps and oral histories that link transportation systems (past and present) to community settlement and industrial development. These historical interpretations and living history demonstrations will, to the highest degree possible, enhance a unique community resource. In doing so, public appreciation of local and state history will naturally increase. This transportation museum building will be the focal point for all long term and temporary exhibitions. The structure is designed to exhibit up to six pieces of railroad rolling stock. Other exhibition areas will be used to display smaller artifacts and photographs associated with transportation history.

The Project enhances the existing historic resource (nearby Northwestern Pacific Railroad Depot and associated tracks) by providing interpretive information to tourists waiting to board the California Western "Skunk" train. The proposed transportation museum's open public hours will compliment the scheduled arrival and departure times for the CWR Skunk excursions.

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The proposed project represents Phase 2. As described on the cover page of this application, Phase 2 will provide for construction of a 20,000 sq. ft. transportation museum building on public land that will interpret the significance of railroad transportation in the Redwood Empire Region.\*

\*Recreational fields on the site map are not part of the proposed Redwood Empire Railroad History Project.

**Letters of Support**

Redwood Empire Railroad History Project Phase 2

Proposed by

County of Mendocino  
Mendocino County Museum

**MIKE THOMPSON**

1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE

ARMED SERVICES



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101  
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CAPITOL OFFICE:  
415 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3311

August 4, 1999

Mendocino Council of Governments  
215 W. Standley Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Mendocino County's application for Transportation Enhancement Activities (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century) funding for Phase 2 of the Redwood Empire Railroad History Project.

The application before you has been developed by the Mendocino County Museum and is supported by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, City of Willits, Roots of Motive Power, Inc., Mendocino College as well as many private businesses and individuals throughout the region. Phase 2 funding will provide construction dollars for an Exhibition and Learning Center. This project is located in close proximity to U.S. Highway 101, the historic Northwestern Pacific RR Depot and the eastern terminus of the California Western Railroad.

While State Senator, I spoke before the California Transportation Commission on behalf of the Phase 1 ISTEA application. As you know, that application was approved and Phase 1 of the Redwood Empire Railroad History Project nears completion.

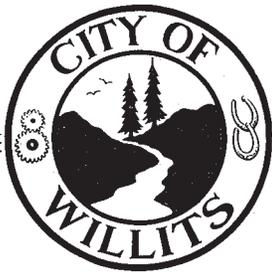
This innovative project is uniquely important because of its far-reaching economic and educational value. It is my opinion that it will benefit the North Coast region by stimulating increased cultural tourism. I encourage your favorable support of this application. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Thompson".

**MIKE THOMPSON**  
Member of Congress  
First District of California

MT: ks



# CITY OF WILLITS

CITY HALL – 111 East Commercial Street, (707) 459-4601 • Fax (707) 459-1562  
POLICE DEPARTMENT – 125 E. Commercial St., (707) 459-6122 • Fax (707) 459-0405  
Willits, CA 95490

August 6, 1999

Mendocino Council of Governments  
c/o Phil Dow, Executive Director  
367 N. State St., Ste. 206  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Subject: Redwood Empire Railroad History Project

Dear Directors and Mr. Dow:

Please receive this letter as a continuing expression of the City of Willits' strongest support for the subject project. The Railroad History Project truly reflects a collaborative approach to improving our communities and is pursued in partnership by the Roots of Motive Power, the City of Willits, the County of Mendocino, and supported by Mendocino College, various service clubs, and many others due to its ability to further economic development for the region. As well, this project clearly falls within the TEA-21 funding guidelines for this category of improvement. This opportunity to create and support economic development, cultural tourism, and transportation related educational programs cannot be lost.

The City has demonstrated support for this project by assisting through provision of the land upon which the project will be constructed, assistance with the environmental review process, and a commitment to provide water and sewer service to the project area through its Redevelopment Agency. Additionally, this Phase II project for TEA-21 funding has also received support through the USDA Forest Service Option 9 Program and private local donations amounting to in excess of \$30,000 from the Bank of Willits, California Western Railroad, Willits Rotary Club, Soroptimists International of Willits, Willits Lions Club, Willits Gardens Club, and the Willits Horsemen's Association.

With this strong level of both public and private sector support, we encourage the Council of Governments to support Phase II of the Redwood Empire Railroad History Project through its approval and highest ranking of their application for TEA-21 funding. If I can provide additional support and/or clarify any the above, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Gordon Logan  
City Manager

GL:tjd

cc: City Council



*Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence in Education & Service*  
August 16, 1999

Mendocino Council of Governments  
215 W. Standley Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Council Members,

The Mendocino College Willits Center is pleased to join many others in offering its strong support for the Redwood Empire Railroad History Project, Phase 2. Staff of the Willits Center have worked with others in the Willits and North County community for the last decade to help develop this important regional project. We are convinced that it will provide much-needed improvements to Willits and the other North County communities served by the Willits Center. It will also provide a key public facility that will benefit the economic and social development of our greater North Coast region.

Mendocino College has been an active participant in this collaborative project since its beginning a few years ago. The County Museum, City of Willits and many others have already done an exemplary job of involving a wide cross-section of our community. The project represents what I like to call a "landscape of community values" -- a place where many local groups can gather cooperatively to support one another's community-based activities and show how the members of a small rural community can work together to make the most of limited resources. The combination of public and private partnerships associated with this project is also noteworthy on a national level and illustrates the kinds of community associations required for relatively large-scale projects to succeed in today's world of limited resources.

Local and regional government agencies, educational institutions, non-profit civic and cultural groups, private businesses and individuals have all contributed significant support to the project. Its design accommodates the needs and interests of many of these entities and, when complete, the project can be used in a collaborative manner for many, many years by many different segments of our regional community. As a result, we are pleased to support this project and are committed to remain active in its further development in the coming years.

Please contact me for more information if needed and thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Mark Rawitsch  
Assistant Dean