



## COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

2015 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

MENDOCINO COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CARRE BROWN
FIRST DISTRICT

JOHN McCOWEN
SECOND DISTRICT

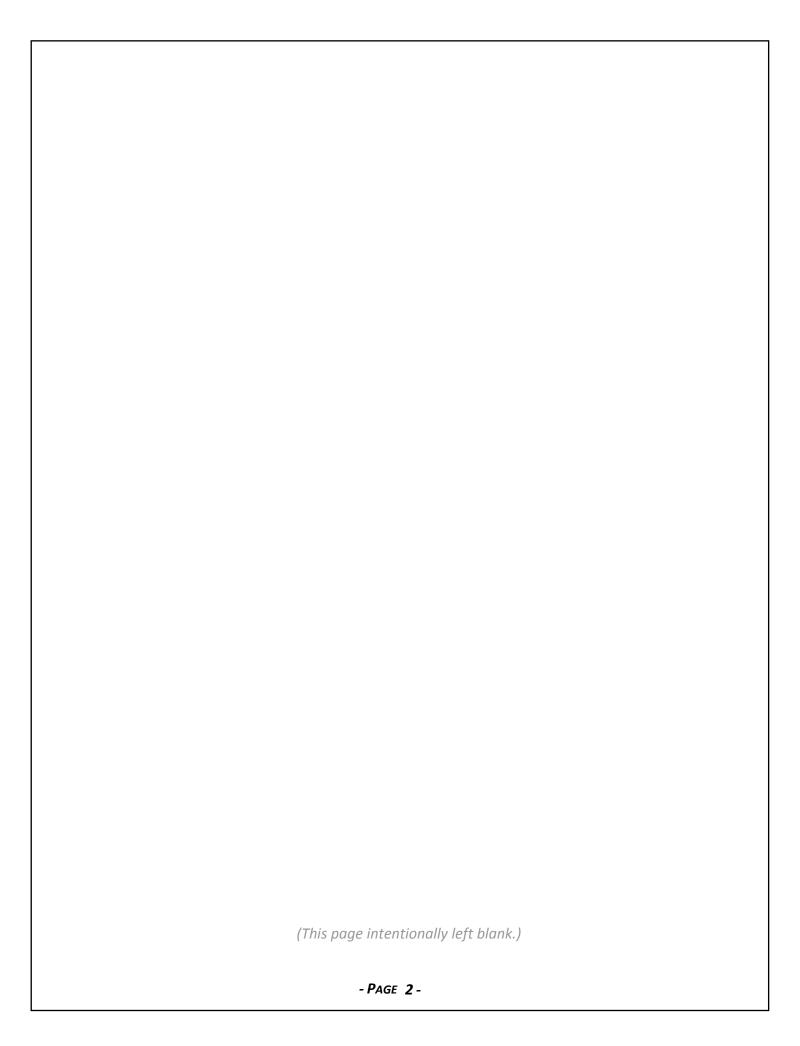
Tom Woodhouse
Third District

**DAN GJERDE**FOURTH DISTRICT

**DAN HAMBURG**FIFTH DISTRICT

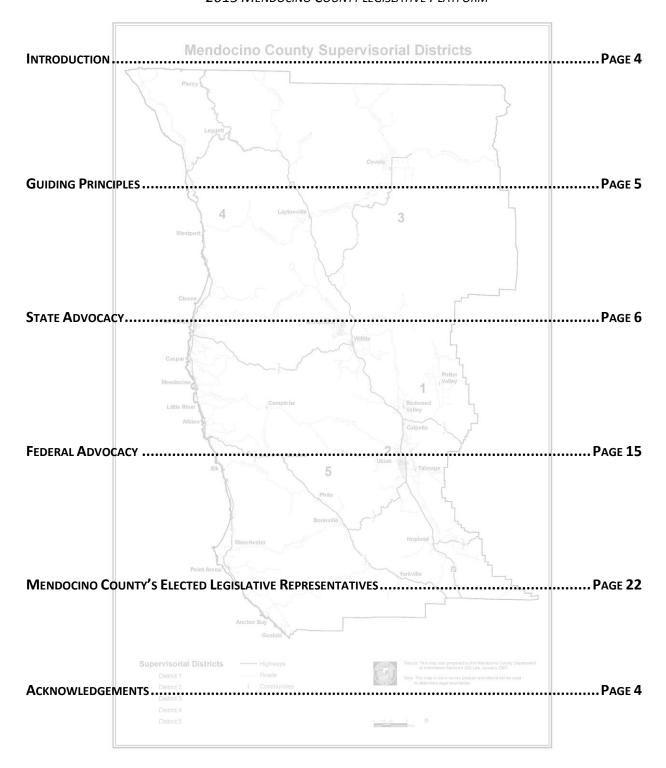
THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MISSION IS TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT THAT ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

Adopted by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors January 6, 2015



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2015 MENDOCINO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



### **RESOURCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES:**

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE (<u>www.senate.ca.gov</u>) | CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY (<u>www.assembly.ca.gov</u>)

U.S. SENATE (<u>www.senate.gov</u>) | U.S. House of Representatives (<u>www.house.gov</u>)

CSAC (<u>www.csac.counties.org</u>) | NACO (<u>www.naco.org</u>)

Mendocino County Executive Office (<u>www.co.mendocino.ca.us/administration/</u>)

### INTRODUCTION

### 2015 MENDOCINO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Mendocino County, California, is a small rural northern California coastal county incorporated in 1850 (General Law county), covering over 3,500 square miles of mountainous terrain, scenic ocean front property, rich agriculture lands, and abundant natural resources.

Mendocino County has a population of 87,841 with 1,018 miles of County maintained roads, four incorporated cities and numerous small towns, villages, and communities. The County is represented by five non-partisan elected members comprising the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

The county derived its name from Cape Mendocino which was probably named in honor of either Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain, 1535-1542 (who sent the Juan Cabrillo Expedition to this coast in 1542), or Lorenzo Suarez de Mendoza, Viceroy from 1580 to 1583. Mendocino is an adjective form of the family name of Mendoza.



Pursuant to County Policy No. 19, the Board of Supervisors adopts an annual Legislative Platform reflecting the County priorities for legislative advocacy, state and federal funding, and issues of interest to local government.

In development of the 2015 Legislative Platform, the Board formed an Ad-Hoc Committee, comprised of Supervisor Carre Brown and Supervisor Dan Gjerde, to work with County Department Heads and Executive Office staff in developing a framework of issues for Board consideration.

In shaping this year's platform, the Ad-Hoc Committee's recommendations to the Board, reflect: A slowly recovering economy impacting all levels of governmental programs, services, and funding; program and regulatory reform resulting from implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2014; ongoing federal deficit-reduction measures; the continuing congressional earmark moratorium; and anticipated reform measures at the local, state, and national level.

2015 also welcomes new State representation for Mendocino County, Mike McGuire, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Senator, and Jim Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Assemblyman.

On January 6, 2015, the Board unanimously adopted the 2015 Legislative Platform reflecting the County's legislative priorities, principles, and policies for the upcoming legislative cycle. In adopting an annual legislative advocacy platform, the Board of Supervisors strives to enhance the quality of life in Mendocino County through effective state and federal legislation.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

In adopting this year's platform, the Board wishes to acknowledge the collaborative work of our County Department Heads, our elected representatives' local district staff, and our community partners.

(References: U.S. Census Bureau; Legislative Analyst's Office; Department of Finance; California Department of Food and Agriculture)

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

2015 MENDOCINO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

In adopting this year's legislative platform, the following serve as Mendocino County's guiding principles for legislative advocacy:

- Local control
- Rural county needs, services, challenges
- Preservation/protection of funding for critical services
- Regulatory relief/regulatory reform
- Conservation and preservation of the county's natural resources
- Economic development

### LOCAL CONTROL

As the nation and the State grapple with revenue shortfalls and governmental restructuring, it is critical that every effort to support and promote local control is fully embraced, positioning the County to exercise maximum flexibility in carrying out its policy and program mandates.

### RURAL COUNTY NEEDS, SERVICES, CHALLENGES

Rural counties' needs are distinctly different from our larger urban and suburban counterparts throughout the State. Advocacy to support the unique needs of our rural communities including fiscal, programmatic, and regulatory consideration is of utmost importance.

## PRESERVATION/PROTECTION OF FUNDING FOR CRITICAL SERVICES

At a time when funding for local government is diminishing, it is more important than ever to continue to receive State and federal funding to preserve core services. This is especially critical given the State's impending implementation of health care reform and federal deficit reduction measures.

The County will continue to advocate for fundamental reforms to the system of governance in California to better serve the people of Mendocino County.

## REGULATORY RELIEF/REGULATORY REFORM

As local government faces reduced resources to carry out myriad programs and services, we join other California counties in advocating for greater flexibility and relief from over-regulation, relief from unfunded state mandates, and opposition to the further degradation of state funding for County programs. Continued support of CSAC and RCRC policy positions will benefit local government in general, and Mendocino County in particular.

# CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Mendocino County supports efforts to conserve and preserve the county's natural resources to help restore its fisheries, maintain healthy forests, and ensure agriculture is preserved for future generations.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Promotion of economic development opportunities suitable to our rural community's unique character through business development.

### STATE ADVOCACY

2015 MENDOCINO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

### **ELECTED STATE REPRESENTATIVES:**

Assemblyman Jim Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District Senator Mike McGuire, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

### **PRIORITIES FOR STATE ADVOCACY:**

SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ENFORCEMENT IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT ACT
(AND CLEAN UP LEGISLATION)

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SB1168, AB 1739, and SB 1319) was signed in to law by Governor Brown on September 16, 2014.

The Act sets out a framework of guidelines, priorities, and requirements for groundwater management in California. Provisions of the act authorize local agencies to undertake a more active role in groundwater management.

The County will exercise its authority for local control with regard to implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Governance Structure and associated groundwater sustainability agencies pertaining to Mendocino County, and will advocate for associated clean up legislation that may be introduced in the 2015/2016 legislative session.

ENCOURAGE REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS IN SEEKING
FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH
THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSITION
NO. 1 TO ASSIST WITH
DROUGHT RELIEF AND WATER
SUPPLY PLANNING MEASURES
(THE WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY,
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014)

With the voters' passage of Proposition No. 1, The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, \$7.1 Billion in new bonds will be available for water storage, groundwater management, water recycling, river flows, storm water capture, and flood management. Mendocino County, through the Mendocino County Water Agency, will convene goal-setting sessions with local/regional stakeholders to aggressively pursue available grant funding to assist with drought mitigation infrastructure projects, water supply planning efforts, and other water board mandates.

ADVOCATE FOR LEGISLATION
AND POLICY OUTCOMES THAT:
REVISES OR MODIFIES FEDERAL
LAWS RELATED TO MARIJUANA,
SUPPORTS AND PROVIDES FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN
EFFECTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR
THE REGULATION, TAXATION
AND CONTROL OF MARIJUANA,
AND PROMOTES A PRO-ACTIVE
REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND
ADVOCACY IN PREPARATION OF
IMPENDING LEGALIZATION OF
CANNABIS IN CALIFORNIA

### Support the Repeal or Modification of Federal Prohibition of Marijuana

Mendocino County supports the principles of legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana pursuant to the Board's policy statement of June 5, 2007. Inconsistencies in local, State, and Federal law create challenges within our public safety system network and criminal justice system. Mendocino County supports federal initiatives to either repeal or modify the federal prohibition of marijuana, and encourages federal recognition of state laws regulating medical marijuana.

The County supports efforts for the descheduling or rescheduling of cannabis, from a Schedule 1 Federally Classified Substance, as part of its support for the repeal or modification of federal prohibition of marijuana.

Advocate for Legislation that Supports and Provides for the Development of an Effective Framework for the Regulation, Taxation and Control of Marijuana, and Encourage Efforts to Combat Illegal Trespass (Marijuana Cultivation) on Public and Private Lands

Instances of illegal trespass and violent crimes on both public and private lands place our residents, visitors, and law enforcement officers at risk. The County supports measures to combat the impacts of these illegal activities within Mendocino County. The County will advocate for solutions to stem illegal marijuana cultivation in all areas of the county by working with private property owners, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other regulatory entities to address this problem.

The County also supports fines that cover the cost of site clean-up and restoration to mitigate for the impacts to the land, water quality and quantity. The Board of Supervisors supported H.R. 2735 (Protecting Lands Against Narcotics Trafficking Act), which was enacted into law and increases penalties on those who illegally use public or private property while trespassing and while damaging natural resources.

Mendocino County supports adequate funding to address illegal water diversion, water pollution, erosion, poisoning of wildlife, and other environmental damage associated with trespass marijuana growing operations.

## Promote a Pro-active Engagement and Advocacy in Preparation of Impending Legalization of Cannabis in California

It is likely that California voters will decide the outcome of marijuana (cannabis) legalization with a 2016 ballot initiative. Mendocino County supports efforts to convene stakeholder workgroups, including representation from California's Congressional Delegation, to prepare for the impending legalization of marijuana in California.

The County believes local government must proactively address this issue through an active and participatory process to promote a policy framework that will protect local government economic interests including potential revenue streams, provide environmental protections, and ensure sustainable public safety services.

PROTECTION OF COUNTY
FUNDING STREAMS AND
IMPROVED COVERAGE PLANS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE
CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
(ACA) IN CALIFORNIA

With the 2014 implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in California, local government continues to be impacted by the many facets of ACA implementation. It is vital that local government funding streams reflect equitable distribution formulas to serve our rural constituents. Adequate funding to sustain health care reform measures, including adequate funding for increased eligibility and enrollment functions at the local level is one of the County's priorities for State advocacy.

Furthermore, the lack of health insurance plans and options for consumers in rural counties through current Covered California's programs remains an ongoing concern. Currently more than 98% of our constituents enrolled in a health plan are limited to only two options — Anthem Blue Cross PPO and Blue

Shield EPO plans. The Blue Shield EPO plan poses issues with travel time to a contracted hospital, systematically allowing for a monopoly of only one plan - the Anthem Blue Cross PPO plan. The Anthem Blue Cross PPO plan provides inadequate and inaccurate coverage, limited providers, and travel distance to providers exceeding 20 miles. The County supports legislation and policy outcomes that provide reasonable options for citizens of rural counties, allowing all consumers to obtain equal, adequate, and sufficient coverage under Covered California's programs

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION
OF STATE FUNDING AS
A RESULT OF PROGRAMMATIC
REALIGNMENT

In 2011, the Legislature enacted a comprehensive realignment of criminal justice programs and services to counties as well as realigned the funding of a variety of health and human services programs. The realigning of the health and human services programs started in the beginning of the 2011-12 fiscal year while the criminal justice realignment – via AB 109 – took effect on October 1, 2011.

The County supports local flexibility in the administration and implementation of programs funded by realignment. We believe that the State should assume cost increases associated with state-imposed program changes and expansions, as well as federal maintenance of effort mandates. Likewise, we oppose State and/or federal funding reductions that shift responsibility for services, administration or fiscal support to rural counties. The success of implementation activities associated with the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 is dependent upon adequate funding.

Mendocino County continues to implement AB 109 ("Realignment") and focus on reintegration of offenders back into the community. Challenges impacting the ability to reintegrate offenders back into the community are impeded by their inability to obtain a valid identification card which is essential for securing housing, employment and health care. The County supports legislation and policy outcomes that would establish a protocol for the issuance of Inmate Identification Cards through the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles). Moreover, the County supports working with state agencies and our partners in crafting a statewide framework and protocols to help remedy this problem.

SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE CEQA REFORM

Since its passage in 1970, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has required project proponents and public agencies to analyze, disclose, and mitigate the significant impacts of changes in the environment. The County supports the protection and preservation of the community's environmental resources. However, over the decades, CEQA has grown increasingly complex and onerous, and some procedural and minor provisions of the law are often used by opponents as a means to block projects that would otherwise serve to improve environmental conditions or provide a clear benefit to the community. In the 2013 legislative season, nearly 30 CEQA bills were introduced—one of which passed. While the County continues to monitor the contemplated implementation of SB 743, the County will continue to support responsible legislation to revise CEQA that improves and streamlines the implementation and intent of the law without creating further complexity.

## PROMOTION OF RURAL BROADBAND

The County will Collaborate with the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County (BAMC) and the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC) to: 1) facilitate the deployment of a robust countywide fiber backbone infrastructure that will enhance economic development and stimulate affordable broadband access to all homes, businesses, schools, libraries, public safety facilities, health services and other institutions throughout Mendocino County; and 2) advocate for important issues that may include: universal right to service which includes maintaining landline connections to those areas without adequate fixed wireless or mobile cellular coverage, adequate funding from state and federal programs such as the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) and Connect America Fund (CAF) for the deployment for broadband infrastructure projects, and requiring accurate reporting of data used in Broadband mapping.

The County will also continue to work with other northern California counties to identify and meet regional needs using a comprehensive, integrated approach to expand broadband infrastructure into our communities.

SUPPORT RESTORATION
OF WILLIAMSON ACT
SUBVENTION

The State of California has eliminated funding for the Williamson Act (the California Land Conservation Act). Mendocino County, like most other rural counties, is dependent on State funding to offset the loss of property tax revenue to the County. This program has been hugely beneficial to our agricultural county. Without a resumption of subvention payments, the County budget will suffer a detrimental impact.

In 2011, the Legislature enacted AB 1265, which allows eligible counties to offset a portion of the loss in subvention funds. AB 1265 allows counties to implement contracts that are ten percent shorter in exchange for a ten percent reduction in property tax relief to the landowner. On September 15, 2014, the Governor signed SB 1353 which eliminated the sunset provision of AB 1265. On November 10, 2014, the Board of Supervisors voted to continue the implementation of AB 1265 within Mendocino County for calendar year 2015.

The County will continue to advocate for further relief of foregone revenues to preserve and support our agricultural resources, including the restoration of State subvention funding.

SUPPORT FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES THAT PROVIDE
FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION
(INCLUDING STATE PARKS)
ENCOURAGING HEALTHY
LIFESTYLES AND UTILIZATION
OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Outdoor recreational opportunities are a critical component to a healthy and vibrant community. The County supports opportunities to increase the accessibility and use of the outdoors and will embrace legislation and funding opportunities that enhance outdoor recreational activities and access that will also positively impact Mendocino County's economy. The County is opposed to threats of closure of State Parks in general, especially such closures that impact Mendocino County.

Since the 2011 proposed closure of 70 California State Parks, more than 10% of which are located in Mendocino County, legislation has been enacted to implement measures to achieve sustainable parks funding, along with innovative operational agreements to protect these historic resources. As new legislation and policy decisions are contemplated, the County will continue to support measures to sustain our State parks for the continued enjoyment of visitors and local residents alike. Closure of these parks would result in a significant negative economic impact on our County as tourism is one of our most important economic drivers.

## SUPPORT FOR COLLECTION OF INTERNET SALES TAX (E-COMMERCE)

Significant revenues are lost to cities and counties from the lack of a uniform sales tax policy for internet sales. Moreover, local businesses are faced with disadvantages if online retailers are exempt from having to collect sales tax. In 2012 the State Legislature granted a one-year deferral on the collection of sales tax from out of state internet retailers while advocating for a uniform approach through federal legislation. (See the Federal Platform Sales Tax update.) The County will continue its efforts at the state level to advance legislation and policy outcomes that protect lost revenues and promote market fairness, given that the one-year deferral period has expired. We remain hopeful that the newly-seated 114<sup>th</sup> Congress will make this issue a priority.

## OPPOSE HIGH SPEED RAIL UNTIL A DEDICATED FUNDING STREAM IS IDENTIFIED

Mendocino County does not support transportation dollars normally allocated to rural areas to be redirected to high speed rail, therefore, the County is opposed to high speed rail until a dedicated funding stream is identified. In 2008, California voters approved Measure 1A, which authorized the State to sell over \$9 billion in bonds to partially fund the project, however, sufficient funds to complete the project have not been identified.

However, substantial financial and environmental questions continue to exist. The County believes that the high speed rail project construction, and its long-term operations and maintenance should pay for itself, while also taking into account associated environmental impacts.

# ENCOURAGE LOCALLY-BASED MODELS FOR ENERGY DELIVERY (INCLUDING WIND, SOLAR, GEOTHERMAL)

Mendocino County encourages development of locally-based models for energy delivery/energy independence including wind, solar, and geothermal energy. Local energy delivery can provide our constituents with alternative energy sources and more options.

The County will support efforts for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) which allows cities and counties to aggregate the buying power of individual customers within a defined jurisdiction in order to secure alternative energy supply contracts. Currently, nearly one million Americans receive service from CCAs, including Marin County, and most recently, Sonoma County.

In addition, the County supports legislation that fosters, promotes, and creates incentives for the adoption, use, and economic benefits of renewable and sustainable energy endeavors benefitting Mendocino County.

# SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FUNDING (CAP AND TRADE AUCTION REVENUES)

Mendocino County supports legislation, regulation and program implementation for distribution of Cap and Trade Auction Revenues to local jurisdictions that promote the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation. The County also supports all legislation that allows for local flexibility regarding project selection while promoting cost-effectiveness, technological feasibility, innovation, collaboration, economic development and sustainability.

The County supports a geographically balanced distribution of funds that includes not only urban "transit systems" but also rural transportation systems including busses and bus stops.

In 2014, the Governor signed legislation that would result in the first Cap and Trade Expenditure. The 2014-15 allocation does not include a specific local government program for non-transportation projects, but local governments are eligible for funding from several categories.

Mendocino County supports effective policy decisions that ensure provisions where local governments would be eligible for additional revenues in the 2015-16 budget and beyond as 40% of Cap and Trade funds have been secured for natural resource investments in future budget years.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT
SEEKS TO PROTECT LAKES
AND WATERWAYS AGAINST
INVASIVE QUAGGA MUSSELS
BY PROVIDING FUNDING FOR
RESEARCH, ERADICATION,
PREVENTION AND CONTROL
MEASURES

Quagga mussels are a nuisance species with the potential to compromise water delivery and water based utilities, and can permanently alter the composition and functioning of freshwater ecosystems. Mussel infestation can cause economic and environmental damage to bodies of water and water purveyance systems. Quagga mussels are not immediately detected and spread easy by attaching themselves to personal watercraft, boats and related equipment.

Mendocino County supports legislation that would mandate an original and renewal boat/vessel registration fee for the purpose of quagga and zebra mussel monitoring, inspection, and infestation prevention programs.

SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TRIBAL
RELATIONS AND CONTINUED
COUNTY INCLUSION IN
MITIGATION MEASURES FOR
INDIAN GAMING ON TRIBAL
LANDS

The county supports provisions for full mitigation of local impacts including infrastructure load and local law enforcement issues from gaming on tribal lands, negotiations of state-tribal gaming compacts, and development of additional policy on the issue of tribal intergovernmental affairs impacting local government. The County realizes that several gaming compacts (1999 compacts) are set to expire in 2016. The 1999 compacts provide for the provisions of the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF). Without essential proceeds of the SDF, Mendocino County will face greater hardships to provide for funds that help mitigate impacts of tribal gaming.

In as much, the County supports continued inclusion of SDF payments in any renegotiated gaming compact. The County further advocates for improved terms that reflect a greater inclusion of County related provisions that address the impacts of Indian Gaming, including provisions to provide for environmental protections, public safety and responsible gaming activities.

SUPPORT WILDFIRE
PROTECTION AND
BIOMASS AND BIOCHAR
UTILIZATION IN
MENDOCINO COUNTY

The County will support budgetary proposals, in addition to legislative and regulatory efforts, to enhance wildfire protection/restoration efforts and promote the use of biomass.

Excess woody biomass in Mendocino County forests increases vulnerability to catastrophic forest fire events, has negative impacts on forest habitat and health and impedes the growth of economically viable timber. Environmentally, economically and socially responsible biomass utilization can help restore the forest and provide well-paying restoration, transportation and processing jobs for a community that has been hampered by job losses due to the closure of sawmills and the overall decline of the timber industry. Biomass can be converted into a number of value added products including

electricity, biodiesel, biochar, pellets and more. In most cases these products off-set the use of fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal. Energy created using biomass is considered to be carbon neutral by the EPA. If done in alignment with community values and ecological realities, biomass utilization can be part of a sustainable forest based economy in Mendocino County.

The Mendocino County Woody Biomass Working Group and Coastal Biomass Collaborative are working together to raise money to lay the groundwork for multiple small-scale biomass gasification power plants in the county. This initiative has become increasingly feasible due to new California legislation SB1122, which requires private power utilities to purchase 50MW of electricity from small-scale biomass power plants whose feedstock comes from high fire risk areas. The legislation provides monetary incentives for investors making construction and operation financially viable. Mendocino County needs upfront funds to complete four feasibility/ business plans at old mill sites throughout the County. The completion of these plans will make these sites investor ready. The realization of this initiative will help make a reality of the "restoration economy" where energy is produced locally, responsibly, sustainably, and turns material that would otherwise be considered a fire hazard into a solution for 21st century problems like energy dependence, climate change, and the need for living wage jobs.

SUPPORT FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
RESTORATION OF
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE
FROM WINDSOR TO WILLITS
AND IN THE HUMBOLDT BAY
AREA

The North Coast Railroad Authority has a 316 mile right-of-way that extends from Humboldt Bay in the north to Lombard, near Napa, where it connects to the national rail system. NCRA was authorized by state legislation in 1989 and acquired the right-of-way and began operations in 1996. Rail service was suspended in 1998 as a result of significant storm damage. Rail infrastructure has continued to deteriorate since service was suspended in 1998.

Like other major transportation infrastructure projects, the cost of restoration of rail service is reliant on public funding. By utilizing significant public funding (and a limited amount of private funding) NCRA was able to restore service to the southern sixty two miles of the line (Lombard to Windsor) in July, 2011. NCRA is committed to restoring freight rail service to the entirety of the Russian River Division, defined as Lombard to Willits.

Once rail service is restored, sufficient revenue can be realized from rail operations to support ongoing maintenance and operations. NCRA and its operator have identified prospective shippers that will utilize freight rail in preference to trucks once service is restored to Healdsburg, Cloverdale, Ukiah, Redwood Valley and Willits.

NCRA is also committed to reestablishing freight and passenger excursion service in the Humboldt Bay Area where opportunities exist for local freight transportation and passenger excursion service, both of which will provide economic development benefits in the Humboldt Bay Area as well as the potential to facilitate trail development and sea level rise mitigation.

An investment of public funds for the restoration of rail infrastructure is warranted based on the environmental and economic development benefits of transporting freight by rail. Four times as much goods can be shipped by rail for a single unit of energy compared to trucking. Restoring freight rail will help local producers of goods (wine, lumber, manufacturers) compete on the national market. Restoration of rail service in the Russian River Division will also facilitate the further development of the rail and trail system, a segment of which is currently under construction in Ukiah.

### SUPPORT FUNDING/ PROGRAM PRESERVATION

Many programs are at risk with the anticipated loss or restructuring of State and Federal funding. The Board supports efforts to sustain or restore funding enabling continuation of the following programs for Mendocino County's constituents:

- Funding to support County fairgrounds and fair operations;
- Preservation/restoration of funding for school gardens projects;
- Funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems;
- Funding to support compliance with State agency requirements and mandates (MCRCD);
- Funding for fisheries restoration (MCRCD);
- HHSA safety-net programs and regulations, including: CalFresh Categorical Eligibility; School Lunch Programs; Health Care Enrollment (inmates); Preventing Elder and Dependent Care Abuse; Fees and Charges for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly; Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Drug Abuse Prevention and Safe Disposal Program; Childhood Vaccinations; and Child Welfare/Fatality Case notifications;
- Restorative funding for the Division of Measurement Standards, within the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure that consumer protection and commercial device accuracy support is maintained.

## ENCOURAGE REGULATORY RELIEF/REFORM

Given government downsizing at all levels, the Board supports efforts to achieve responsible regulatory relief in the following areas:

- The County continues to support reform of the Local Mandate (SB 90) reimbursement process. With the passage of Proposition No. 2, The Rainy Day Fund, and favorable state revenue projections, it is anticipated that counties, cities, and special districts can expect additional payments towards the \$900 million owed by the State from pre-2004 mandates;
- Relief for rural fire districts: The population of Mendocino County is highly rural and dependent upon voluntary associations that provide basic emergency services. These fire districts, mostly volunteer, provide services to residents, tourists, and are often the first responders to accidents that occur on the vast rural stretches of highway that connect Mendocino County to the north, east, and south. We support measures to reduce the burden on rural counties associated with extensive training mandates required of urban and suburban counties. The County further supports legislation that would revise existing provisions to minimize burdensome certification requirements for small fire departments in rural areas that do not have urban infrastructure such as sky scrapers and multi-level residential complexes;
- Support efforts to streamline permitting programs/coordinated permitting for restoration projects (Mendocino County Resource Conservation District);
- Streamlining Meat Processing Regulations; USDA Meat Inspection;

Certification of Inspectors: The County supports local and regional efforts and studies to determine the feasibility of creating modern, small-scale, multi-species harvest and meat processing facilities. The advantages of this type of facility include improved worker safety, humane animal handling, environmentally-friendly, energy efficient, local production and sales of branded meat products in the growing niche meat market. Mendocino County supports the removal of regulatory barriers that prevent economic development opportunities to create and retain jobs that support our citizens and communities. The County also encourages efforts to legalize offal disposal in California to support the financial feasibility of small meat processing plants. Further, the County supports efforts to sustain USDA inspector assignments at meat processing facilities leading to stable and consistent regulatory interpretation.

**WATCH LIST** 

- Food Policy Issues and Support for Local Food Systems/Security: The County supports local and regional food system initiatives to promote availability of local goods and food service markets in retail, institutional, and commercial operations, including projects that capitalize on food system opportunities by developing regional food hubs, i.e., centralized facilities designed to aggregate, store, process, distribute, and/or market locally produced food products. With coordinated effort and in-depth understanding of existing resources and needs, local farms and food producers could both satisfy local food needs and generate a surplus for marketing to the greater San Francisco Bay Area. A fully developed local food system in this area would strengthen communities, assure food security, support local economic development, and create new jobs in the local farm sector;
- Oppose unfair fire fees by supporting the repeal of State Responsibility (SRA) Fire Prevention Fees. Mendocino County supports the repeal of State Responsibility Area (SRA) fire prevention fees (pursuant to ABX129; Chaptered by the Secretary of State; Chapter 8, Statues of 2011-12 First Extraordinary Session) imposing fire prevention fees within State Responsibility Areas (SRA) served by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire);
- Support CSAC Coastal Counties Association efforts/engagement in developing better working relations between the California Coastal Commission and local government;
- Impacts of Federal deficit-reduction on California's Health and Human Services programs;
- Monitor developments with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to ensure that Mendocino County is not negatively impacted by Bay Delta water planning;
- Support responsible Proposition 13 reform measures associated with taxation of commercial property and/or "split roll" property tax. Legislative efforts during the recent session failed passage to reform Proposition 13 with respect to assessment of commercial property. Reformers maintain that the 1978 initiative was passed to give relief to homeowners and that a "loophole" requiring reassessment only if a single entity owns more than 50% of the property has cost the state, and counties, billions in potential tax revenue.

## FEDERAL ADVOCACY

2015 MENDOCINO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

### **ELECTED CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:**

Congressman Jared Huffman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Senator Barbara Boxer, United States Senate Senator Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate

### **PRIORITIES FOR FEDERAL ADVOCACY:**

**ADVOCATE FOR LEGISLATION** AND POLICY OUTCOMES THAT: REPEALS OR MODIFIES FEDERAL LAWS RELATED TO MARIJUANA, **SUPPORTS AND PROVIDES FOR** THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN **EFFECTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE** REGULATION, TAXATION AND CONTROL OF MARIJUANA, AND **PROMOTES A PRO-ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE** CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL **DELEGATION AND ADVOCACY IN PREPARATION OF IMPENDING LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS IN CALIFORNIA** 

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Mendocino County supports the principles of legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana pursuant to the Board's policy statement of June 5, 2007. Inconsistencies in local, State, and Federal law create challenges within our public safety system network and criminal justice system. Mendocino County supports federal initiatives to either repeal or modify the federal prohibition of marijuana, and encourages federal recognition of state laws regulating medical marijuana.

The County supports efforts for the descheduling or rescheduling of cannabis, from a Schedule 1 Federally Classified Substance, as part of its support for the repeal or modification of federal prohibition of marijuana.

Advocate for Legislation that Supports and Provides for the Development of an Effective Framework for the Regulation, Taxation and Control of Marijuana, and Encourage Efforts to Combat Illegal Trespass (Marijuana Cultivation) on Public and Private Lands

Instances of illegal trespass and violent crimes on both public and private lands place our residents, visitors, and law enforcement officers at risk. The County supports measures to combat the impacts of these illegal activities within Mendocino County. The County will advocate for solutions to stem illegal marijuana cultivation in all areas of the county by working with private property owners, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other regulatory entities to address this problem.

The County also supports fines that cover the cost of site clean-up and restoration to mitigate for the impacts to the land, water quality and quantity. The Board of Supervisors supported H.R. 2735 (Protecting Lands Against Narcotics Trafficking Act), which was enacted into law and increases penalties on those who illegally use public or private property while trespassing and while damaging natural resources.

Mendocino County supports adequate funding to address illegal water diversion, water pollution, erosion, poisoning of wildlife, and other environmental damage associated with trespass marijuana growing operations.

## Promote a Pro-active Engagement and Advocacy in Preparation of Impending Legalization of Cannabis in California

It is likely that California voters will decide the outcome of marijuana (cannabis) legalization with a 2016 ballot initiative. Mendocino County supports efforts to convene stakeholder workgroups, including representation from California's Congressional Delegation, to prepare for the impending legalization of marijuana in California.

The County believes local government must proactively address this issue through an active and participatory process to promote a policy framework that will protect local government economic interests including potential revenue streams, environmental protections, and ensure sustainable public safety services.

PREVENT DISPROPORTIONATE
REDUCTIONS TO LOCAL
GOVERNMENT THROUGH
UNDERFUNDED MANDATES
AND/OR COST SHIFTS AS A
RESULT OF DEFICIT REDUCTION
MEASURES

Virtually any budget decision at the federal level will have an impact on California's economy, state and local budgets, and services for the most vulnerable Californians. With the temporary spending measure (Continuing Resolution) set to expire on December 11, and the newly seated 114th Congress scheduled to convene in January 2015, the nation eagerly awaits a Congressional proposal that would set FY 2015 appropriations and action on the federal debt-limit.

We urge federal policymakers to respect and protect local decision-making authority at the county level, including strengthening intergovernmental collaboration and solutions focused on enhancing federal, state, and local partnerships that reflect a balanced approach to deficit reduction measures.

PROTECTION FOR SENIORS
ENTITLEMENT REFORM:
SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE

As Congress considers entitlement reforms as a provision of the ongoing deficit reduction process, Mendocino County will advocate for protection of seniors on Social Security and Medicare and vital "safety net" programs such as nutrition and respite programs.

One such vital program is the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program which has suffered repeated cuts and is proposed for further cuts. The loss of this funding is expected to impact 195,000 volunteers nationwide. Seniors and non-profits are significantly impacted by these proposed cuts; in rural populations such as Mendocino County the loss of these supports has an even greater impact as there are fewer resources to cover the loss.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY SELF
DETERMINATION ACT FUNDING

Historically the schools and road infrastructure of Mendocino County has been supported by logging on United States Forest Service (USFS) land. Since 1908, the federal government has remained committed to helping forest county governments and schools succeed by compensating counties for the tax-exempt status of federal forested lands in their communities. To help continue this commitment to rural America, Congress enacted the Secure Rural Schools Act (SRSA) in 2000.

The Act provides funding for rural counties and school districts to help replace revenue from dwindling forest receipts. Mendocino County strongly supports a long-term reauthorization of SRSA. The County opposes any legislation that does not facilitate the continuance of SRSA programs for FY 2015 and well into the future. Extending this funding for our nation's poorest rural areas is essential if we are to stabilize the Mendocino County economy.

### SUPPORT FOR COLLECTION OF INTERNET SALES TAX (E-COMMERCE)

Significant revenues are lost to cities and counties from the lack of a uniform sales tax policy for internet sales. Moreover, local businesses are faced with disadvantages if online retailers are exempt from having to collect sales tax. In 2012, the State Legislature granted a one-year deferral on the collection of sales tax from out of state internet retailers while advocating for a uniform approach through federal legislation. In the 2011-2012 Congressional legislative session, the Board joined NACo in supporting proposals such as the Main Street Fairness Act (S. 1452 and H.R. 2701) and the Marketplace Fairness Act (S. 1832). During the 2011-2012 season, S. 1832 expired without being enacted. The bill was revived during the next legislative session, and in its current form (S. 743), was passed by the U.S. Senate on May 6, 2013. A similar bill is pending before the House of Representatives; however, its future is uncertain. The bill would allow states and local governments to require large Internet retailers to collect sales tax.

Additionally, on December 2, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court chose not to revisit the issue of sales tax, leaving a 1992 ruling the last decision on the matter, which does not require online retailers to collect taxes if they do not have a physical presence in the state.

Enacting marketplace fairness legislation would not only create a level playing field for local businesses, it would also grant state and local governments the ability to enforce existing sales tax laws and stop the loss of billions of dollars in uncollected sales taxes in e-commerce every year, estimated to be more than \$20 billion annually. The County supports the advancement of legislation and policy outcomes that protect lost revenues and promotes marketplace fairness. We remain hopeful that the newly seated 114th Congress will embrace this outstanding issue as a legislative priority in the coming session.

## PROMOTION OF RURAL BROADBAND

Collaborate with the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County (BAMC) and the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC) to: 1) facilitate the deployment of a robust countywide fiber backbone infrastructure that will enhance economic development and stimulate affordable broadband access to all homes, businesses, schools, libraries, public safety facilities, health services and other institutions throughout Mendocino County; and 2) advocate for important issues that may include: universal right to service which includes maintaining landline connections to those areas without adequate fixed wireless or mobile cellular coverage, adequate funding from state and federal programs such as the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) and Connect America Fund (CAF) for the deployment for broadband infrastructure projects, and requiring accurate reporting of data used in Broadband mapping.

SUPPORT A MAP-21
REAUTHORIZATION OR MULTIYEAR FEDERAL SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BILL WHICH

**IDENTIFIES RELIABLE FUNDING** 

**SOURCES** 

The County of Mendocino supports MAP-21 (*Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act*) reauthorization or multi-year federal surface transportation bill to succeed MAP-21 which identifies a reliable funding source. A surface transportation policy that encompasses preservation and maintenance of the existing highway system, including the secondary or rural highway network, and connectivity between local, regional and statewide transportation systems is essential for our county.

The County will also continue to work with other northern California counties to identify and meet regional needs using a comprehensive, integrated

approach to expand broadband infrastructure into our communities.

SUPPORT EXPANSION OF THE GULF OF THE FARALLONES AND CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

In keeping with our guiding principles, preservation of our natural resources is a top priority. The County supports the proposed expansion of the adjoining Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries that would extend environmental and wildlife protections to an additional 2,769 square miles of ocean along the Sonoma and southern Mendocino coasts.

INCREASING FEDERAL
RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR
THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR
COYOTE DAM AND OTHER
INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE
FOR COYOTE VALLEY DAM
(U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) built Coyote Valley Dam in 1959 for the purposes of flood control, water supply, irrigation, and recreation. In the 51 years since project completion many issues have developed including: concerns with seismic stability, flood forecasting uncertainty, spillway design, reservoir sedimentation, revised engineering and environmental standards, inundation of recreational facilities, and new mandates affecting inflow and outflow for the protection of endangered fisheries. The cumulative effect of these issues have greatly diminished Coyote Valley Dam's ability to achieve its intended goals, causing negative impacts to the economy, public safety, and the environment.

The County supports increased federal funding in order to continue work on the Feasibility Study for the raising of Coyote Valley Dam consistent with the Feasibility Study Cost Share Agreement signed by the USACE and the Inland Water and Power Commission (IWPC), of which Mendocino County is a member. The County will additionally support full federal environmental restoration funding to allow the USACE to mitigate water quality impacts identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service Jeopardy findings under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and contained within the Russian River Biological Opinion.

The County will continue to advocate revising the Operations Manual passed by Congress in 1958 for the Coyote Valley Dam water releases to address year-to-year carry over supply issues in Lake Mendocino and to protect listed fish.

Further, the County encourages movement on the Forecast Act sponsored by Congressman Huffman.

# SUPPORT ELEMENTS OF THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014/USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The County supports elements of the Agricultural Act of 2014/USDA Rural Development which directs key rural programs that help promote local economic development including connecting rural communities to broadband internet to providing much needed, and often unavailable financing for rural small businesses, communities, and individuals. USDA Rural Development creates and saves jobs, supports innovation, improves infrastructure and grows our economy. Efforts we support include:

- Growing local and regional food systems;
- Developing new economic opportunities with rural energy and the bioeconony;
- Ensuring access to safe, affordable rural housing;
- Investing in community infrastructure; and
- Advancing community partnerships for comprehensive, lasting economic development.

# SUPPORT WILDFIRE PROTECTION AND BIOMASS AND BIOCHAR UTILIZATION IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

The County will support budgetary proposals, in addition to legislative and regulatory efforts, to enhance wildfire protection/restoration efforts and promote the use of biomass.

Excess woody biomass in Mendocino County forests increases vulnerability to catastrophic forest fire events, has negative impacts on forest habitat and health and impedes the growth of economically viable timber. Environmentally, economically and socially responsible biomass utilization can help restore the forest and provide well-paying restoration, transportation and processing jobs for a community that has been hampered by job losses due to the closure of sawmills and the overall decline of the timber industry. Biomass can be converted into a number of value added products including electricity, biodiesel, biochar, pellets and more. In most cases these products off-set the use of fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal. Energy created using biomass is considered to be carbon neutral by the EPA. If done in alignment with community values and ecological realities, biomass utilization can be part of a sustainable forest based economy in Mendocino County.

The Mendocino County Woody Biomass Working Group and Coastal Biomass Collaborative are working together to raise money to lay the groundwork for multiple small-scale biomass gasification power plants in the county. This initiative has become increasingly feasible due to new California legislation SB1122, which requires private power utilities to purchase 50MW of electricity from small-scale biomass power plants whose feedstock comes from high fire risk areas. The legislation provides monetary incentives for investors making construction and operation financially viable. Mendocino County needs upfront funds to complete four feasibility/ business plans at old mill sites throughout the county. The completion of these plans will make these sites investor ready. The realization of this initiative will help make a reality of the "restoration economy" where energy is produced locally, responsibly, sustainably, and turns material that would otherwise be considered a fire hazard into a solution for 21st century problems like energy dependence, climate change, and the need for living wage jobs.

ENCOURAGE LOCALLY-BASED
MODELS FOR ENERGY DELIVERY
(INCLUDING WIND, SOLAR,
GEOTHERMAL)

Mendocino County encourages development of locally-based models for energy delivery/energy independence including wind, solar, and geothermal energy. Local energy delivery can provide our constituents with alternative energy sources and more options.

The County will support efforts for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) which allows cities and counties to aggregate the buying power of individual customers within a defined jurisdiction in order to secure alternative energy supply contracts. Currently, nearly one million Americans receive service from CCAs, including Marin County, and most recently, Sonoma County.

NOYO HARBOR
DREDGE PROJECT
(U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FUNDING)

The Noyo Harbor in Fort Bragg is a Federal channel. Life and safety of the fishing and recreational boating industry depend on a passable harbor channel. Noyo Harbor is the only safe refuge harbor between Bodega Bay and Eureka. Noyo is also home to an important Coast Guard search and rescue base. The last dredging occurred in 2009, and the USACE sought funding to continue this effort for federal FY 2011.

Dredging is only part of this issue however, as the spoils produced from this activity must be deposited in a manner that complies with all relevant regulations. As the USACE continues to research options to deal with the spoils issue, the County of Mendocino maintains its support of efforts to remedy this situation through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), including language authorizing the USACE to take responsibility for the future disposal of dredged material from the Noyo Harbor District.

SUPPORT RENOVATION
OF VETERANS' BUILDINGS AND
FUNDING FOR COUNTY
VETERAN'S SERVICES

The County of Mendocino owns or co-locates six veteran's buildings throughout the County. Most of these facilities were built in the 1930's and 1940's and are in need of American Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements and standard kitchen upgrades. These buildings serve as an important resource for our County's veterans, as emergency shelters during disasters, potential broadband access points for underserved communities, and as community meeting and activity locations for numerous private and public agencies.

SUPPORT FUNDING/
PROGRAM PRESERVATION

Many programs are at risk with the anticipated loss or restructuring of State and Federal funding. The Board supports efforts to sustain funding enabling continuation of the following programs for Mendocino County's constituents:

- Block Grants for local decision making and planning for affordable housing including housing projects for veterans;
- Food Policy Issues and Support for Local Food Systems/Security: The County supports local and regional food system initiatives to promote availability of local goods and food service markets in retail, institutional, and commercial operations, including projects that capitalize on food system opportunities by developing regional food hubs, i.e., centralized facilities designed to aggregate, store, process, distribute, and/or market locally produced food products. With coordinated effort and in-depth understanding of existing resources and needs, local farms and food producers could both satisfy local food needs and generate a surplus for marketing to the greater San Francisco Bay Area. A fully developed local food system in this area would strengthen communities, assure food

security, support local economic development, and create new jobs in the local farm sector;

- A number of California counties have been legally threatened by animal advocate groups for renewal of contracts to provide Wildlife Services Programs at a local level. Mendocino County was recently sued after renewing its Wildlife Services Program contract in November 2014. The lawsuit is based on the lack of CEQA (NEPA) evaluation in relation to the purported Wildlife Services Program impacts to the environment and wildlife. Mendocino County requests support from our federal elected officials to advocate for USDA assistance in developing a joint NEPA/CEQA analysis to assist Mendocino County in the current litigation as well as future lawsuits in other counties;
- USDA Wildlife Services Program has historically been funded through a cost share between local, state, and federal funding. The County supports restoration of an equitable funding stream to enable the continuation of these vital services to our rural county.

### **ENCOURAGE REGULATORY** RELIEF/REFORM

**SUPPORT FUNDING** 

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR** 

**RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE** 

**RESTORATION OF** 

Given government downsizing at all levels, the Board supports efforts to achieve responsible regulatory relief in the following areas:

Streamlining Meat Processing Regulations; USDA Meat Inspection; Certification of Inspectors: The County supports local and regional efforts and studies to determine the feasibility of creating modern, small-scale, multi-species harvest and meat processing facilities. The advantages of this type of facility include improved worker safety, humane animal handling, environmentally-friendly, energy efficient, local production and sales of branded meat products in the growing niche meat market. Mendocino County supports the removal of regulatory barriers that prevent economic development opportunities that create and retain jobs to support our citizens and communities. The County also encourages efforts to legalize offal disposal in California to support the financial feasibility of small meat processing plants. Further, the County supports efforts to sustain USDA inspector assignments at meat processing facilities leading to stable and consistent regulatory interpretation.

FROM WINDSOR TO WILLITS AND IN THE HUMBOLDT BAY AREA

The North Coast Railroad Authority has a 316 mile right-of-way that extends from Humboldt Bay in the north to Lombard, near Napa, where it connects to the national rail system. NCRA was authorized by state legislation in 1989 and acquired the right-of-way and began operations in 1996. Rail service was suspended in 1998 as a result of significant storm damage. Rail infrastructure has continued to deteriorate since service was suspended in 1998.

Like other major transportation infrastructure projects, the cost of restoration of rail service is reliant on public funding. By utilizing significant public funding (and a limited amount of private funding) NCRA was able to restore service to the southern sixty two miles of the line (Lombard to Windsor) in July, 2011. NCRA is committed to restoring freight rail service to the entirety of the Russian River Division, defined as Lombard to Willits.

Once rail service is restored, sufficient revenue can be realized from rail

operations to support ongoing maintenance and operations. NCRA and its operator have identified prospective shippers that will utilize freight rail in preference to trucks once service is restored to Healdsburg, Cloverdale, Ukiah, Redwood Valley and Willits.

NCRA is also committed to reestablishing freight and passenger excursion service in the Humboldt Bay Area where opportunities exist for local freight transportation and passenger excursion service, both of which will provide economic development benefits in the Humboldt Bay Area as well as the potential to facilitate trail development and sea level rise mitigation.

An investment of public funds for the restoration of rail infrastructure is warranted based on the environmental and economic development benefits of transporting freight by rail. Four times as much goods can be shipped by rail for a single unit of energy compared to trucking. Restoring freight rail will help local producers of goods (wine, lumber, manufacturers) compete on the national market. Restoration of rail service in the Russian River Division will also facilitate the further development of the rail and trail system, a segment of which is currently under construction in Ukiah.

**WATCH LIST** 

- FY 2015 Appropriations;
- Federal Deficit-Reduction Measures;
- Waters of the U.S. and Associated Guidance Documents (EPA and USACE 2014 Proposed Regulations): Mendocino County urges the EPA and Army Corps to withdraw their proposed rule aimed at re-defining the definition of "Waters of the US" inside the Clean Water Act until such time that a revised rule proposal can be developed that embodies the intent of the two Supreme Court decisions endeavoring to minimize Federal jurisdiction over waters of the U.S. Withdrawing the proposed rule allows the outreach, consultation and input received in 2014 to be used most constructively in developing a new rule that would not inappropriately or unnecessarily expand coverage to new land features or waters or broaden the overall jurisdiction of the agencies. Additionally, the detrimental impacts and burdens to municipalities and agriculture nationwide could be more thoroughly assessed and minimized.

## **MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**











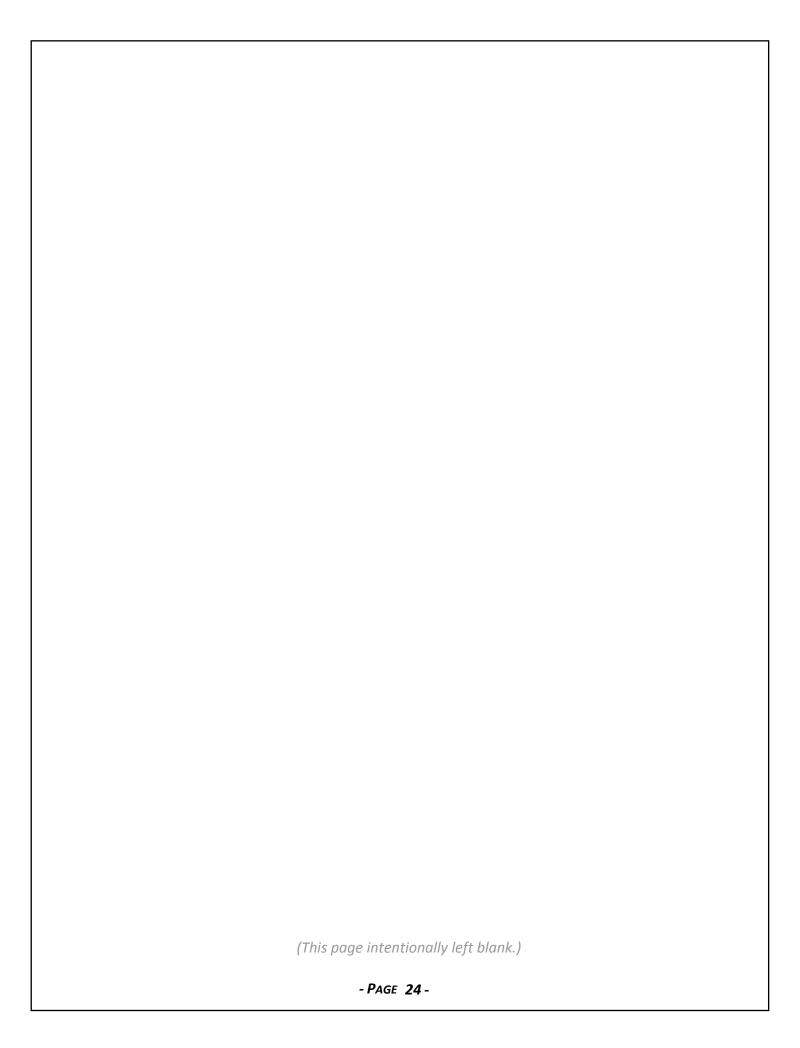
(LEFT TO RIGHT: SUPERVISOR BROWN; SUPERVISOR MCCOWEN; SUPERVISOR WOODHOUSE; SUPERVISOR GJERDE; SUPERVISOR HAMBURG)

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONTACT INFORMATION:	
CARRE BROWN, 1 <sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT SUPERVISOR	JOHN McCowen, 2 <sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
TERM IN OFFICE: JANUARY 2013 – DECEMBER 2016	TERM IN OFFICE: JANUARY 2013 – DECEMBER 2016
JANUARY 2009 – DECEMBER 2012	January 2009 – December 2012
Tom Woodhouse, 3 <sup>RD</sup> District Supervisor	DAN GJERDE, 4 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
TERM IN OFFICE: JANUARY 2015 – DECEMBER 2018	TERM IN OFFICE: JANUARY 2013 – DECEMBER 2016
DAN HAMBURG, 5 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT SUPERVISOR	
TERM IN OFFICE: JANUARY 2015 – DECEMBER 2018	
JANUARY 2011 – DECEMBER 2014	
January 1981 – December 1984	

501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010, Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 463-4221 Telephone | (707) 463-7237 Fax Website: http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/

ELECTED STATE REPRESENTATIVES:		
JIM WOOD, ASSEMBLYMAN (D)	MIKE McGuire, State Senator (D)	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly District	2 <sup>nd</sup> Senate District	
Website: http://asmdc.org/members/a02/	Website: http://sd02.senate.ca.gov/	
Phone: (707) 463-5770 – Ukiah Office	Phone: (707) 468-8914 – Ukiah Office	
Phone: (916) 319-2002 – Sacramento Office	Phone: (916) 651-4002 – Sacramento Office	

ELECTED CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:	
JARED HUFFMAN, CONGRESSMAN (D - SAN RAFAEL)	BARBARA BOXER, SENATOR (D - SAN FRANCISCO)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Congressional District	United States Senate
United States House of Representatives	Website: <a href="http://boxer.senate.gov/">http://boxer.senate.gov/</a>
Website: http://huffman.house.gov/	Phone: (510) 286-8537 – Bay Area Office
Phone: (707) 962-0933 – Fort Bragg Office	Phone: (202) 224-3553 – Washington, D.C. Office
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