



January 12, 2022

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive
Room 102A
Santa Rosa, California 95403
Via email:

Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:

The Springs Municipal Advisory Council (SMAC) approved on January 12, 2022 the following recommendation for the future use of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) in Eldridge, California.

We want to urge the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to consider a fourth alternative that is inclusive of the ideas and vision of our Sonoma Valley community. The information provided by local organizations was not incorporated into the plans. There needs to be an effort to outreach to Latinx, low income elder communities, renters, disabled and other disenfranchised populations. Locally gathered information will be useful in addressing the recent, pressing and ongoing concerns not exclusive of but including drought and fire. As a guiding principle, we urge the BOS to require local knowledge and experience in formulating a fourth option.

We acknowledge that during a Global Pandemic, outreach can be challenging and for that reason alone, we request adequate time—up to a 2-year period—to find another alternative.

In addition, we urge the BOS to lobby the State of California to financially support the remediation and repair of the SDC campus.

We have heard the variety of interests regarding the development of SDC. Some are competing and others are complimentary. The following are some commonalities and agreements among the stakeholders that we represent:

Affordable Housing:

That any future SDC housing development be affordable; either owner occupied or long-term rental units. Our recommendation is that housing be for people who work and/or live in Sonoma Valley. The development should be a phased project, incorporating multiple



developers and should periodically evaluate the impact to fire, roads, climate, equity, and infrastructure.

Road Access and Transportation:

Consider and evaluate a second access to HWY 12 from the Eastside of SDC campus for emergency egress with the possibility of a permanent thoroughfare if modeling agrees. Provided that said road not have an impact on the wildlife corridor. Any plan should include a class 4 bike lane through the existing SDC and the new egress road.

Vegetation/wildlife/land Preservation:

Maintain the rural nature of our valley. Develop and plan to maintain the wildlife corridor while preserving in perpetuity the currently undeveloped/natural lands of the site.

Community Services & Facilities:

That the development provide the following community services at the new SDC:

- Education and Employment Training facilities
- Community facilities that include: a plaza, community hall, park, and a performing arts theater
- Recreation: Swimming pools, sports fields, fitness classes
- Mental Health outreach or crisis center for youth and adults
- Community Health Center

Funding:

Explore creative funding from all levels of government and non-government organizations.

These suggestions were developed based upon information provided by the Springs Municipal Advisory Council members, Sonoma Valley Housing Group and community members. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Maite Iturri.

Maite Iturri
Chair, *Springs Municipal Advisory Council*

CC: Congressman Mike Thompson, Representative Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Mike McGuire, Senator Bill Dodd, Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Alex Padilla, North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council, Generation Housing, Sonoma City Council, Luther Burbank Housing, MidPen Housing, Sonoma County Community Development Commission, Sonoma County Permit Sonoma, Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission, Sonoma Index Tribune, Press Democrat, Sonoma Sun, SAHA