



CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR

MURIEL JOHNSON, DIRECTOR



July 15, 2010

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

To: Carre Brown Kendall Smith
 John McCowen J. David Colfax
 John Pinches

Dear Members:

I am pleased to write to you in support of the Mendocino County Arts Council's budget. As you may know, the California Arts Council (CAC) established a State-Local Partnership Program in 1980 between the CAC, counties, and their approved local arts agencies to foster cultural development at the local level. The CAC awards grants annually in support of local arts council programs.

The Mendocino Arts Council will receive a \$15,000 grant this year, plus \$4,000 for technical assistance, which must be matched locally dollar for dollar. Your Board's funding would achieve the match and greatly enhance your community's arts programs.

The Mendocino Arts Council was very productive under past director Anna Kvinsland. I understand that the Council is now led by Acting Executive Director Alyssum Wier, who is doing a superb job and brings a great deal of experience to the directorship. We here at the CAC have great respect for our Mendocino partners and all that they do. They have been especially effective in promoting arts in education, providing 132 performances, employing 37 local artists and reaching 8,200 students in 30 schools.

While we know that this is another difficult budget year for the county, we hope you will continue your support for the Mendocino Arts Council and its work to enhance your community's arts and cultural life.

Most sincerely,

Muriel Johnson
Director

MENDOCINO
COUNTY



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

206 Mason Street
Suite F
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 462-3664
www.mcrcd.org

July 16, 2010

Supervisor Carre Brown, Chairwoman
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482



Subject: Reinstatement of Funding

Dear Chairwoman Brown:

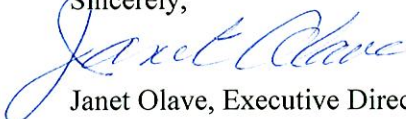
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District recently learned the Board of Supervisors approved the elimination of all funding for the District in 2010-11. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am respectfully requesting reinstatement of funding.

As expressed to the Board in our March, 2010 presentation, the District utilizes county funds for project development. A good example of that is the recent approval of a project where we successfully included the Feliz Creek Dam Removal, a mitigation project required of the County due to the sediment deposition in Mill Creek in Talmage several years ago. By including this project on behalf of the County, the District is reducing the County's mitigation obligation by \$360,000. Securing these funds were a major undertaking since funding agencies typically will not fund mitigation projects. Thus it is highly unlikely the County, on its own, could have secured outside funding to reduce the financial impact of the mitigation requirements.

A second example is the recent application to the North Coast Integrated Regional Watershed Management Planning for a \$1.6m bridge over Mill Creek on Reeves Canyon Road, a county road north of Ukiah. There is a high probability for funding, and this project will provide over \$100,000 of staff time for the Mendocino County Department of Transportation as well as over \$1.5m in funding to other businesses. Again, this source of funding was available only to the District and with the current state of the economy, I believe it is critical to the County and its residents. This bridge will provide access to emergency vehicles as well as ingress and egress for landowners, averting the potential for loss of life during high flows, and improving water quality and fish passage.

Over the years, the District has proved to be a good funding partner to the County through the Mendocino County Water Agency. We certainly understand the current state of the county budget, but the funding the County provides to the District is utilized to secure funding not only for the County itself, but for environmental benefits to the county. We are asking for \$35,000; we are giving the County \$360,000 with the potential for another \$100,000 in addition to paying for a bridge the county has never been able to afford. But, without the County's assistance we lose the ability to develop projects such as these; project that inject millions of dollars into the local economy and the County coffers.

Sincerely,


Janet Olave, Executive Director

Cc: Carmel Angelo, Chief Executive Officer

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MENDOCINO
COUNTY



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

206 Mason Street
Suite F
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 462-3664
www.mcrcd.org

August 10, 2010

County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070
Ukiah, CA 95482



Re: Support of Mendocino County Water Agency Staff Positions

Dear Chairwoman Brown:

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to express our support for maintaining staffing levels at the Mendocino County Water Agency (MCWA).

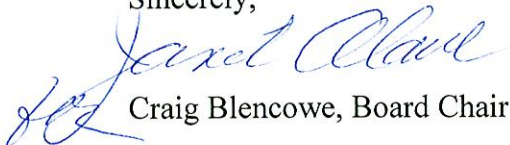
The District has a history of working in close partnership with MCWA, and it is due to this partnership that the District sought and was approved for \$360,000 in funding from Caltrans to assist the County with its mitigation obligation on that site. Through the assistance of Roland Sanford, the District also worked with the Department of Transportation and has tentatively been approved for \$944,000 for a bridge implementation project over Mill Creek on Reeves Canyon Road that will provide approximately \$200,000 in combined funding for DOT and MCWA staff.

Other projects the District and MCWA have partnered on recently include obtaining grant funding for hydrologic field data collection on Mill and Robinson Creeks for the Navarro Watershed Monitoring Program and contract management of the Noyo/Big River Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan. Both organizations are active participants in the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and countywide efforts to obtain Proposition 50 grant funding that benefit Mendocino County residents.

MCWA's mission is to protect and develop the water resources of Mendocino County and to ensure that an adequate quantity and quality of water is available to meet present and future needs of our County. A fully functioning water agency is critical to maintaining water quality and meeting Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets mandated in the county by the Clean Water Act. MCRCD depends on MCWA's expertise and local knowledge to support landowner compliance.

It is important that MCWA have adequate funding to staff critical positions and continue providing these valuable services.

Sincerely,


Craig Blencowe, Board Chair

CC: Roland Sanford, MCWA



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Arts Council of
Mendocino County



August 23, 2010

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

Through your support of ACMC over the past two years you've acknowledged the impact of the Arts on the economy, tourism and education and you've recognized the importance of the arts to our community. *Thank you.* Today we ask you to renew your support in 2010-2011 and to remind you that this is precisely the time to invest in the arts locally.

- Our county derives \$80 million annually from the arts and arts related tourism. Through strong partnerships with *Visit Mendocino*, *The Skunk Train*, *KZYX* and *Z*, the *Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens*, the *Community Foundation of Mendocino County*, and the *Board of Supervisors*, ACMC supports and promotes the arts throughout the county. We help cultural tourists visiting Mendocino County find what they are looking for, spend more, and stay longer.
- ACMC improves the quality of life for all citizens of our county, with a targeted focus on bringing arts enrichment to children: ACMC's GASP -- Get Arts in the Schools -- Program, in partnership with MCOE, places professional local artists in Mendocino County schools, where children learn to be producers of culture, not just consumers. We also know the arts are a positive force for the welfare of children: low income populations with high cultural participation rates are more than twice as likely to have very low truancy and delinquency rates.
- The arts are a poverty fighter. They do this through direct employment and they do it by leveraging other jobs: the restaurants, retail stores, and hotels that spring up alongside cultural districts. When you see galleries and arts organizations moving into vacant storefronts during a recession, they are the first signs of economic revitalization. Restaurants and shops are attracted to areas where there is a healthy cultural life. The artists come first; other businesses follow.

ACMC is asking the County for \$30,000 in general operating support, about one hundredth of 1% of the county budget and roughly half the cost of a FTE. The funding ACMC receives from the County is tripled through its partnerships with the *California Arts Council*, *Community Foundation of Mendocino County*, *Visit Mendocino County*, and the *Mendocino County Office of Education*. Without County support, the strategic partnerships at state and local levels that allow us to effectively pursue our mission would be fundamentally threatened. Funding for the Arts Council of Mendocino County is an investment in our county's future as a cultural destination; it meets your public trust requirement to deliver services meeting the cultural needs of our communities and contributes directly to economic development. There has never been a better or more strategic time to renew your support for Mendocino County artists and art organizations. Thank you for considering this request.

Alyssum Wier, ACMC Interim Director

Supporting the Arts – Strengthening our Communities

309 East Perkins St., Ukiah CA 95482 ♦ (707) 463-2727 ♦ director@artsmendocino.org ♦ www.artsmendocino.org