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

First and foremost, we want to urge the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to consider a fourth alternative that is inclusive of the ideas and vision our Sonoma Valley community. We acknowledge that during a Global Pandemic outreach can be challenging and for that reason alone we request more time to consider another alternative. We also recognize that folks want the SDC plan to cure all our housing, economic, climate and cultural concerns. We recognize that is not possible to solve it all, however a plan that is more inclusive and supportive of our local community can be a reality.

Iris: Secondly, it is recognized that moving efficiently through the development process is in the interest of all parties. Careful movement through the planning stages can achieve this end. As a guiding principle, we urge the BOS to require local knowledge and expertise already accumulated in formulating a fourth option. Several organizations were formed to provide input to the (apparent) opportunity to influence the development of the SDC site. Additionally local interest groups already in existence offered their detailed data and observations. The locally gathered information will be useful in addressing the recent, pressing and ongoing concerns over drought and fire.

In addition, we urge the BOS to demand that the State of California financially support the infrastructure 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. There are some commonalities and agreements among the stakeholders and we are in agreement with the following uses.

- **Fourth option:**
  - Maite/Maricarmen: There is a strong desire to find a fourth option for the SDC land that is inclusive of our Sonoma Community and values the diversity of our
population. Especially for our vulnerable populations including Latinx, elders and disabled.

- **Housing Sustainability/Affordable housing:**
  - Maite: Owner occupied **affordable** (people who work in Sonoma Valley can afford to live here) and **sustainable housing** be at the forefront of any future SDC development.
  - Avram: Owner occupied **affordable and sustainable housing** be at the forefront of any future SDC development. That the number of units be significantly reduced to be in line with the capacity of the site taking into account traffic congestion, fire safety and evacuation routes during a fast spreading conflagration and environmental and climate concerns. That any and all housing be affordable and that the housing be designated to those who work and live in the Sonoma Valley.
  - Hannah: Owner occupied **affordable multifamily housing** be at the forefront of any future SDC development. That the number of units be significantly increased to be in line with the capacity of the site taking into account traffic congestion, fire safety and evacuation routes during a fast spreading conflagration and environmental and climate concerns. That any and all housing be affordable and that the housing be designated to those who work and live in the Sonoma Valley
  - Hannah: is this financially feasible?
  - No new buildings
  - Add solar power
  - Keep with Sonoma esthetics

- **Road Access:**
  - Maite: Providing a second access to HWY 12 from the Eastside of SDC campus should be a priority for emergency egress and possibly as a permanent thoroughfare to alleviate pressure on the existing road infrastructure.

- **Transportation:**
  - Limit traffic congestion problems on two-lane highway, by providing adequate transportation options.
  - Negative for wildlife preservation

- **Vegetation/wildlife/land Preservation:**
  - Maite: Maintain the wildlife corridor and land preservation, the **rural nature** of our valley
  - Ray: 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 Access:**
  - Maite/Maricarmen: Include **community facilities** that include a plaza, community hall, park, sports fields, a performing arts theater, Community Health Center and educational opportunities for the trades.
  - Recreation
  - Swimming pools, soccer fields
  - Yoga and other classes

- **Health:**
  - Maite/Maricarmen: Include mental health outreach or crisis center for youth and adults.
  - Community Health Center
• Fire Safety:
  o Maite: Fire Safety and climate resiliency take into consideration our current reality.

• Education/Employment Training:
  o Maricarmen: Provide an Education and Employment Training facilities

• Funding:
  o Hannah: Lobbying to state for funding

These suggestions were developed based upon information provided by the SMAC members, Sonoma Valley Housing Group and community members.

Sincerely,

Maite Iturri
Chair, Springs Municipal Advisory Council

CC:

DRAFT _all edits