



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2021  
**LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

Adopted By:

**Dan Gjerde, Chair**  
District 4

**Glenn McGourty**  
District 1

**Maureen Mulheren**  
District 2

**John Haschak**  
District 3

**Ted Williams**  
District 5

Prepared By:

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Carmel J. Angelo**



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

The County's mission is to deliver services that meet: Public safety, health, social, cultural, education, transportation, economic, and environmental needs of our communities.

### ***Goals to achieve our Mission Statement:***

- ◆ To treat all people with dignity and respect. To create a County employee culture where each citizen is treated in a courteous, professional, and sensitive manner.
- ◆ To forge effective working relationships within the community in both the private and public sectors. Through such cooperation we can maximize services to our citizens. Having engaged people will achieve organizational goals.
- ◆ To develop a work environment and employee culture that strives for excellence. Training and development opportunities and career advancement will be highly valued by the organization.
- ◆ To streamline our governmental processes so that excellent service delivery is responsive, reliable, and cost effective. Productivity and efficiency are important organizational values which result in maximum benefits for all concerned.
- ◆ To manage our fiscal resources effectively and responsibly. To plan and budget in a way that recognizes the financial limitations of the County, and enhances the long term economic viability of the County and its citizens.

**Adopted August 19, 1999**

By the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors is the legislative body of Mendocino County government. The Board adopts policies, establishes programs, appoints certain non-elected department heads, and adopts annual budgets for all County departments. The Board of Supervisors also serves as the governing board for two special districts; the Mendocino County Water Agency, and the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District. Supervisors also serve on regional agencies and as ex-officio members on the boards of county service districts. The Board of Supervisors is a five-member board elected by district on the basis of population, as required by state law. Supervisors are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve for a term of four years. Along with the Board's committee and agency appointments, Supervisors also elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson annually among themselves.



**Glenn McGourty**  
District 1



**Maureen Mulheren**  
District 2



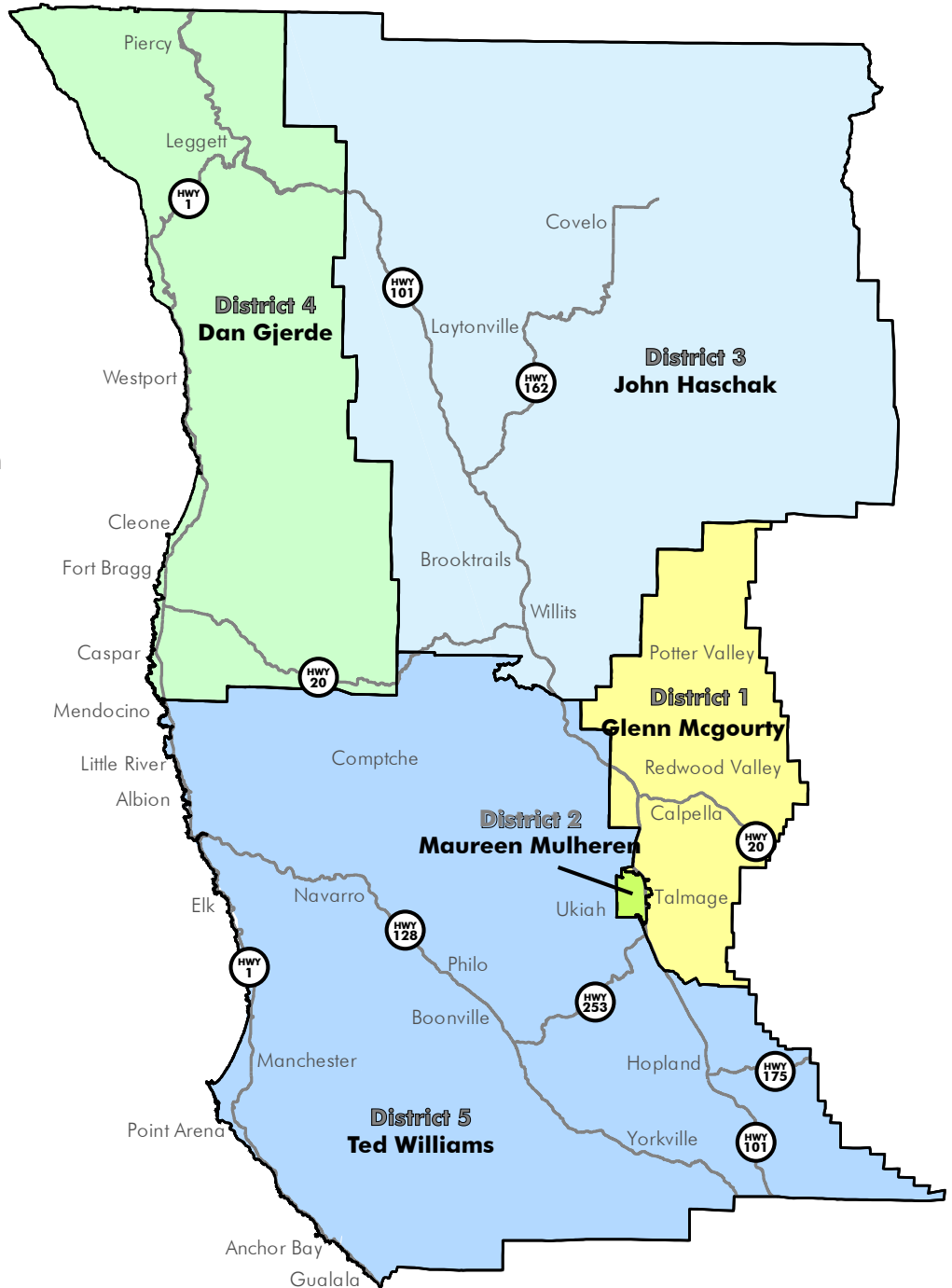
**John Haschak**  
District 3



**Dan Gjerde**  
District 4



**Ted Williams**  
District 5





# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO OVERVIEW

## MENDOCINO COUNTY WINE - WAVES - WILDERNESS

Mendocino County is located about 100 miles north of San Francisco and is bordered by Sonoma County to the south, Humboldt County to the north, Lake County to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The County has a population of approximately 87,000 with about 16,000 people living in Ukiah, the largest city and the County seat. Additionally, there are three incorporated cities: Willits, Fort Bragg and Point Arena. Mendocino County encompasses an area of over two million acres or approximately 3,500 square miles and is known for its redwood forests, 120+ miles of rugged coastline, picturesque villages and award winning wineries - and is larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. There are seven parks located throughout the County – each with its own “personality”, showcasing a different facet of Mendocino County’s wealth of natural resources. In addition, Ukiah has recently added a Skateboard Park and Dog Park. Residents and visitors enjoy camping, fishing and water sports at Lake Mendocino as well as throughout the coastal areas of Mendocino County. Combining the best of the outdoors with the finest aspects of living well, Mendocino County embodies the very best that California and Mother Nature have to offer.

## COUNTY STRUCTURE

Mendocino County is a general law county established in 1850 by the State legislature and is a political subdivision, or unit, of the State. The County is represented by five non-partisan, elected members comprising the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors is the governing body and sets policy and priorities for the County. The County is responsible for providing municipal programs and services in unincorporated areas of the County, and its powers are limited to those granted by the State. The County implements many programs in the areas of health, welfare and law enforcement, which are mandated, regulated and mostly funded by the State. The Board of Supervisors has limited authority over the policy and administration of these programs. The County also provides local services, such as public safety, libraries, land-use planning, county road construction and maintenance, and a museum.

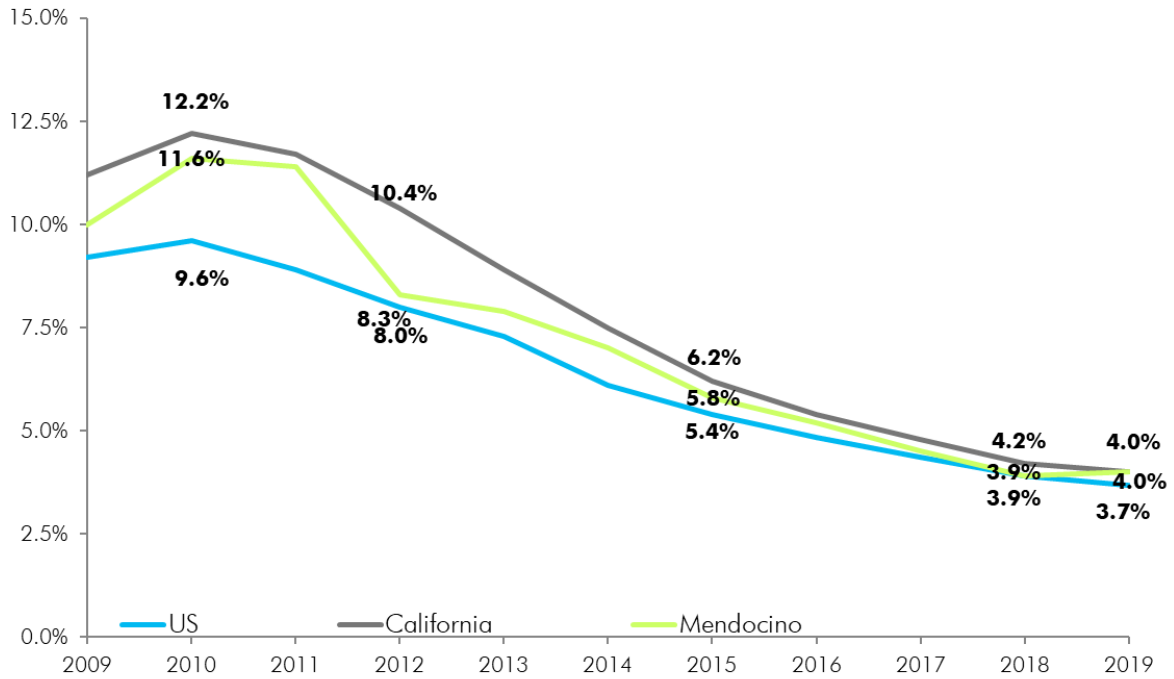
## COMMUNITY PROFILE

US Census Bureau Quick Facts	Mendocino County	California
Population, 2019 estimate	86,749	39,512,223
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	87,850	37,254,519
Percent change, April 4, 2010 to July 1, 2019	-1.3%	6.1%
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2019	5.7%	6.0%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2019	21.1%	22.5%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2019	23.1%	14.8%

## Mendocino County Community Indicators

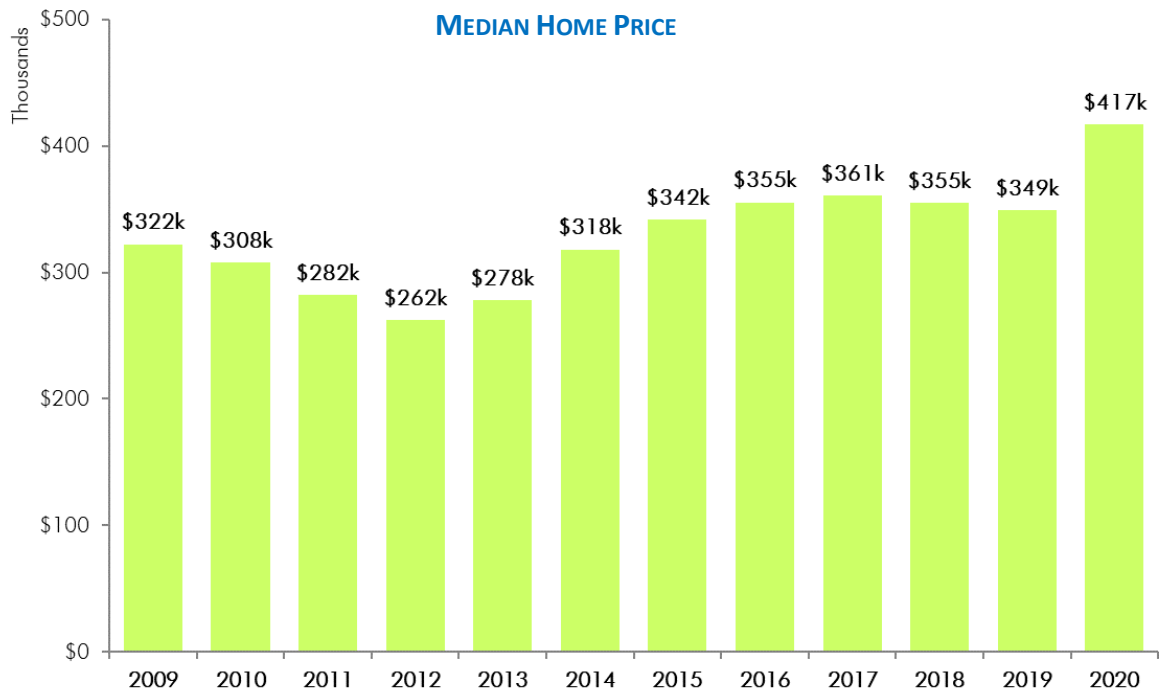
Median Household Income (2018)	\$49,233
Median Value of Owner Occupied Home	\$356,800
Median Gross Rent	\$1,100
Population in Unincorporated area	67%
Poverty Rate (2019)	17.5%

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

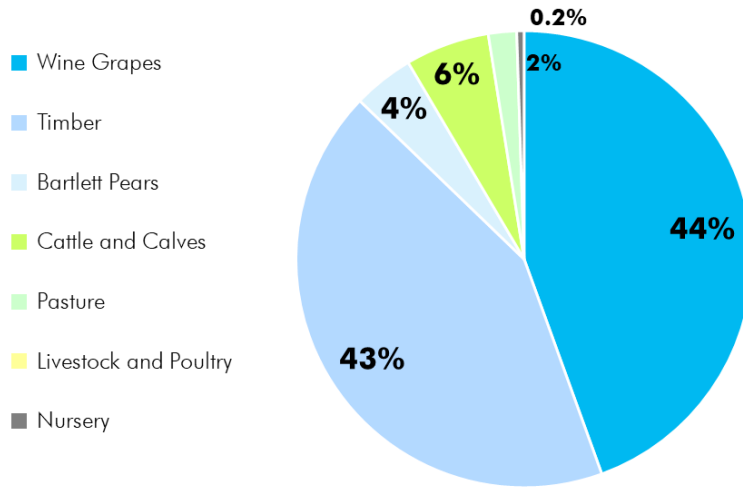


Source: State of California, Employment Development Department  
United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

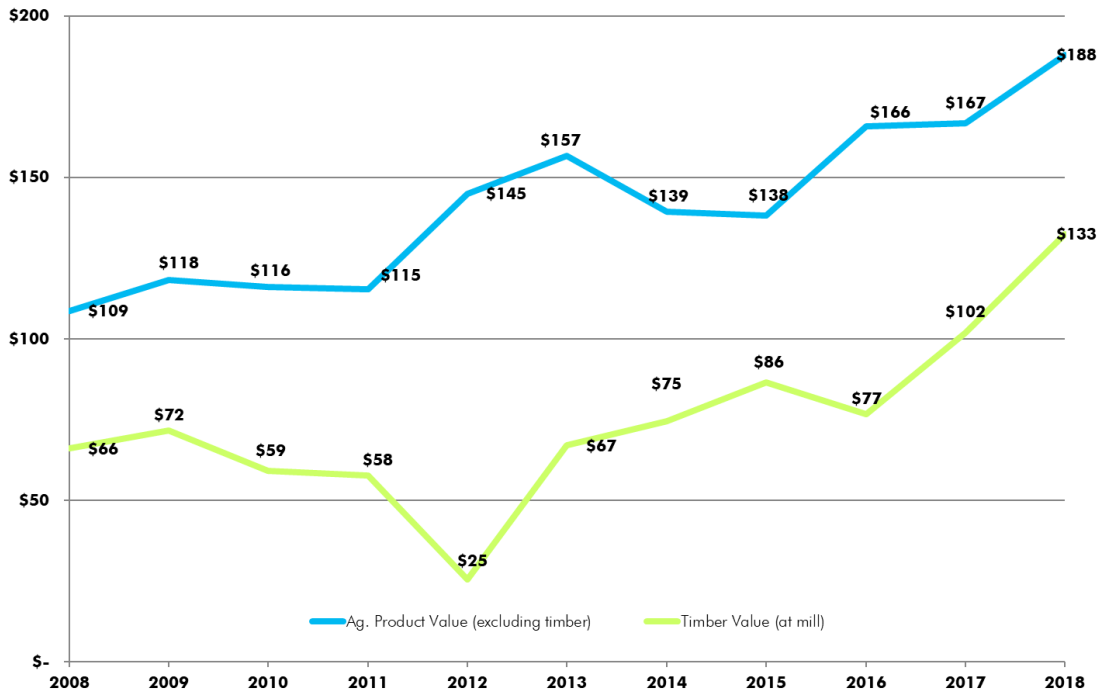
### MEDIAN HOME PRICE



### AGRICULTURE VALUE 2018 CROP REPORT



### AGRICULTURE VALUE TRENDS







# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

### **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM OVERVIEW**

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. The purpose of this Legislative Platform is to clearly outline the positions of the County on priority issues and matters that impact the County's ability to operate effectively, while allowing the considerations of legislative and budget issues that arise during the legislative session. The Board referred the development of the 2021 Legislative Platform to the General Government Standing Committee, comprised of Supervisor Dan Gjerde and Supervisor Carre Brown, to work with County Department Heads and Executive Office staff in developing a framework of issues for Board consideration.

On January 5, 2021, the Board adopted the 2021 Legislative Platform reflecting the County's legislative priorities 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.

### **STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & FOCUS AREAS**

In adopting this year's legislative platform, the following serve as Mendocino County's priorities and focus areas for Federal and State legislative advocacy:

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#### **DISASTER RECOVERY, PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY**

**ISSUE:** During the 2017, Redwood Complex Fire Mendocino County suffered tremendous loss, 36,000 acres were burnt, homes were lost, agricultural land was damaged and watersheds affected. However, this does not touch on the loss of lives. In the midst of disaster recovery, our community continues to be hit hard by disasters including significant fires in 2018 and 2020, public safety power shut offs in 2019 and the COVID-19 public health emergency. The devastation of these events will live on for decades. The support of the State and Federal government in both appropriations and policy changes are vital as we continue to rebuild resilient communities and prepare for the "new normal" of increasingly catastrophic natural disasters.

#### **STATE ACTION**

- Support efforts to enact legislation, regulations, and executive orders that ease the burden and promote rapid recovery and preparedness for future disasters.
- Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.
- Support additional funding at a local level for disaster preparedness and recovery.

- Advocate for the State to evaluate regulations and requirements for grants, housing projects and mitigation projects for opportunities to streamline processes and provide exemption when necessary.

**FEDERAL ACTION**

- Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.
- Support implementation of new requirements that limit “funding claw backs” and oppose efforts to withhold disaster recovery payments to Mendocino County.
- Advocate for additional FEMA technical assistance for counties to assist staff in navigating direct assistance programs and regulatory requirements for approved disaster projects.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**

**ISSUE:** Since January 2020, the County has been part of a coordinated public health response involving the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The Director of Emergency Services/Chief Executive Officer, Carmel J. Angelo declared a Local Emergency and the Health Officer declared a Local Health Emergency on March 4, 2020. The County’s response efforts to protect human life and minimize the strain on the health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to exceed \$28 million in 2020. Costs include labor, essential supplies and materials, contracts with public health and technical consultants, testing, education and outreach, contacting investigation and tracing, motel rooms for homeless individuals, preparation and operation costs for the health emergency alternative care facility, staff overtime costs, and emergency food relief programs.

**STATE ACTION**

- Support ongoing State provided COVID-19 testing sites to assist Mendocino County in meeting State required testing thresholds.
- Support State resources to assist counties in vaccine distribution, which may require special refrigeration and other expenses for distribution.
- Support ongoing and increased assistance by the State in providing epidemiologist and bilingual/bicultural contact investigators and tracers.
- Support ongoing operational funding for project HomeKey projects.
- Support continued realignment backfill for funding losses due to COVID-19 economic impacts.
- Support continued flexible funding for COVID-19 response and recovery to assist counties in providing services including, but not limited to emergency operations, isolation and quarantine housing, Great Plates and testing.
- Support maximum reimbursement for the County’s COVID-19 emergency protective measure required to respond to the pandemic.
- Advocate for legislation that would address the formation of a governing authority for the Potter Valley Project.
- Advocate for State funding to assist the Inland Water and Power Commission and Planning Agreement Parties in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) re-licensing process for the Potter Valley Project.

### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Support ongoing federal coronavirus aid to local government to support the COVID-19 response including, but not limited to testing, vaccines, isolation/quarantine housing and economic recovery.
- Support maximum reimbursement from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) for County COVID-19 emergency protective measure required to respond to the pandemic.
- Support ongoing funding for the emergency feeding program Great Plates.

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## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**ISSUE:** Mendocino County supports efforts to conserve and preserve the county's natural resources to help restore its fisheries, maintain healthy forests, support clean reliable water supplies, and ensure agriculture is preserved for future generations. The County supports activities and polices that promote responsible land management that integrate local government involvement in Federal and State land management decisions. The County supports increased State and Federal funding for public land management to address deferred maintenance of infrastructure in forests and fire prevention and mitigation activities.

### **STATE ACTION**

- Support local control in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and development/implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- Support State funding for storm water infrastructure improvements and compliance with storm water quality regulations.
- Advocate for legislation to allow and streamline the process for water districts to consolidate districts.
- Support the restoration of Williamson Act (the California Land Conservation Act) Subvention funds. Mendocino County, like most other rural counties, is dependent on State funding to offset the loss of property tax revenue to the County. Without a resumption of subvention payments, the County budget will suffer a detrimental impact.
- Support 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.
- Support the development and expansion of Cap-and-Trade funding programs specifically targeted at rural communities.
- Years of extremely dry conditions are taking a toll on forested lands across the state with rapid tree mortality. The County supports State and Federal local assistance, financial resources, regulatory relief and assistance with outreach and coordination efforts to address health and safety risk from dead and dying trees, including areas within the coastal range overseen by the California Coastal Commission.

### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Engage in the re-licensing process for FERC Project No. 77 – the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project.
- Support the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission and the Two-Basin Partnership efforts to re-license the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project.
- Monitor the legal challenges to the Waters of the United States rule (by the EPA and Army Corps) aimed at re-defining the definition of "Waters of the US" inside the Clean Water.

- Continued to advocate for 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.
- Support Congressional efforts to establish a more effective definition of “Waters of the U.S.”
- Support restoring full mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which compensates public lands counties for untaxable federal land.
- Support long-term federal reauthorization and full funding for Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act (SRS), which provides funding for rural counties and school districts to replace revenue from dwindling forest receipts due to national decline in timber harvesting.

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## **ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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**ISSUE:** Mendocino County advocates for economic and community development opportunities suitable to our rural community’s unique character through business development. The County supports legislative efforts designed to foster economic development tools and funding options for effective programs and job creation. The County supports legislative efforts that promote strategic land use and development practices that maintain and/or increase local control.

### **STATE ACTION**

- Oppose efforts that would divert SB 1 transportation funds from road and highway projects.
- Support legislation that fosters, promotes, and creates incentives for the adoption, use, and economic benefits of renewable and sustainable energy endeavors benefitting Mendocino County.
- Support legislation that provides ongoing state funding for mandated planning projects such as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), General Plan Housing Element updates, and other planning initiatives under AB 32 and SB 375.
- Promote a full range of housing in all communities to better address the housing needs and solutions in rural communities.
- Support the repeal of Article 34 of the California Constitution, which would reduce administrative burden on local governments around affordable housing development.
- Support expansion of state tax incentives for the provision of affordable housing. The tax codes and financial industry regulations need to be revised to provide stimulus to produce affordable housing, particularly for median, low and very low-income households.
- Oppose legislation that creates restrictions on local control of land use and development.
- Oppose legislative actions or reform measures that penalize jurisdictions for non-compliance with state-mandated Housing Element update schedules.

### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Support efforts by the Administration and Congress to increase our nation’s infrastructure investments to help promote economic development, public safety and overall mobility through a comprehensive infrastructure package, surface transportation reauthorization and water resources bill.
- Advocate for complete and accurate broadband connectivity data, which is necessary to effectively bridge the growing digital divide as the federal government relies on this information to determine the true need for critical broadband resources.

- Supports the deployment and availability of broadband and emerging technologies, to rural communities to ensure equitable economic and educational opportunities for all.
- Advocate for federal funding for rural airport infrastructure projects.
- Advocate for the expansion of federal tax credits to better meet the statewide need for subsidized affordable housing units.

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## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**ISSUE:** Counties are mandated to protect Californians against threats of widespread disease and illness and are tasked with promoting health and wellness. Mendocino County supports and encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional approaches to health care. Mendocino County supports the maximum amount of flexibility in managing programs and adequate and secure State and Federal funding to accomplish mandated services. Counties should have the ability to expand or consolidate facilities, services, and program contracts to provide a comprehensive level of service and accountability and achieve maximum cost effectiveness.

### STATE ACTION

- Support legislative efforts to provide sustaining wages to IHSS (In-Home Support Services) workers while limiting the County's obligation to increases in local required funding.
- Support efforts to sustain or restore funding for Health and Human Services 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.
- Advocate for the allocation of additional realignment revenues. Current cost-sharing ratios no longer reflect counties' long-term ability to control costs in the programs.
- Support additional funding and programs that provide improved access to local mental health services, including increased and consistent funding for mental health housing programs, crisis support, and jail diversion programs.
- Support insurance parity for mental health services to ensure residents with private insurance have the same services available as those with Medi-Cal.
- Advocate for the legislature to review the innovation component of the Mental Health Services Act for accountability. Innovation in rural, suburban and urban counties vary drastically and should be evaluated based on local demographics.
- Support sustainable funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems.

### FEDERAL ACTION

- Support for a new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicaid waivers for California. The new Cal-AIM waiver proposal is essential to enhance services at the local level particularly in regards to mental health, substance use treatment services and homeless services.
  - Medicaid/Medi-Cal waiver projects have allowed for substantial funding and our local expansion of services outside of traditional Medi-Cal billable services, including the Whole Person Care waiver pilot that has enhanced mental health and homeless services. And more recently, the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Deliver System pilot to expand substance use treatment services.

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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**ISSUE:** Mendocino County strongly supports community safety by providing high quality public safety services to maintain health and safety standards for its residents. The County supports additional State and Federal funding and tools to enhance law enforcement programs and the safety of its residents and public safety employees. It is recognized that the state, and not the counties, is responsible for trial court operations costs and any growth in those costs in the future. Nevertheless, counties continue to be responsible for justice-related services, such as, but not limited to, probation, prosecutorial and defense services, as well as the provision of local juvenile and adult detention facilities. Therefore, it is imperative there is secure, stable and sufficient funding allocated to Mendocino County to fulfil the state responsibilities mandated to the local level to implement.

### **STATE ACTION**

- Ensure that adequate, secure and stable funding is provided to implement the evidence-based practices mandated 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.
  - Oppose State and/or federal funding reductions that shift responsibility for services, administration or fiscal support to counties.
- Support additional State funding for the Sheriff's Office, Probation, Public Defender and District Attorney to implement money bail reform mandated by SB 10 (pending voter approval in November 2020).
- Support secure and adequate funding for the implementation of SB 823.
- Oppose legislation that would directly or indirectly shift costs related to State prisoners that are transferred under realignment to counties.
- Support additional state back-fill to cover the counties revenue loss resulting from the recent remove of criminal justice fines, fee and penalties by the Legislature.
- Oppose any additional State efforts to change criminal justice fines, fees, and penalties without providing a corresponding revenue back-fill.

### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Support amending the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy under the Social Security Act to remove limitations on Medicaid, Medicare, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Veteran's Affairs health services benefits for pre-trial inmates of public institutions.
- Support policies and programs that divert non-violent individuals struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from local jails into more appropriate treatment services.

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## **CANNABIS**

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**ISSUE:** Mendocino County is a pre-eminent producer county in the state of California, home to a very large number of multi-generational cultivators, manufacturers, and other added-value cannabis industry participants. In every license category, consideration must be given to the difficulties facing small cannabis operators in rural communities, unable to compete in the emerging legal market if it demands large sums of investment to scale up and meet regulatory requirements. Mendocino County supports the State's implementation of the Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety and will continue to advocate maintaining local government's flexibility and authority to address individual community needs

through local control measures. Mendocino County supports federal initiatives to either repeal or modify the federal prohibition of cannabis, and encourages federal recognition of state laws regulating cannabis.

#### **STATE ACTION**

- Advocate for a state extension of cannabis provisional licenses through January 1, 2024, allowing cannabis applicants to complete local permitting/licensing requirements and ancillary state required environmental permitting.
- Advocate for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to accept a local programmatic Environmental Document as sufficient local site-specific CEQA analysis for the issuance of state cultivation licenses.
- Advocate for the removal of the 4-acre cap on Cannabis Cooperative Associations to allow economy of scale for small farmers.
- Support expanded opportunities for direct sales.
- Advocate for State legislation and funding to combat illegal trespass cultivation of cannabis on public and private lands. Support adequate funding to address illegal water diversion, water pollution, erosion, poisoning of wildlife, and other environmental damage associated with trespass cannabis growing operations.
- Support efforts at the state level to allow for and make available banking and other financial services to cannabis operators in order to minimize the use of cash.

#### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- The county supports federal legislation that allows cannabis to be regulated at the federal level, including removing cannabis from Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances Act. The county takes the position that any change to the legal status of cannabis at the federal level must be accompanied by a thorough regulatory framework that delineates the clear roles and responsibilities of the jurisdictions involved.
- Advocate for Federal funding to combat illegal trespass cultivation of cannabis on public and private lands. Support adequate funding to address illegal water diversion, water pollution, erosion, poisoning of wildlife, and other environmental damage associated with trespass cannabis growing operations.
- Support efforts at the federal level to allow for and make available banking and other financial services to cannabis operators in order to minimize the use of cash.



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

### STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

<p><b>JIM WOOD, ASSEMBLYMAN (D)</b>          2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District          Website: <a href="http://a02.asmdc.org">http://a02.asmdc.org</a>          Phone: (707) 463-5770 – Ukiah Office          Phone: (916) 319-2002 – Sacramento Office</p>	<p><b>MIKE MCGUIRE, STATE SENATOR (D)</b>          2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District          Website: <a href="http://sd02.senate.ca.gov/">http://sd02.senate.ca.gov/</a>          Phone: (707) 468-8914 – Ukiah Office          Phone: (916) 651-4002 – Sacramento Office</p>
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### CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

<p><b>JARED HUFFMAN, CONGRESSMAN (D)</b>          2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District          United States House of Representatives          Website: <a href="http://huffman.house.gov/">http://huffman.house.gov/</a>          Phone: (707) 962-0933 – Fort Bragg Office          Phone/Fax: (707) 671-7449 – Ukiah Office          Phone: (202) 225-5161 – Washington, D.C. Office</p>	<p><b>VACANT, SENATOR</b>          United States Senate          Website: <a href="https://www.harris.senate.gov/">https://www.harris.senate.gov/</a>          Phone: (415) 981-9369 – Bay Area Office          Phone: (916) 448-2787 – Sacramento Office          Phone: (202) 224-3553 – Washington, D.C. Office</p>
	<p><b>DIANNE FEINSTEIN, SENATOR (D)</b>          United States Senate          Website: <a href="http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/">http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/</a>          Phone: (415) 393-0707 – San Francisco Office          Phone: (202) 224-3841 – Washington, D.C. Office</p>





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