

**Public Comment Regarding  
the 5-Year Strategic Planning Process**

**Received:**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – January 31, 2022**

# Email Correspondence

**govtstrategicplan - Focus areas**

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**From:****To:** govtstrategicplan**Date:** 9/7/2021 3:10 PM**Subject:** Focus areas

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Hi,

Here are a few things to consider. The vision might be a little doomsdayish, but I think it is important to make a statement about the importance of the plan. I also think most of the items below should be possible to achieve in a year.

My strategic vision for the County: Make Mendocino County more resilient to drought and other catastrophes in order for people to survive and thrive.

Tactical items to reach that vision:

1. Access to water
  - Water and water conservation efforts.
  - Reuse of water.
  - Reduce evaporation by adding solar farms on lakes
2. Communication and planning.
  - You need to add IT personnel in your planning group. That is a weakness that needs to be addressed since IT plays a large role in how the County will be able to communicate and plan for the future.
  - Add extra towers for Verizon, AT&T etc. in the biggest towns and cities in the County.
  - Double-up radio repeaters and make sure we have connections to Lake, Humboldt and Sonoma.
  - Make sure that the Internet Service Providers (ISP) have at least two connections out of the County.
  - Build out fiber and internet access for everyone. Minimum 50/10Mbps (download speed/upload speed)
  - Public web sites for information and preparedness
  - IT upgrades and maintenance for Mendocino County
3. Emergency preparedness by having access to
  - Shelters for cooling/warming
  - Food reserves for the population and building up/securing land for farming and not for building houses
  - Water cleaning stations. Portable?
  - Local power. Wind, solar, thermal, etc.
  - Charging stations for cars and other equipment (phones, laptops etc)
  - Make sure everyone in the County knows escape routes in cities and towns.
4. Work with nature to make it more resilient to fire and floods
  - Reforestation and replanting areas that has burned down.
  - Build up smaller dams that can retain water for smaller areas. Maybe beavers? They are good at it.
  - Build up wet lands.

- Salmon and other fish conservation.
- 5. Roads and travel
  - Prioritize maintenance of roads.
  - Have tools and equipment that is needed to repair roads quickly. This can also be through agreements with local businesses that has equipment.
- 6. Buildings/infrastructure
  - Solar panels and improve insulation.
  - New windows.
  - Better shading (trees and solar panels?)
- 7. Power solutions
  - Moving over to solar and wind power.
  - Put solar farms on lakes and buildings.
  - Decentralizing power grid. Make it so that each house/area has emergency power. Maybe storing power in car batteries and back in to the house(s) when needed.
  - Change county cars to electric where it is possible. Set strict requirements for new cars

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**govtstrategicplan - stream of consciousness Ideas not terribly well organized ...**


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**From:**  
**To:** govtstrategicplan  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 9:41 AM  
**Subject:** stream of consciousness Ideas not terribly well organized ...

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Hi Strategic Plan People!

From yesterdays meeting my take away feeling was:

Whatever happened to JFK's: Ask not what your Country can do for you but what you can do for your Country.

Civic Engagement should not end at Protest.

Govt could find ideas and way to encourage.

In this day and age, inviting all to celebrate those that have Contributed and marching them up onto a platform, speaking of their contributions and pinning a medal on their chest may see archaic but throw back are making a come back.

Let's start with what we've got: Redwood Coast Seniors, FB Food Bank leap to my mind as really health organizations that would thrive from more support and recognition. I'm sure there are tons of others.

Let's get our children & citizens to take classes in school on Civics and send them out to garden with our Elders, go for a walk with our Elders, do trash pick up in creeks and neighborhood. Give awards for those that collected the most and make a big deal of it.

Lets have story hours where our Elders present something out of their lives that will share their knowledge that might slip away. All we really need are an outdoor space, a stage with fun decorations, music and an organizer. Lets do this once a month during good weather on a given day when everyone knows it's a regular thing. Let's have everyone take turns so it's not a burden to one person. The we can have a friendly vote on the top events.

In re these meetings I think you should come back to us once you have a list bc we had no idea what you guys were after and often ideas are generated from push back.

For todays meeting I feel very strongly about regular jobs outside of County, Hospital, Cannabis and those lucky devils that get to work from home. Let's get some pride rallys going for the Blue Collar workers. We do not have a silicon valley population yet, which is a good thing, and make us different and lends part of the charm the pasty white mollusk fingers can never generate.

We have a population of hard working blue collar people.

What can we do to support them? Bc if we don't they too are going to go away and we'll be left with the wealthy who bought into the lifestyle and the service class.

We used to have Industry in Ukiah Valley (outside of Cannabis), clever people that made things. On the Coast it was the Mill which gave us good paying honest jobs and respect.

What can government do to bring them back? Yes, we want them to be environmental so what can County or the State do to help them be compliant.

If neither the Sate nor the County can back them financially why are we placing such a burden on job producers?

I really hope that Mendocino will not rely on Tourism as it's main economic driver. It generates really crummy low paying jobs that no one does happily given a choice.

I don't know what else you guys are going to talk about so that's all I've got for now for what it's worth since I may be the only one that thinks this way.

Thanks!

**From:**  
**To:** govtstrategicplan <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 3:53 PM  
**Subject:** Comments on Topic 1: A Safe and Healthy County

A-1 ... A single point of entry is a great goal

Have a real person be the one to answer the phone - not a automated system .... perhaps via the Crisis and Info line (1-855-838-0404) with additional staffing

A-2 .... The goal should highlight which programs/services it relates to

B-2 .... In addition to filling existing positions, work with

community college to prepare a fast track into county workforce

C-3 ... why wasn't the CRT accredited at the get go? Goal would be to have any new facility ready to accept clients as soon as facility is complete

Fort Bragg, CA

**From:**  
**To:** govstrategicplan <govstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 4:14 PM  
**Subject:** Comments on Topic 2: A Thriving Economy

Housing is a BIG issue  
can a california county legally require that homes are owned by  
individuals rather than real estate holding companies?

Limit the number of residences being converted to mock motels

Continue to encourage ADUs throughout county - partnership with  
Habitat For Humanity to build them.

Fort Bragg, CA



**govtstrategicplan - Communications**

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**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 5:33 PM  
**Subject:** Communications

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The county's public information is weak. For example, this meeting was not well-publicized. I heard about it only yesterday and I work at a newspaper.

As a reporter, I have trouble getting timely information from anyone in the county.

I believe the website is difficult to use – a user needs to be directed to the right department and function quickly. The county directory on the website doesn't work and is not updated. It would be great for the county to have a media room tab on the webpage, so reporters can quickly get to a Public Information Officer to get answers to questions in a timely manner. The county seems hostile to media, which can be a valuable partner in publicizing county activities, businesses, events, etc.

**govtstrategicplan - Fwd: Public Comment**

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**From:**

**To:** "govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org" <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocoun...>

**Date:** 1/5/2022 5:37 PM

**Subject:** Fwd: Public Comment

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The County government needs to make a "**Paradigm Shift**" to support the small businesses associated with cannabis production and history in the County. Mendocino County has a unique small farm legacy that produces the highest quality cannabis flower. The County needs to support the small farm model as an asset. Cannabis has never been included in the Crop Report or in the county funded marketing programs like Visit Mendocino. There was a referendum last November that clearly told the Supervisors Mendocino residents support small cannabis business and reject large corporate expansion...as the Supervisors voted in against overwhelming public opposition. Small businesses are the backbone of the County. We need reasonable policies developed to replace cannabis ordinances that emphasize cooperation and support of small farms.

County government and staff offer supportive rhetoric, but action does not often reflect the verbiage. It's time to acknowledge that Craft cannabis is Mendocino County's opportunity to develop the industry much further.

We don't need expansion of cannabis acreage, we need expansion of options to grow the existing industry.  
Corinne Powell

-----Original Message-----

To: govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>

Sent: Wed, Jan 5, 2022 5:00 pm

Subject: Public Comment

If we have live public comment, please put me on the list. Otherwise please make a statement at the beginning that public comments can only be accepted in writing.

Thank you,

govtstrategicplan

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**From:**

**To:** govtstrategicplan <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>

**Date:** 1/5/2022 5:39 PM

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**Our workforce needs to be bilingual...why hasn't Mendocino implemented Bilingual Education in our schools K-12? .**

**Proposition 58**

Proposition 58, placed on the ballot by the state Legislature, was approved by voters with a 73.5 percent majority on Nov. 8, 2016. The proposition implements the California Multilingual Education Act of 2016, which was introduced in the Legislature by Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens.

**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 5:40 PM  
**Subject:** suggestions to strategic plan

Vocational education: We need trades in Mendocino county, plumbers electricians etc.

Don't encourage development of work at home workforce from outside until they can be housed!

**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 5:41 PM  
**Subject:** County plan: A thriving economy  
**Attachments:** finn.vcf

Hi,

Build out fiber to increase broadband. We will not be able to support future expansion of the County or needs without building that out. Neither Comcast or AT&T has any incentives to build out the fiber in this area. Many believe that WIFI or radio will be a solution, but there are limits to how much you can use before it is "full". And that traffic has to be transferred through fiber too.

Either find a company that will DO it and maintain it, or create a company that can do it. You need a strong project management for it, but I think it will be the most important for the future of the county.

Take care,

**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 5:45 PM  
**Subject:** County plan: A thriving economy: Processes  
**Attachments:** finn.vcf

Hi

With Office 365 it should be possible to create work flow where one part of a process can be approved and sent to another department or person. This is a question of understanding how the current process is working or not, and get it formalized.

Take care,

**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 5:51 PM  
**Subject:** economy

I recognize that the county is diverse geographically, and therefore has differing needs. For the Russian River corridor, water is the lifeblood of the economy and its greatest vulnerability. With the inevitable loss of the Potter Valley Project, the necessity of the raising the dam at Lake Mendocino is apparent. This is not something that requires a great deal of resources in time. It does require a unified voice to get the attention of Huffman and the rest of the politicians. Bringing the water districts, the county, and Sonoma Water together to advocate for this as one would get the discussion moving. The project was designed to be done in two phases. Phase two has been sitting on the shelf, and now is the time to get it going. Federal infrastructure funds, State water dollars, climate change all are waiting for someone to make this move. Can this be led by the county government?

**govtstrategicplan - Broadband input**

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**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 5:58 PM  
**Subject:** Broadband input

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With passage of SB 156, Mendocino County will benefit from upward of \$100 million investment in broadband networks over the next 5 years.

However, County sponsored grant research conducted by the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County in cooperation with the North Bay North Coast Broadband Alliance, concluded that bringing underground fiber-optics to every unserved household and business in the County would cost more than \$500 million.

The region can anticipate additional Federal broadband funds, but compromises and creative solutions will undoubtedly be required to provide improved internet speeds County wide.

Thanks for the focus on broadband.



**From:**  
**To:** govtstrategicplan <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 6:39 PM  
**Subject:** Thriving Economy - Need a reliable public transportation system

MTA could and should be used as a vehicle to support our County's vibrant economy!

Our County is very rural and we have residents that live in Ukiah and would like to work in Hopland, residents in Hopland that would like to work in Willits and residents living in Boonville who would work in Hopland but they truly lack reliable transportation. We have roads that connect all of our communities and we have a lot of EMPTY MTA busses and the cost of fuel is also becoming more and more a huge deterrent. So, the result is unemployed citizens stay at home on unemployment and small businesses continue to struggle to find employees who can get to work and continue to return to work via a reliable transportation system.

Here are a few facts: Fetzer, Duckhorn, Vintage Wine Estates and Beckstoffer Vineyards combined probably employ more than 1000 employees in Hopland that have to commute to our community? We also have a new school and no school buses to bring 120 children to and from school.

MTA passes through Hopland twice a day on it's way down to the Santa Rosa Airport and it's return to Ukiah. I find this odd and troubling that funds can be spent to pick people up from an airport in another County but to not establish routes that coincide with a workday to allow residents without reliable transportation to attend work outside their community.

MTA's Board has stated that they have surveyed people and their isn't a current need because no one is interested in taking a bus to Hopland. I challenged their survey and said that people were not asked: If you had reliable transportation to Hopland would you be interested in working there? San Francisco actually uses a common tool by adding bus stops to an area and establishing a new route for 12 months and then evaluates if ridership has grown. Something similar and sized for our tiny community would be much more appropriate, than just running empty buses to Willits or Fort Bragg.

I'd be very willing to work with anyone interested in creating a viable public transportation system. If Build Back Better is providing infrastructure funds then we need to fund MTA and create a strategic timetable with meaningful route plans to support our unaddressed transportation issues.

**govtstrategicplan - Add'l comments on Economic**

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**From:** ...  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/5/2022 7:39 PM  
**Subject:** Add'l comments on Economic

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Thank you for your good work on the economic town hall meetings tonight. I had an additional suggestion for your consideration on the Vibrant Economy goal.

I recommend you change the goal title from "a vibrant economy" to something more specific. A vibrant economy can mean many things to many people which will make it very hard to target implementations and success metrics. I suggest a title like "Business growth and expansion". Measurements can be business licenses and expansion permits. You can track workforce growth and monitor commercial properties. Housing and Broadband are very specific areas if you choose that level of specificity then your third pillar shou also be specific.

We need to diversify our businesses and expand our current business to be more resilient as the economy shifts. One of the tactics under this goal can be the expansion of connectivity options to business and the training of technology use for a more productive workforce.

Thank you for this attention to our economy within the strategic plan.

**govtstrategicplan - Fwd: Comments and Suggestion for the Mendocino County Strategic Planning Process**

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**From:**  
**To:** govtstrategicplan <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/6/2022 8:17 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comments and Suggestion for the Mendocino County Strategic Planning Process

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Seems I typo'd on the first send.

----- Forwarded message -----

From

Date: Thu, Jan 6, 2022 at 8:10 AM

Subject: Comments and Suggestion for the Mendocino County Strategic Planning Process

To: <govstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>

Cc: John Haschak <haschakj@mendocinocounty.org>, Glenn McGourty  
<mcgourtyg@mendocinocounty.org>

Greetings,

I applaud the strategic planning objectives that the county has developed for "A Prepared and Resilient Community." The proposed goals and objectives seem ambitious and well balanced. In particular I want to support the objective of working with neighborhood groups (IV.B.2). The work that needs to be done to significantly reduce wildfire risk is immense and will not get done without organized and significant community contributions.

The continued threat of wildfire is huge and remains "top of the mind" for Mendocino County residents (I'd wager that, despite the past two years, it remains as big or a bigger concern than pandemic). With that in mind I would suggest that the County consider adding one additional objective, which might fit under headings IV.A or IV.B.

The objective would be something like "Developing a comprehensive, science-based, wildfire management plan for the County." When it comes to developing the next layer of related actions that objective could include items like:

- Using the best current technology for asset, vegetation density and type, & contour mapping, determine and prioritize the best locations for fire breaks and/or Prescribed Burns.
- Identify and prioritize key ingress/egress routes that require vegetation management.

- Establish a schedule for target development and maintenance of breaks, burns and road clearing.
- Identify areas without sufficient emergency water resources and plans for development.
- Identify areas where wildfires are likely to be uncontrollable or land management suggests they should be allowed to burn and notify the public.
- Develop education about hazard abatement & defensible space requirements and related enforcement mechanisms.

Having this type of plan would help ensure that our limited resources are directed to the most important projects and would also be a significant help in applying for grant funding to meet those objectives.

Thanks for the opportunity,

**govtstrategicplan - FW: Prepared and Resilient County planning comments**

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**F**

**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/6/2022 3:36 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Prepared and Resilient County planning comments

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This is my second send as I left out one letter of your e-mail

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**Sent:** Thursday, January 06, 2022 1:47 PM  
**To:** Tony Orth  
**Subject:** RE: Prepared and Resilient County planning comments

Thank you for copying me on your comments to the Strategic Plan.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 6, 2022 1:42 PM  
**To:** [govstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:govstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org)  
**Cc**  
**Subject:** Prepared and Resilient County planning comments

To the Team, Thank you for this opportunity to make comments to you in your planning capacities to create a workable five year strategic plan, for Mendocino County.

My name is Tony Orth and I have served as an elected representative for various local public agencies since the early 1980's here in Mendocino County. My comments will reference current activities I am part of in my elected capacity, but are only my individual comments of record to your planning program. My current public agency roles by length of service, Brooktrails Township Board of Directors (BTCSD), Mendocino County Commissioner for Special Districts on the Mendocino County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo), and as an Associate Director on the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (RCD). For several years now I serve as the chairperson for the LAFCo Commission.

I am writing these comments to inform this planning program of current efforts to improve coordination with the Mendocino Board of Supervisors to better prepare for local emergencies and support greater community resilience.

Personally I started my elected representation to help adopt and develop the Brooktrails Fire power as one of the key District functions in providing for a safer community. Protecting the headwater forest watershed and community greenbelts was my other major focus in my youthful public service. I also spent 25 years on the Willits 101 Bypass planning team and played a role in insuring the design would construct a northern interchange that could support an effective second access road project for the Sherwood Road Corridor and Brooktrails Township.

Comment #1; A past Mendocino BOS stalled the Brooktrails second access project after decades of studies by adopting a policy that requires the Brooktrails Township to identify the full funding to construct this critical project. Brooktrails Township has no authority to expend local tax dollars on transportation programs as it is the County of Mendocino (responsible agency) and MCOG which provides that service to the unincorporated Sherwood Corridor. Brooktrails Township was able to participate in planning programs with some funding for required studies after the

State Legislature approved our District as the first Special District to have Planning Powers so as to prepare a Brooktrails Specific Plan (this was an unfunded planning project by the County, needed to support a second access roadway project). This plan then was adopted into the County of Mendocino's General Plan by a prior BOS as required by law. The existing BOS policy regarding this second access project is not supported by its adopted General Plan. There is also extensive comments on the need for this project in the EIS/EIR for the Willits 101 Bypass Project.

State and Federal Transportation funding will be in the 10's of billions in California for critical shovel ready projects over the next five year planning period. It is time for this BOS policy barrier to be reversed. This is an identified critical roadway project here in Mendocino County via countywide planning surveys conducted in the last couple of years. Having the BOS take this action will then inform the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) to seek new funding to restart this project. This five year Strategic Plan must address this issue and recommend action to support this policy change. MGOG staff has placed this project as one of six local projects listed for potential Federal/State funding in preparation for allocation programs under the new Transportation Bill.

Comment #2; I represent the 52 Independent Special Districts here in Mendocino County elected by their Boards of Directors since 1994 as a Mendocino LAFCo Commissioner. Some years ago I was surprised to learn that the Mendocino BOS is also a Dependent Districts Board of Directors (BOD) for Mendocino County Service Area #3. About six years ago the State required all service districts to list what available powers they were using. The State Board of Equalization (SBEQ) was the agency where all active districts had to list those powers they exercised. A deadline was set and local district information was collected by Mendocino LAFCo and forwarded for listing. Mendocino County did not respond as CSA#3 was inactive and was not recognized as a district needing attention at that time (Three Mendocino Supervisors serve as LAFCo Commissioners). After the deadline a district in California that wishes to adopt an available power must go thru the local county LAFCo which will approve or disallow that powers adoption.

Several years ago Mendocino LAFCo received a notice from the SBEQ that CSA#3 was an inactive district that should be dissolved. I was able to get the commissions support, to as an alternative, work with Mendocino County to start the planning program to adopt one or more district powers to save this district to benefit our public. The BOS budgeted \$15,000 to support an LAFCo Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) studies that would lead to adopting district powers needed here in Mendocino County. CSA#3 service area encompasses all the unincorporated zones in Mendocino County.


Mendocino LAFCo placed these studies into our next budget and work plan just as our long serving Supervisor/Commissioners retired and the pandemic upended workloads, which resulted in the County requesting a delay in the MSR/SOI studies. I however did not stop work to build support to adopt a district power for CSA#3.

I represent Brooktrails Township on the Mendocino Association of Fire Districts (MCAFD) that works to support the Mendocino Association of Fire Chiefs (MCAFC). I am also a member of the steering committee of District directors and chiefs that meet with the BOS Fire Ad-hoc committees to coordinate issue resolutions. In addition Mendocino LAFCo restarted the needed MSR/SOI studies needed to activate CSA#3 by the end of this budget year.

We are working to have the BOS formally convene as the Board of Directors of CSA#3 and direct staff to prepare supporting documentation of allocations in the approved BOS budgets for the Fire service providers to be provided to LAFCo to justify the adoption of the CSA#3 Fire District Power. In addition we will be requesting the hiring of a Mendocino County Fire Warden to administer countywide programs for the District and coordinate with the first responder agencies and fire prevention program providers by staffing a District Standing Committee. Most of the 21 Fire Districts have little capacity to seek all the available grants and perform the administration of grants that would add additional benefits to our public. The grantors are requesting coordination and prioritizing occur at the countywide level for the greatest success in receiving funding. Funding options for CSA#3 have the standing of the County of Mendocino to set Parcel Benefit Charges in a process not available to independent districts. The BOS/BOD should also consider adopting the Water District power to support a Mendocino Water Agency in its activities.

On November 4<sup>th</sup> the State Board of Equalization re-noticed Mendocino LAFCo with a 90 day timeline to report on the status of CSA#3 and LAFCo will respond at our next meeting of February 7<sup>th</sup>. The public sentiment as stated in each recent study and by their voting record of supporting additional funding for local fire services is the record this Strategic Study must be responsive to support recommending the BOS acting as CSA#3 BOD take all actions needed to activate needed District Powers via the ongoing LAFCo MSR/SOI for CSA#3.

Thank you for your service to develop this 5 year Strategic Plan

 This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**govtstrategicplan - Strategic Planning Comment**

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**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/6/2022 5:29 PM  
**Subject:** Strategic Planning Comment

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Mendocino County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulance system is on a degrading trajectory and needs to be supported. Rural Ambulances (i.e. Covelo, Anderson Valley, Elk, Laytonville) in particular are relying on dedicated volunteers and a select few to hold the fragile system together. To ensure county residents and visitors have quality and timely access to EMS and ground ambulance transportation, the county should invest in our rural ambulance services and support ambulance staffing issues. This is a real and ever growing issue that needs a real solution as the county moves forward.

Thank you,



**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/6/2022 5:30 PM  
**Subject:** question about prepared and resilient county

Is there a place for the EOC? How about the space next to Grace Hudson school? Or even something down near the Transfer Station? Is there any space at the airport?

**govtstrategicplan - Town Hall - fire preparedness in the coastal zone**

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**From:**

**To:** govtstrategicplan <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>

**Date:** 1/6/2022 5:50 PM

**Subject:** Town Hall - fire preparedness in the coastal zone

**Cc:**

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Submitted via Q&A during the town hall, but really want to be sure that this is fully understood.

Fire preparedness:

Goal & Implementation Policy to prepare a programmatic Coastal Development Permit (Or EIR with CDP or with LCP update) to approve Major Vegetation in all areas of the Coastal Zone to remove dead, dying and diseased trees and vegetation.

As it stands now, it can take thousands of dollars and many months to more than a year to obtain approval to remove D&D trees and vegetation because of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area and Major Vegetation regulations.

For example, our Norther Bishop Pine Forests are aging out (for a number of factors) and dying wholesale. Very high fire hazard. Owners have to decide whether to wait for them to fall or spend thousands for permitting and wait many months. Or remove without benefit of permit.

Ironically, there is funding for the Coastal Conservancy to support fire management in Coastal Zone, but it's for public agencies only. Does not alleviate the problem, as the vast majority of D&D trees are on private property.

For proportion, keep in mind that cumulative expenses for an applicant to obtain a CDP for Major Veg Removal (including biological report, potential archaeological report, mitigation & management plan and restoration of the habitat), can cost upwards of \$50K. Just to remove D&D trees.

This is why this is an urgent issue, to be addressed in a truly deep manner.

Thank you!

**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/6/2022 5:51 PM  
**Subject:** Emerg Notifications

On the coast we have several communities with large populations that live in heavily forested areas. They can't receive text alerts, emails or cell phone calls. Even my AT&T landline went down for 31 days with no 911 service. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET EVACUATION NOTICES????

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

**govtstrategicplan - A thriving economy: Broadband**

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**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/6/2022 6:17 PM  
**Subject:** A thriving economy: Broadband  
**Attachments:**

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Hi,

I have worked in the IT profession for about 30+ years (since 2005 in the US)) and here are some of my thoughts around broadband.

The number one thing to do is to set goals for what you want back for the money that will be invested:

1. Speed: My suggestion would be a minimum speed of 100Mbps down and 100Mbps up for small businesses. 100 down and 40 up should be enough for home use where you have two people. My reasoning for 100 down is that you can do two Zoom/Teams meetings at the same time if you have around 40Mbps down and 10 up. With more and more people working from home, this high speed connection will be a necessity for everyone.
2. No throttling of speed. This is a problem that I have encountered several times. Companies can claim all they want that there is no throttling, but when a file download speed drops after a specific time and doesn't come back up.....
3. No blocking of services. Currently I have had to deal with VPN blocking on two different providers and it is a problem that will hinder the county in attracting people to come here to do work remotely.
4. Priorities on roll-out: Fiber optic to as many businesses/residents as possible. Extend with WIFI/cell stations where the fiber is, to try to reach even more constituents. There are machines that can dig down fiber along roads.
5. Transparency on what the money is used for. Many of these big corporations have enough data to come up with plans in less than a month if they are interested in it. However, they also count what is called overhead. That is payment to leadership and shareholders. I would recommend that the county hires a project manager and an accountant that can break down the need in the different towns/areas and find out from Comcast/AT&T and others what fiber is available and what capacity is available. And why it hasn't been built out in the areas they are running through.
6. I would suggest that the county explore the idea of creating a separate company or buy an existing one, to build out the broadband. This has been done in other places with good results. It does require project management and leadership. The good part is that the county can work to make the county more affordable in terms of accessibility and income. As you invest, people living in Mendocino County will pay back the investment. In some places this company has then been sold to big corporations and the prices normally double or triple.

7. Normally the installation cost in to the house/business is the biggest cost and hurdle. This can be mitigated by customers preparing trenches and conduits etc from the road/connection point.

My experience is that big corporations will sell you what you needed yesterday and then you have to invest/upgrade again next year or in 3 years. The main reason is that it cost millions to build out infrastructure of this kind. However, for the county it would be much better to build a foundation for the next 10-15 years. To add cell towers etc that bring in the outside traffic is cheap once you have the highway in place.

Based on what I have heard and seen working in this county, there is not enough fiber to accommodate the current traffic. Why would we as customers have to sign a document to agree to throttling if there was?

**govtstrategicplan - Global note**

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**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/6/2022 5:53 PM  
**Subject:** Global note

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Hello!

Globally, it's very important for our County Strategic Plan to vocally support the survival of our licensed cannabis community. The economic impact of licensed cannabis operators is substantial to Mendocino County, and this community is struggling due to over taxation and lack of market access. Mendocino County is a heritage cannabis producing region, and we would benefit greatly from supporting this community to enable their local investments and the tourism that it can attract. Visit Mendocino County is already working to promote this community, and the county should identify, even if in a general way, a commitment to see this community thrive.

**govtstrategicplan - County Transportation Revenue Source**

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**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/6/2022 6:03 PM  
**Subject:** County Transportation Revenue Source

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3 of the 4 cities in the County have voter-imposed transportation sales taxes, for streets. The 4<sup>th</sup> City (Ukiah) has a similar "advisory" measure. Although not popular, perhaps the County should consider this. There are State funding programs only available to these "self help" agencies, that the County is missing out on.

**govtstrategicplan - Re: Fwd: Comments and Suggestion for the Mendocino County Strategic Planning Process**

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**From:**

**To:** govtstrategicplan <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>

**Date:** 1/7/2022 9:04 AM

**Subject:** Re: Fwd: Comments and Suggestion for the Mendocino County Strategic Planning Process

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Great job putting the plan together and presenting it.

I wanted to let your team know that the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is ready/eager to participate in any way that is helpful when it comes to developing tactics and deliverables. In particular for item IV.B.2 that names us. But, we would also like to be engaged in at least IV.A.3 when public meetings are planned. We are aiming to do our own set of them, so there would seem to be a lot of room for synergy, or, at the least, we could maybe have a table in the back of the room for those efforts to help launch more neighborhood groups by leveraging the engaged people who attend.

FYI - Starting next 1/17 we will have a new full time person in the role of County Coordinator, a position specifically aimed at inventorying all of the wildfire mitigation efforts happening at all levels throughout the county and looking for ways to collaborate more effectively. Emily Tecchio will be joining us fresh from her role at State Rep Wood's liaison so she will be starting off with a solid understanding of the issues in the County and a lot of great connections.



**govtstrategicplan - Strategic Plan comments**

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**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/7/2022 10:22 AM  
**Subject:** Strategic Plan comments

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After reviewing the Strategic Plan, I noticed that there is no section devoted to ensuring that all the communities have primary and secondary access/egress for emergencies. I feel that this is an issue which could be addressed under two sections (the section addressing making people feel safe in their communities and/or the section addressing roads). This issue is vitally important for the future considering the grave wildfire threats which will continue to grow with climate change. I suggest this issue get its own section in the Plan. If it is called out in the Plan, it may open the door for grant funding under the climate change heading. If it is not, getting funding may be difficult.

Sincerely,

**From:**  
**To:** govtstrategicplan <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/7/2022 9:06 PM  
**Subject:** Re: A Prepared and Resilient Community Town Hall - Updated link!!

Hi Maya,

I appreciate that you were able to fix the zoom issue and I could participate in this Town Hall yesterday. I am grateful for the work you are doing to help look into the future of what we will need to be prepared and resilient in our communities.

I saw this abstract of research that has been exploring the extreme weather events we expect to see am thinking about how we really do need to act to prepare for more extreme weather, as climate scientists have indeed been suggesting for many years now. It's interesting to see how more of these events are happening and it begins to feel like we are in the future that has been predicted, so the urgency of action is clear.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-018-0140-y>

One of the things I think we should add to the resilience plan is to make sure that each of our rural communities has a stockpile of emergency resources on hand, that can be used in case we can't get to other parts of the county. Just a couple weeks ago we had several days without power, during a snow storm, in our community. While I saw that there were emergency supplies like blankets being offered in Ukiah, this was not a realistic solution to help those in need here in Round Valley. Some Round Valley residents did take it upon themselves to drive the 3 hour round trip to pick up supplies that were distributed here.

This experience helped me realize how we need some emergency supplies in all the hard to reach communities of the county. There are times when trees are down, roadways are flooded, or fires are raging and preventing travel to the County seat for supplies, and all of us would benefit of having our small rural towns have what we need to address emergency situations for the people who live in these communities.

I hope this idea makes it into the plan and I also look forward to helping to connect people within the County with folks in our community who can begin to develop these storage areas and stock up supplies.

With gratitude and hope for a more resilient future, as we know we're entering increasingly volatile times indeed.

**govtstrategicplan - comment on draft 5 year strategic plan**

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**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/8/2022 10:39 AM  
**Subject:** comment on draft 5 year strategic plan

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After reading the draft of the plan, I feel this is a start; the County has much to do. An overall comment, that I've seen others post in the Q&A as well, is that I hope this plan gets flushed out with Actions under the Goals and Objectives and timelines put in place. There also needs to be a regular reporting out attached to the timeline and accomplishments. Too often the County has hired consultants for various purposes, a plan is completed, and it sits on the shelf and no one ever hears about it again. This 5 - year plan needs to be a living document, revisited quarterly and annually, with a goal to revisit and update at the end of 5 years.

This brings me to my next input - the County sorely needs a Public Information Officer. Information and communication with the public needs improvement. A public information effort needs to be multi pronged to reach this wide spread community. Hopefully the county won't just rely on social media; in a rural county too many are not online or can't be.

Last, I agree that housing is a central issue for Mendocino County. We must also focus on **workforce development**. Connect II.D.3. *"identify & implement strategies that prevent youth entry into the criminal justice system"* to workforce. We have a CA community college in this county with technical training opportunities. The college does a nice job of offering concurrent enrollment options to AP and Honors students at the county high schools. It may be that more needs to be done to articulate technical training offerings with the high schools and show/provide more students with career or pathway options. This is especially needed on the coast. More on-ground offerings are available at the College's Coast center - how can we connect the majority of students to an educational plan that works for them. Connecting youth to options, providing hope, gets us back to the issue of prevention of youth entry to the criminal justice system. Approximately 80% of incarcerated youth have not completed their high school diploma; a good clue for us.

**govtstrategicplan - Re: A Healthy Community Town Hall - Updated link!!**

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**From:****To:** govtstrategicplan <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>**Date:** 1/9/2022 3:34 PM**Subject:** Re: A Healthy Community Town Hall - Updated link!!**Cc:**

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Hi Maya,

Below in italics are some comments/responses to the Safe and Healthy Community Strategic Plan powerpoint.

Sorry I could not attend the virtual meeting.

I do hope there is more effort to get input from community members from all segments of the county.

**A. Person centered approach**

- Enhance collaboration among departments

*This must include diversion of low level offenses from calls for service to MCSO dispatch to the appropriate community based organizations with mobile community health workers ([CHWs] aka promotores, advocates, navigators, ambassadors, tribal advocates, etc.). This will help to balance the budget for needed services as well as address root problems with services rather than an armed response from people not trained in the area of need (e.g. houseless, dependency, domestic issues, etc.). MCSO and PDs are dispatched for at least 70-90% of calls that are low level and do not require law enforcement (nor their budgets with substantial overtime).*

- Easier access to programs and services that match their needs, including providing both printed and online information and satellite offices.

*The only way to do this is NOT by online information. It is with aforementioned CHWs who are from and trusted by the communities they serve.*

- Food security

*CHWs need to be funded to help deliver from foodbanks to elderly, those without transportation, single parents, those working during food bank hours.*

*Establish support systems and affordable/supplemented CSA networks of small farmers (supports both small farmers and food banks) with quality fresh produce (not the poorer produce that wasn't sold elsewhere).*

**B. Preventive & culturally relevant health services**

- Evidence based review

*Most programs will fail - can establish and follow EBP guidelines and SOPs but without community member input that is best collected by CHWs - cannot effectively implement them especially for those most disenfranchised. Even the best standards and policies and procedures may not be effective without community member buy-in and without individualizing care which may not be standardized, may be time intensive and/or require additional cultural insight. CHWs*

can interface, translate in all meanings of the word, build rapport, and cultivate buy-in for those who have less experience with trusting providers.

- Staffing

CHWs, with tiered training and experience, can offer and be integrated as a specialized workforce for the county. With or without certificates, with or without moving into traditional healthcare careers, CHWs are uniquely qualified and positioned to provide “culturally relevant” care. CHWs need to be considered an essential workforce with livable salaries and benefits.

### C. Behavioral Health Services

- Collaboration

Law enforcement (even with CIT\*) should not be involved with or called upon to respond to behavioral health services except for the very rare violent offenses. Rural counties especially, given the distance and time to respond, can utilize CHWs in regional mobile crisis intervention units. A growing number of models and training programs exist and need to be considered with respect to collaboration and delivery for mental health services. CHWs can also be employed for mental health promotion programs and connection to services.

\*“There is little evidence in the peer-reviewed literature, however, that shows CIT’s benefits on objective measures of arrests, officer injury, citizen injury, or use of force.” Effectiveness of Police Crisis Intervention Training Programs | Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law

- CHWs/stigma reduction

This is a minimized role for CHWs. Expand this concept/role with support and recognition of CHWs as valued and integral team members.

### D. Safe Communities

Stigma is rampant due to a lack of balanced reporting and crime emphasis from DA’s, sheriffs, police and their associations and unions that contribute to the concept that communities are safe only with the presence of armed law enforcement. Public health policy analysis can help balance public perception. Research and data counters the typical crime narrative as well as the notion that law enforcement enhances safety more than spending on essential resources.

Recidivism can only be reduced by providing essential support with advocacy, housing, jobs, and fewer obstructive hoops post-detention.

### E. Sustainability

Most homeowner water consumption is for landscaping. Gradually implement smart policies and support of rainwater collection systems for water use explicitly for landscaping. Property owners could be incentivized to reduce water consumption for landscaping with some subsidies. For example, a relatively small workforce grants to train people in setting up rainwater catchment and delivery systems, partial storage tank rebates based on gallons of storage, delivery of storage tanks, small business grants specific to rainwater catchment, etc.

## govtstrategicplan - comment on Broadband goals

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**From:**

**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org>, Ted Williams <williamst@mendoci...

**Date:** 1/10/2022 8:25 PM

**Subject:** comment on Broadband goals

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comments on County of Mendocino, Draft Strategic Plan, January 2022

### A. A Thriving Economy

#### C. Improve Broadband Communications Infrastructure Throughout the County

1. Seek grants and partner with cell companies to expand communications infrastructure within the county to improve access to broadband, wireless and cell services.

If “Partnering with cell companies” is the solution, we are in trouble. The cell companies are in the business for profits and those profits will be exported out of Mendocino County to their headquarters in other states. (Analogy - remember when Mendocino logs were being shipped to the Far East sawmills for processing?). Further, unlike copper landlines, Broadband quality of service, data caps and pricing is not regulated by the CPUC. Thus, with no local control, the out of state companies can and will act like monopolies. (Although this statement is just our opinion, it is based on many years of BAMC work where we observed time and again the stonewalling tactics of the Incumbents and the mealy-mouthed actions of the CPUC — “regulatory capture” is best description.)

**Exploring multiple solutions is likely to be more fruitful than “Partnering” with the few.**

The Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County, a committee founded by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, has been working for nearly fifteen years to increase connectivity in Mendocino County. Over the years we have worked in concert with the County, some years more, some years less, but we have always had Supervisors at our quarterly meetings and ongoing discussions. Most recently we have encouraged interest in connectivity with the support of the four-county (Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin and Napa Counties) North Coast North Bay Broadband Alliance which developed a plan for fiber to the home in the most unconnected areas of our county in three stages. Our 2021 goal was to help harness the funds from Washington and Sacramento to complete this project. Meanwhile it seems that the way the funds will be spent will not accommodate this project as designed, although some of the plan may be able to be salvaged.

**Fiber to the home or at least to a geographical area such as Covelo, when funds are available, is a goal.**

In our campaign, ConnectUP, this Fall with West Company, we asked that the local population test their upload and download speeds to create data to support the County as it requests funding and negotiates with providers. In addition to recreation and private communication, there are five sectors of our lives that require connectivity today.

**Connectivity for Public Safety, Education, Health, Commerce and Government is a goal.**

I would hope that the strategic plan include a discussion of the ways the funds will be divided amongst rural counties in California, and the RCRC plans to negotiate on a multiple county level. I know the county signed the RCRC joint powers agreement.

**Working with other counties to negotiate and spend funds wisely is a goal.**

We have talked at length with Supervisor Williams about the importance of redundancy. One solution is the potential creation of a fiber link from the end of the proposed Middle Mile in Cleone up to Westport and over through Branscomb to Laytonville, to create at least one loop.

**Redundancy is a goal.**

**Dependability and quality of connection are goals.**

The cost of the service is also a concern of many of our citizens who cannot afford service or the amount of service they need for any of the basic 5 sectors. The digital divide may also be a question of ability to pay, **Affordable Broadband is a goal.**

Finally, we suggest that there need be a person on the county staff in charge managing Broadband, or connectivity development -- finding the possible funding sources, writing the grants, preparing negotiations per a policy which the County has yet to develop. Just as Housing needs a "czar" so does Broadband. The opportunities are too great to ignore, and if funding causes hesitancy, this person should be able to find ways to fund his/her position.

**Broadband "czar" is a goal.**

We may have suggested too many goals but please reconsider your goal. "Partnering with cell companies" is too limited, there are also other partners and other ideas on how to bring affordable, quality and dependable Broadband to Mendocino County. County policy should open the doors to improvement and be managed by competent staff. Working with other rural counties for the best deals may be a good strategy. These are our suggestions based on years of work with BAMC. We're willing to keep working, if we can help connect, or better connect, our friends and neighbors.

**With appreciation for all your good work on the strategic plan,  
Katie Gibbs, Jim Moorehead, Philip Thomas, Megan Barber Allende, Buck Ganter  
Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County, Advisory Committee of the Community Foundation of  
Mendocino County**

**govtstrategicplan - Strategic Plan Input/Prepared and Resilient Community Meeting Thoughts**

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**From:****To:** govtstrategicplan@mendocinocounty.org**Date:** 1/10/2022 9:38 PM**Subject:** Strategic Plan Input/Prepared and Resilient Community Meeting Thoughts**Cc:**

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Hello,

Great job with the public strategic planning meetings last week! The team was engaging and managed the group discussion wonderfully. Definitely some tough questions and challenging public comments.

Below are a few comments I had following the Jan 6th public meeting:

1) Most importantly, preparedness and resiliency shouldn't be considered a stand alone item. It's a function of everything we do and every agency/department has a role to play. Unfortunately, it's thought of as something a stand alone division will handle for the entire county. A small division tasked with maintaining and scaling 100+ capabilities (Transportation, EMS, Alerting, sheltering, etc.) without resources and/or authority will fail. A one or 2 person OES division simply can't scale fast enough to address competing priorities, especially when year after year we continue to juggling various year round "emergencies."

2) In order to build additional capability we will have to invest in either equipment or personnel. Retention and staffing across departments will need to be addressed considering the attrition rates of most govt entities these past few years. Organizational alignment can provide influence, however projects require assorted staff time/resources. This doesn't mean a large upfront expense. Continuous marginal investments would suffice and could be covered or recovered through various grants over time. Leadership commitment and direction is the key. Developing organic capabilities (staffing) creates stability rather than outsourcing.

Note: Over the past year MCSO has recovered more than 600K in past due grant reimbursements. OES is now juggling various grant awards spanning 2-4 performance periods (multiple annual awards). These admin challenges developed due to various staffing issues (unfilled positions/untrained staff). It's evident that competing emergencies are causing similar issues across various departments and is likely diminishing the efficiency of other preparedness grant programs. Bottom line, Mendocino County is leaving money on the table and/or carrying various financial obligations longer than needed. In my division, the lack of a dedicated space limits our ability to invest or collect back charges associated with an EOC facility, equipment, storage, etc. In the end the cost of doing nothing has a significant cost to the county and tax payers. Constantly moving



assorted facilities, equipment, and staff minimizes productivity, waists staff time, and degrades moral and response capabilities.

3) Strategic Plans from more than 10 years ago identified the need for a dedicated EOC. Subsequent disasters and after action reports (2017, 2019, COVID, etc.) have identified various EOC facility and equipment shortfalls.

4) I don't want to appear as if I am only advocating for my program or the Sheriff's Department. Recovery and resiliency is directly related to economic means (Economic Development). Strengthening our local economy will generate funds we can then use to support additional initiatives. Wealthy residents are better insured and less dependent on govt programs/assistance during and after a disaster. Federal and State case studies have shown that low income populations are more at risk of natural disasters. This is usually because they live in areas with cheaper price tags (High density, flood zones, rural, poor construction, etc.).

5) Leadership/Organizational alignment will directly impact this counties future preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities. Fundamentally, the Emergency Operation Plan needs to align with the emergency powers/county codes so roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and subordinate staff can develop and maintain various programs.

6) Finally, professional Emergency Management staff and/or various subject matter experts need to be consulted when developed various plans and conducting public engagement.

During last week's presentation, one panelist/contractor claimed to have experience with alerting systems and claimed that a community member didn't understand the difference between NOAA weather radio and other emergency alerts via radio. In actuality, the NOAA system simply activates the Emergency Alert System (radio and T.V.) and staff representing the County were incorrect about alerting capabilities. Alerting will always be challenging for an array of reasons. We can't continue to jeopardize public confidence and we must clearly demonstrate how our systems differ from another county and why. In this example, we were directly compared to Sonoma County. I could have quickly outlined the differences in our programs, how we actually have more application functionality, and where Sonoma has superior resources. Mendocino County also now Chairs the State's Region II Alert & Warning Subcommittee.

A panelist (vendor) also mentioned that we are updating re-entry procedures for farmers and ranchers. They went on to say, "The EOC will conduct the coordination." Bottom-line, support staff clearly didn't understand the processes needed to facilitate a pass program during an actual disaster. Often inexperienced plan writers state, "The EOC will do X or Y." The reality is that an EOC is a collection of people and someone must be tasked to support these functions. Internally, we've been trying to develop a program, however resourcing decisions have not been made. Over the past 2 years EOC operations have been supported by 6-8 staff physically in the EOC. The majority of the effort focuses on situational awareness, alerting, public info, inter-agency coordination, documentation, etc. If we want an access pass program, then additional staff will need to be assigned (leadership) to ensure a program is coordinated year round prior to a disaster and to

support the operations branch within the EOC during an actual disaster (Ag, Cannabis, etc.).

I only bring these points up because the trend seems to be that other departments or vendors are making decisions and providing input on processes that MCSO or OES will be held responsible for during a disaster. At the same time subject matter experts are not included in the discussion.

I apologize for any typos. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

V/r,

**Mendocino County Sheriffs Office  
Office of Emergency Services  
951 Low Gap Rd,  
Ukiah, CA 95482**



**govtstrategicplan - public comment about strategic plan**

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**From:**  
**To:** <govtstrategicplan@mcclainocounty.org>  
**Date:** 1/30/2022 8:21 AM  
**Subject:** public comment about strategic plan

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Dear Anne Molgaard, Maya Stuart, and other planners;

Thank you for all the time and effort you are putting in to creating a new strategic plan for our County.

This does seem like the perfect time to do so!

All the Priorities, Goals and Objectives in Version 1/23/22 seem well-chosen to me. I particularly like the One-Door approach, as I see a lot of patients for whom a single trip to an office is barely within reach.

I will be seeing patients during the BOS meeting, so I cannot attend. In lieu of that, I am listing the subsections that I would like to see rewritten as follows. (If I did not mention a subsection, then I did not have a suggested edit for it.)

I will also send these to the Supervisors so they can consider making motions to amend the Plan if they see fit.

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I.A.3. In collaboration, Supervisors, Department Heads, CA)/DEO, and other elected County leaders create a Code of Conduct that defines acceptable behavior and sets expectations for accountability. *(As a starting point, here are links to Humboldt County's Draft Code of Conduct and Sonoma County's Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Code: \_\_insert links \_\_)*

I.C.1. Adopt definitions and create a shared understanding of what diversity, equity, and inclusion mean.

*(As a starting point, the "free dictionary" defines "inclusivity" as "the fact or policy of not excluding members or participants on the grounds of gender, race, class,sexuality, disability, etc."*

*NACE defines "equity" as The term "equity" refers to fairness and justice and is distinguished from equality: Whereas equality means providing the same to all, equity means recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalances. The process is ongoing, requiring us to identify and overcome intentional and unintentional barriers arising from bias or systemic structures."*

*CUNY defines "diversity" as "a set of conscious practices that involve:*

- *Understanding and appreciating interdependence of humanity, cultures, and the natural environment.*
- *Practicing mutual respect for qualities and experiences that are different from our own.*
- *Understanding that diversity includes not only ways of being but also ways of knowing;*
- *Recognizing that personal, cultural and institutionalized discrimination creates and sustains privileges for some while creating and sustaining disadvantages for others;*
- *Building alliances across differences so that we can work together to eradicate all forms of discrimination."*)

IIE.1. Develop a strategy for a sustainable water supply that includes BOTH the identification of potential new sources of water, *including safe rain catchment systems*, expansion of existing surface water systems, and storage, AND the facilitation of safe reductions in water usage such as Zero-Water Building Certification programs. When supplies do not meet demand, prioritize survival; provide drinking and food-growing water for all before providing non-food-crop water or luxury-use water for any.

IIE.3. Update building codes to facilitate building without redwood lumber, to maximize the percentage of large redwood trees that are left alive and standing to capture planet-warming gases. Support sustainable agriculture and landscapes as a County policy with a priority on sinking carbon and reducing carbon emissions.

IIIA.3. Support policies to encourage legal and water-thrifty cannabis cultivation operations, while ensuring aggressive code enforcement for un-permitted or water-overusing cannabis facilities.

IIIB.4. Work with water and sewer districts and Zero-Water Design experts to facilitate the increased density of housing development without causing water supplies to be either exhausted, polluted, or excessively diverted from use by wild plants and animals.

IV A.5. Use the most recent and relevant available forest and climate science in development of a comprehensive wildfire management plan for the County.

Again, thanks for all the work you did to get this Strategic Plan to the point where the public can read it and add our two cents' worth! This is huge!

**govtstrategicplan - my input to strategic plan**

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**From:****To:** <govtstrategicplan@menococinocounty.org>**Date:** 1/30/2022 11:26 AM**Subject:** my input to strategic plan

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Dear Public Servants,

Thank you for putting your attention on a Strategic Plan for our County.

I was sent a letter with modifications to the draft Plan and I thought the suggestions were right on. Please add my support for these necessary suggestions. I won't be able to attend the meeting on Tuesday.

I.A.3. KEEP THE EXISTING LANGUAGE BUT ADD THE PARENTHETICAL PORTION AT THE END, so it will read:

In collaboration, Supervisors, Department Heads, CA)/DEO, and other elected County leaders create a Code of Conduct that defines acceptable behavior and sets expectations for accountability. *(As a starting point, here are links to Humboldt County's Draft Code of Conduct and Sonoma County's Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Code: \_\_insert links\_\_)*

I.C.1. KEEP THE EXISTING LANGUAGE BUT ADD THE PARENTHETICAL PORTION AT THE END, so it will read:

Adopt definitions and create a shared understanding of what diversity, equity, and inclusion mean.

*(As a starting point, the "free dictionary" defines "inclusivity" as "the fact or policy of not excluding members or participants on the grounds of gender, race, class,sexuality, disability, etc.")*

*NACE defines "equity" thusly: the term "equity" refers to fairness and justice and is distinguished from equality: Whereas equality means providing the same to all, equity means recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalances. The process is ongoing, requiring us to identify and overcome intentional and unintentional barriers arising from bias or systemic structures."*

*CUNY defines "diversity" as "a set of conscious practices that involve:*

- Understanding and appreciating interdependence of humanity, cultures, and the natural environment.*
- Practicing mutual respect for qualities and experiences that are different from our own.*
- Understanding that diversity includes not only ways of being but also ways of knowing;*
- Recognizing that personal, cultural and institutionalized discrimination creates and sustains privileges for some while creating and sustaining disadvantages for others;*
- Building alliances across differences so that we can work together to eradicate all forms of discrimination."*

IIE.1. ADD THE WORD "BOTH" AFTER THE FIRST 10 WORDS,  
ADD THE PHRASE "INCLUDING SAFE RAIN CATCHMENT SYSTEMS" AFTER THE  
PHRASE "NEW SOURCES OF WATER,"  
AND ADD THE ITALICIZED PORTION AT THE END, so it will read:

Develop a strategy for a sustainable water supply that includes BOTH the identification of potential new sources of water, including safe rain catchment systems, expansion of existing surface water systems, and storage, *AND the facilitation of safe reductions in water usage such as Certification Programs based on FEMA's Zero-Net-Water Building strategies. When supplies do not meet demand, prioritize biological survival: provide drinking water and food-growing water for all before providing non-food-crop water or luxury-use water for any.*

IIE.3. ADD THE FIRST ITALICIZED PORTION AT THE BEGINNING  
REMOVE THE PHRASE "SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY" FROM AFTER THE WORD "SUPPORT"  
REPLACE THE WORD "FOCUS" WITH THE WORD "PRIORITY"  
ADD THE WORDS "SINKING CARBON AND" BEFORE THE WORDS "LOWERING CARBON EMISSIONS" so it will read:

*Update building codes to facilitate building without redwood lumber, to maximize the percentage of large redwood trees that are left alive and standing to capture planet-warming gases.* Support sustainable agriculture and landscapes as a County policy with a priority on sinking carbon and lowering carbon emissions.

IIIA.3. ADD THE WORDS "AND WATER-THRIFTY" AFTER THE WORD "LEGAL"  
ADD THE WORDS "OR WATER-OVERUSING" AFTER THE WORD "UN-PERMITTED" so it will read:

Support policies to encourage legal and water-thrifty cannabis cultivation operations, while ensuring aggressive code enforcement for un-permitted or water-overusing cannabis facilities.

IIIB.4. ADD THE PHRASE "AND NET-ZERO-DESIGN EXPERTS" AFTER THE WORD  
"DISTRICTS"  
ADD THE ITALICIZED PORTION AT THE END so it will read:

Work with water and sewer districts and Net-Zero-Water Design experts to facilitate the increased density of housing development *without causing water supplies to be either exhausted, polluted, or excessively diverted from use by wild plants and animals.*

IV A.5. ADD THE ITALICIZED PORTION TO THE BEGINNING  
DELETE THE WORD "DEVELOP" so it will read:

*Use the most recent and relevant available forest and climate science in development and continuous improvement of a comprehensive wildfire management plan for the County.*

Please feel free to email me if you'd like to hear why I think these changes would help support the survival and thriving of our community.

Sincerely,

**govtstrategicplan - Fwd: Suggestions for Draft Strategic Plan**

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**From:**

**To:** govtstrategicplan

**Date:** 1/31/2022 7:24 PM

**Subject:** Fwd: Suggestions for Draft Strategic Plan

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Dear Supervisors and Ms. Molgaard,

The draft county Strategic Plan you will be considering tomorrow seems pretty good to me. However, I am part of the Grass Roots Institute Climate Crisis working group and we have looked at and discussed the draft plan, and I and many members of the groups think it could be improved. I am also a friend of Dr. Jennifer Kreger and have read and discussed the suggested edits she has come up with. They all seem quite reasonable and important to me. So I hope you will decide to include all of her suggestions. Thank you all for your service to our county.

Sincerely,

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# Comments from Zoom, Youtube and Facebook



Zoom Question Report

Topic: A Healthy Community

Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 - 5 PM - 6:15 PM

Report Generated: 1/5/2022 10:52:00 AM

Webinar ID: 889 4959 8984

1. test
2. np
3. Why wasn't there an Info Tech representative involved?
4. A. Person-centered: 1. Has a flowchart of services been developed or is planned to be developed to guide consolidation and streamlining and thus achieve a single point of contact? 2. What are the metrics of success? Are service recipients rating the quality and effectiveness of the services they receive? Any plans for an ombudsman to address complaints and deficiencies. Are root causes of problems resolved (for example, how many vagrants are transitioned into productive workers? How many drug /alcohol addicts become and maintain sobriety? How many reports of abuse to CPS are addressed and how many are recurring? Etc.) 3. Is the County and its contractors focused on Mendocino County residents? Are non-residents referred back to their communities of origin? We are not a wealthy County with copious resources; we need to focus on our citizens with the sparse resources from our tax dollars.
5. How will you enhance the collaboration?
6. Is there a definition or goal of food security?
7. Will there be one person/department that will help a person find the help and resources they need?
8. A comment: community gardens provide food security as well as improved mental health.
9. I think it makes sense to have a broad and holistic view about a safe and healthy community. Since the focus is county government and services, I think it's worth mentioning the role that the library system can play, animal control, the department of transportation, the Agriculture department, social services, probation, the sheriff's office, the jail... They all need to work in concert to provide a rich and supportive system.
10. We need more resources. Such as affordable, quality childcare and housing options.
11. They are logical and positive objectives, however, I do wonder about the how the collaboration and one-door approach will be achieved, particularly with the outlying regions such as the coast, Covelo, etc.
12. It's worth mentioning the vital work that IHHS workers play throughout our county to keep our seniors healthy and more independent.
13. In terms of childcare. The county could be the leader. If we could provide or support childcare that was available for our staff that would be a start.
14. I want to highlight the earlier comment about childcare. Again, particularly in the outlying regions which have limited supply and access issues. This is essential to community members being able to even "walk in the door" to seek out the services they need.

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<p>15. B. Services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The County needs to establish metrics for measuring success and transparency in reporting results and address deficiencies and timelines to successful accomplishment</li><li>2. Are partnerships with faith-based organizations effectively explored?</li></ol>
<p>16. The pandemic has show us like nothing else can the vital importance of a robust and strong public health infrastructure. The County should consider bringing back a public health lab.</p>
<p>17. We need a redesign of our HR hiring system. We want people to apply for a job not just because it's a job but because they are passionate about the work. The process to hire takes way too long and we lose quality candidates. We need our staff to reflect the community we serve.</p>
<p>18. I just want to express support for the focus on prevention. Prevention funding is difficult to come by for non profit organizations and it would be fabulous to see the county become a leader in this arena; provide prevention funds or apply collaboratively with non profits, etc.</p>
<p>19. Are community health workers and/or promotores a component of this plan?</p>
<p>20. I hope the County can firm up and expand their mobile crisis vans throughout the county to have a more therapeutic approach and free up law enforcement to focus their attention on addressing crime.</p>
<p>21. Shouldn't the focus be on avoiding mental health issues before they become problematic?</p>
<p>22. What help is available for people newly homeless on the coast?</p>
<p>23. D. Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The plan fails to address the increase in crime due to no bail and early release policies of State and Local government.</li><li>2. What is the rehabilitation rate of repeat offenders and is it improving over time? What innovative approaches are needed to reduce recidivism?</li><li>3. Is the Juvenile Court and Sherriff considering a 'scared straight' or similar early prevention-intervention program?</li></ol>
<p>24. Discussing feeling safe in our communities without acknowledging some of the challenges brought by illegal cannabis and the criminal element it has attracted is ignoring a real challenge that part of county faces.</p>
<p>25. Please encourage and measure authentic Law Enforcement collaboration with community organizations and groups. This often does not come to fruition due to a variety of challenges, some of which are simply based on staff shortages, but ultimately puts more work on LE as well as decreased safety, trust, and resources for community members.</p>
<p>26. How are you making black people feel safe?</p>
<p>27. E.1. What about conserving water? Vineyards and cannabis consume huge quantities of water; what can be done to make the use more efficient?</p>

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28. How much of the county buildings have solar panels?
29. To protect the health and safety of the County we must create a stable foundation for our small licensed cannabis businesses. These folks contribute greatly to the overall economic health of the county and if they are driven out of business it will have far reaching negative implications for our entire county.
30. More licensed cannabis operators equals more environmental protections, so providing more pathways to compliance for small cannabis operators should be a key priority for the county
31. It would be great if the county had a more extensive park system. We have a good number on the coast, but we would benefit with more inland access to nature for the public. This could also spur a little bit more tourism. The county is so beautiful, it would be great to have more access to it.
32. We could also create a best management practices program for cannabis cultivators that would incentivize more environmentally responsible techniques. CCAG and MCA have been working toward this program and would benefit from county support to integrate a program with incentives
33. When will there be a time to discuss questions? When will there be an opportunity to have a back and forth discussion around these ideas?
34. Both myself and Gizmo are finding this extremely difficult to interact and ask/comment while you guys are talking! Isn't there some way to allow the public to zoom with you? It is impossible to formulate questions/comments while listening! Very disappointed.
35. My feedback is to implement a Best Management Practices program for cannabis cultivation
36. Specific Idea: develop a new ordinance that would enable small cannabis operators, with small gardens on parcels of less than 10 acres to enter the licensed market.
37. General Feedback: Please make sure that cannabis policy is an integral part of this process.
38. For ideas... re: law enforcement, understand the history of policing. Slave patrols became sheriffs. Understand the issues effecting the black community- the trauma is real.
39. If the strategic plan doesn't include cannabis directly it is ignoring a major component of our county reality.
40. Not sure if you saw my last Q Lima Sierra (You): For ideas... re: law enforcement, understand the history of policing. Slave patrols became sheriffs. Understand the issues effecting the black community- the trauma is real.
41. Will there be a summary of comments received and related responses?

Zoom Question Report

Topic: Thriving Economy

Wednesday, January 5th, 2022 - 5 PM - 6:15 PM

Report Generated: 1/5/2022 18:31:00

Webinar ID: 872 6010 2819

1. We are already in the meeting.
2. no chat?
3. Are there tech issues with this meeting? I was disconnected from the meeting and when I reconnected, all I see are the photos of the Board of Supes? I'm not sure what the issue is?
4. Where does the Plan establish the County's strengths weaknesses opportunities and threats regarding its economy population demographics governmental organization and environment etc. as the foundation elements of its strategic plan?
5. Will there be another way to submit comments if there is a conflict with tomorrow?
6. A thriving economy in Mendocino County includes support of our small cannabis cultivators. Cannabis cultivators contribute millions in taxes to the county every year and millions more in local expenditures to local vendors contractors, grocery stores, gas stations etc. Currently our small farmers are facing major challenges including over taxation decreased market access. It is essential that we include cannabis specifically in our plans for the future.
7. Housing may be the most critical element for a thriving economy. Are all our workers going to commute?
8. Is there a way to view the members in the meeting? The youtube stream shows more members than this view. is there a way to make the meeting view like the YouTube view?
9. Are you going to be taking input from community stakeholders on the effectiveness of the County Government organization?
10. Agriculture (including cannabis) and tourism are primary drivers of our economy here in Mendocino. We need to support and nurture these industries. We will see more residents and new arrivals who will live here but work remotely especially if we can strengthen our broadband. This will be a benefit but also a challenge as our limited housing is scooped up by these newly untethered remote workers.
11. A. Vibrant economy Mendocino needs to go beyond its borders to attract new businesses. Relying on the wine pot and tourist industries won't yield the type of economic growth needed for ample good paying jobs and a thriving economy. For example if the County had decent broadband road infrastructure and upscale businesses in its beautiful rural areas it could attract people who presently live in Silicon Valley or elsewhere and who can work remotely.

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<p>12. The pot industry in Mendocino and other emerald triangle areas will likely collapse thanks to California's legalization. Areas with ample water housing and an encouraging local government will take over this industry in areas like the Central Valley etc.</p>
<p>13. Agree that starting a new business in Mendocino County especially the Coastal Commission-strangled zone is difficult thanks to outdated work processes and bureaucracy. The permitting processes for new enterprises (land use etc.) needs to be made efficient automated on-line and responsive.</p>
<p>14. housing should be specifically referenced</p>
<p>15. "Support a vibrant economy" is very broad but for the local cannabis community our local businesses need support to be able to stay in the licensed cannabis market. The County can support the streamlining of the cannabis permitting process ensure that grant funds are distributed efficiently and expeditiously. Right now we also need to provide an opportunity for cannabis operators to follow their licenses during this challenging time. The county could also bring a revised cannabis tax ordinance to a vote to create more flexibility for our struggling operators - which will need to happen by a vote of the people.</p>
<p>16. We need to learn what would 1) attract and 2) retain talent and the workforce in Mendocino County. Need a plan.</p>
<p>17. All the goals are inter-related. A vibrant economy relies on workers being able to find affordable housing near enough to their places of work to make that work feasible.</p>
<p>18. I'm a board member of Anderson Valley Housing Association in Boonville. We're all about trying to find local people affordable housing. We need teachers health center staff, vineyard workers, small business owners, hospitality staff and more The jobs are here but the housing isn't. There seems to be a lot of focus on Ukiah but we can't afford to lose our workforce ""over the hill"". It's also troublesome that people should be forced to find housing in Ukiah when they work in Boonville. If the County was to be more flexible in permitted development in our unincorporated area we could attract and retain more workforce locally helping grow our town while keeping the rural heritage.</p>
<p>19. Encourage businesses to provide livable wages.</p>
<p>20. Can you leave the slide up with the info you are asking us to respond to for reference?</p>
<p>21. As has been said many times, housing particularly workforce housing is essential. The Housing Action Team-North Coast just put out a report today addressing</p>

Zoom Question Report

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Report Generated: 1/5/2022 18:31:00

Webinar ID: 872 6010 2819

<p>housing on the coast. SEIU 1021 put out a report on housing a few weeks ago also addressing our housing challenges-<a href="https://seiu1021mendohousingreport.org/">https://seiu1021mendohousingreport.org/</a></p>
<p>22. SWOT has also been done for the CEDS for the Sonoma-Mendocino Economic development board</p>
<p>23. Supporting small cannabis farmers - they live work and play in the county and contribute to our economy but are being pushed out.</p>
<p>24. Streamlined online processes for the public to interact with departments. Standardize across county departments.</p>
<p>25. It is imperative that the county shift the mindset around workforce development. Currently we view workforce development as a social service strategy. I believe it is necessary to state in this plan that there will be a commitment to shifting workforce development to a economic development strategy. This is a concerning omission in my opinion. Today K-14 education career development is not aligned with our local industry and employment needs.</p>
<p>26. I have multiple small businesses in Mendocino County and the basic service such as procuring a business license is broken. I submitted paperwork for a new license in November and it's been 9 weeks. This timeframe is not supportive. When is the management of the Building and Planning Department going to improve?</p>
<p>27. Consider a survey of the local business community to assess the existing business assistance infrastructure and identify bottlenecks service gaps and opportunities (such as accessing external markets establishing an online presence or securing loans)</p>
<p>28. Looking at ways of improving the use of technology and streamlining processes, especially those with public interface are needed. Online permit applications status check for permits etc. are a few examples. This could also assist with reducing the ""fees"" for service that seem to always increase at the local state and federal levels. The inconvenience and cost of permits are impactful to business and projects.</p>
<p>29. The process of building and planning as well as the monetary fees make it extremely difficult for small start ups to successfully create businesses due to the extensive amount of time and inefficiencies with in planning and building as well as fee costs.</p>
<p>30. Costs and time of opening for business are so unwieldy that it makes unattainable for many without access to large funds and professional assistance to get through the processes.</p>

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<p>31. Consider a goal to heartily beef up the support infrastructure (staffing) for the Planning Department. The deeper and stronger the admin &amp; tech staff are supporting the Planners the more the entire team can accomplish.</p>
<p>32. Michelle - years ago there was a workforce development program...i worked at Rainbow Ag at the time and the idea was to get the program (that was through the County) to do just that. it focused on 5 pillars for workforce development...hospitality ag. Business services and two others i can't remember. i thought mcoe was also involved....program was run through P&amp;B i think"</p>
<p>33. There is a lack of licensed service providers such as plumbers and electricians. Mendocino apprenticeship programs might help provide work and provide the new generation of local service providers.</p>
<p>34. Building and planning especially on the coast ... send a "secret shopper" to try to get something done. Determine any pain points and improve."</p>
<p>35. I truly agree that HOUSING is vital it's important to remember that water availability is a real problem. This aspect is not truly addressed. 170 housing plan is moving forward for S. State Street in Ukiah and Willow Water does not have water available for this development. I know I have property at S. State Street and am constantly vying to keep my agricultural water wheeled by Willow Water.</p>
<p>36. Getting a building permit especially in the Coastal Zone is time consuming inefficient and expensive. Why isn't this standardized and on-line? The County needs to improve its use of Information Technology.</p>
<p>37. Good jobs will entice development of housing. Instead of having an Executive merely focus on housing needs money would be better spent on getting employers and well compensated employees to relocate to the County.</p>
<p>38. New building technologies need to be embraced by the County's B&amp;P. Such as "house in a box" modular or factory framed housing. Stick built housing is comparatively expensive and time consuming.</p>
<p>39. New housing must be water efficient and long-term sufficient."</p>
<p>40. How building and planning operates and delivers its services also has a large impact on the ability for our businesses to launch and expand. With a 30% loss of businesses in our county since the pandemic we need to streamline business growth and expansion. Building planning holds the keys</p>
<p>41. Piggybacking off of early comments the workforce housing initiative is an excellent idea but there should be representation from Mendocino's different regions. The needs and challenges are different in Anderson Valley than they are in Ukiah or Willits or the Coast.</p>

Zoom Question Report

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Report Generated: 1/5/2022 18:31:00

Webinar ID: 872 6010 2819

<p>42. Re: housing there are residents in this county who have sub dividable land and who intended to divide but the process and expense was unclear and prohibitive. Are there templates of scenarios those considering could review? Early meetings with staff left them feeling uneasy and unmotivated even though they want to help with housing.</p>
<p>43. talking about housing without mentions short term rental use of housing particularly on the coast. the coast is an Island workers have to live on the coast to work on the coast</p>
<p>44. Is it possible to create incentives to transition houses from the AirBnB market to the rental market?</p>
<p>45. Is the County requiring information on water access and projected usage for ALL permits?</p>
<p>46. Agricultural Housing was built on Brush Street and I have two Agricultural Employees who have not been able to obtain housing there but other non-agricultural employees are living in the development. Winn Company manages this housing development and it's truly a disappointing that developments are built and once again mismanaged. I have no idea who can fix this.</p>
<p>47. Agreed. Vacation Rentals are taking a lot of housing stock away from workforce rentals.</p>
<p>48. We were asked to review many new and expanded home permits in the Fort Bragg and Mendocino area when water was being trucked from Ukiah.</p>
<p>49. out lying areas have water issues - what glen just said</p>
<p>50. Planner Tech - super. Last time I was at Planning (couple of weeks ago) the Senior Planner was pulling archives for me and copying/scanning them. That's a low-skill task that a Planner Tech can do so that Sr Planner can take care of higher level issues.</p>
<p>51. There is a debate between those who support growth at all costs and those who want to freeze Mendocino County as a lightly populated rural refuge. Do we want to be like Sonoma County? Transportation challenges limits on water and sewer hook ups rugged terrain and large swaths zoned as Ag will keep a check on rapid growth. How do we grow sustainably and what is the desirable rate of growth? We currently are losing our young people because they can't afford to stay here.</p>
<p>52. A goal should include looking at the short term rental situation and institute plans to regulate these- to be sure to that these businesses are contributing to the needs of the county</p>
<p>53. There is as is well known a shortage of medical providers. Here on the coast this is exacerbated by the inability to successfully recruit new providers. The main reason</p>



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<p>is the lack of attractive housing and another reason is lack of job opportunities for spouse. I'd suggest giving consideration to the development of a medical residency -- an area in which there are homes apartments maybe a dormitory that are made available to medical staff.</p>
<p>54. Robert- Yes we did. The California Department of Education moved the funding to the local districts which removed the ability of the County Office to run the programs. This created autonomy for the districts and at the same time we lost the connection to constantly evaluate what helped the local economy. I believe that it is very necessary to bring local school districts Mendocino County, adult schools social services and local businesses to all coordinate services. Then we can develop a plan that will increase efficiency and number of people served.</p>
<p>55. Round Valley is a low income area but other than Tribal HUD what is available for low income housing assistance and that assistance needs to be available locally (not a 2-3 hour round trip drive away)."</p>
<p>56. Permitting should be fully automated with rule sets.</p>
<p>57. I also am a board member of Anderson Valley Housing Association. We are eager to develop multifamily housing in AV but the properties that come on the market that are large enough to develop are zoned AG. Some have suitable water and septic feasibility but a 40 acre parcel won't accommodate more than two homes. There needs to be a balance between maintaining local feel and values and prioritizing housing. Perhaps some AG rezoning requests could be considered.</p>
<p>58. The affordable housing funding has too many restrictions and requirements (transit hubs infill carbon reduction etc.) The County needs to be active in HCD to make changes that fit small and rural areas.</p>
<p>59. is there a good example from somewhere else in the US that used particular strategies on housing and were successful?</p>
<p>60. Glenn mentioned that Build Back Better Grants are now available. Our Hopland community needs help to write a grant and just like other unincorporated communities where they don't have their own services or staff how do we get support from the County to move forward? Are there funds for us to hire someone?</p>
<p>61. Mike Oliphant's point about getting more services on-line rather than paper based is super positive. The other thing about people renting out properties as income is very related to the business topic of tonight's discussion. Business is business but a house should be a home. Sup. McGourty gets it I think great to hear about renting to folk who need it.</p>

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Report Generated: 1/5/2022 18:31:00

Webinar ID: 872 6010 2819

62. We keep hearing all these talking points. When will the county deliver these results?
63. MTA would be able to bring employees to my two small businesses in Hopland but I've met with MTA over the last 3 years and there is no movement. Can the County help MTA add routes to allow employees who have housing in Ukiah commute to Hopland to work?
64. Will the questions in the chat be published? And responses?
65. Community Land Trusts is an interesting concept where a non-profit or the County owns the land and families own their homes. If the county could set up such a group that could facilitate affordable housing throughout the county.
66. Build back better grant funding for seniors and those who may want a condo rather than a single family residence or apartment.
67. Define what accountability means
68. Are we using motels to help with number 4?
69. I support Megan's idea. There are a lot of grants out there and it takes a lot of knowhow and time to explore them.
70. need housing for middle income people. Market rate is so high right now that even working families become housing burdened.
71. Housing is complicated and a state wide issue. What does the our current housing data show us? How many building permits are in progress across the county? How many have been completed? What is the average length of time to completion for a single family home ? broken down by district? How many units have been built in the past 3 years in cities and in unincorporated areas
72. Housing Czar & Point Person at the top: super. Build a strong and deep team.
73. easy answer Mary Anne - not enough
74. OK. Thanks. How do wages coalesce with housing issues..
75. Then we need accountability! Responsibility is great but accountability means consequences for failures.
76. We want the work done right?
77. C. Broadband. Recently the Gualala Municipal Advisor Council rejected a proposal by AT&T to install a much-needed cell tower. Other cell tower proposals have been similarly obstructed by unfounded radiation fears or NIMBYism over the years. What message does this send to carriers and others? The County's IT function needs to take the lead in attracting and approving technology proposals by private industry.
78. Mendocino County is host to world-class fiber carriers like AT&T CenturyLink and others with high capacity high speed connectivity along Highway 1 the 101 and

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Report Generated: 1/5/2022 18:31:00

Webinar ID: 872 6010 2819

<p>other roads. Yet local taps into this capacity are virtually non-existent. As a condition for routing under or along our road network these carriers should be required to provide access points for local branches of service.</p>
<p>79. SpaceX's StarLink could solve connectivity for rural customers but the entry cost is \$500 with a \$100 monthly service fee. This is not an excessive cost for many who would work remotely but for many residents would be unaffordable. Local providers such as FurtherReach provide decent services at more affordable prices but basic plans still cost \$70 a month. Subsidized service for school age children of low-income families may be needed and sources of funds need to be identified and obtained.</p>
<p>80. Is the County's IT Master Plan going to be incorporated in this SP? (It addresses many of the technology deficiencies of the County.)</p>
<p>81. Adopt a "Dig Once" initiative in the region to offset costs by installing a conduit and fiber during construction projects which in turn makes it less costly for service providers to offer broadband to rural regions.</p>
<p>82. I've worked with JT who owns and runs SeaKay Broadband. I have an antenna on Ridgewood Grade which shoots down to my ranch and services homes in Redwood Valley; We have raised antennas in Hopland and now the new Hopland School has broadband as well as other rural residents in Hopland. And lastly we've gotten antennas at Blue Lake so there are now high speed services there. That's pretty simple. Should reach out to work with J.</p>
<p>83. Similar to housing it is imperative that there is someone at the County level who is spearheading and coordinating this effort – identifying seeking and responding to grant opportunities strategizing the last mile etc.</p>
<p>84. Broadband will help resolve some of the staffing issues as people in this county are willing to retrain and train up and without a state college like our neighboring county retraining or training up existing residents should be part of our strategy. Many do not have internet that allows them to attend college online.</p>
<p>85. I am attracted to the idea of recruiting remote tech workers by building a tech center on the coast perhaps on the GP mill site. This facility would be enabled with high speed internet office space and support services. This might be a starting point for expanding high speed more fully.</p>
<p>86. Rural areas need reliable cell phone or landline service at the most basic level for safety. Recently Covelo was without communication via cell or landlines for the majority of 3 days. This is a safety issue more than a work or convenience of internet access etc. I know of an 80+ year old who walked 4+ miles to a neighbors</p>

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Report Generated: 1/5/2022 18:31:00

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<p>to be able to call out to get medications there is not cell signal in the area and no accountability of landlines in rural areas leaving them out of touch for weeks.</p>
<p>87. WiFi should be free and available at all the community centers and granges in the county. Places where people congregate in the unincorporated areas</p>
<p>88. maybe we make a grant program ourselves? that can help pay for expansion of the current broadband network? or to help pay for pre-program expenses. pay for pole expenses.</p>
<p>89. There are considerable stretches of road (on 128 between Boonville and Cloverdale and on 253) that are dead zones for cell reception. That's potentially dangerous if you have an accident and don't have cell connection.</p>
<p>90. Goal: for Planning &amp; Dept of Environmental Health: expand archived permit data on TrackIt to include detailed history (e.g. staff reports, notice of final action site plans) DEH is not on Trackit would increase efficiency to have their archives online.</p>
<p>91. West launched a grant resource site for county residents on the MOVE2030 website to help people/organizations know what is available <a href="https://www.move2030.org/funding-grants/">https://www.move2030.org/funding-grants/</a></p>
<p>92. Supervisor McGourty's comment that SeaKay only works with areas where there are not trees is dismissive and incorrect. My home on the Ridgewood grade is in the middle of a fir tree area the homes at Blue Lake are also in a small valley with lots of tree issues. If people want broadband they have to trim their tree branches and make an effort to work to make an immediate technology work for them. I see 5 years in the future the County executives will still be complaining that we don't have broadband because there is a thought that if it's not perfect and seamless to the residents it's not something that can be provided.</p>
<p>93. No Uber or Lyft for older people trying to get around with no cell service on Hwy</p>
<p>94. thank you</p>

Zoom Question Report

Topic: A Prepared and Resilient Community

Thursday, January 6th, 2022 - 5 PM - 6:15 PM

Report Generated: 1/6/2022 6:50:00 PM

Webinar ID: 843 8426 2921

1. I am a participant and can hear you just fine, and see you
2. Video conferencing is essential for a rural county like Mendocino
3. I see that you already have this comment recorded, but will add here just in case: What is Missing: United Disaster Relief of Northern California, a Disaster Resource Center, located in Mendocino County. We have assisted with over 30 disasters beginning with Redwood Fire of 2017 and most recently Hopkins Fire and Covelo Snow Storm/Power Outage. I am honestly surprised our center is not included in this list with full 100% support, from our County Representatives and Employees. 3 of the 5 supervisors are aware of our resources and services, and we work with county employees as needs arise. We work with multiple partners including County of Mendocino, NCO, Red Cross, etc. Recently helped Hopkins Fire clients receive over \$33k in funds available to them. Resiliency, Check! Preparedness, Check! Please set up a time to discuss how we can best add this disaster resource center to the list and gather further information you may need, to help fund the center long term.
4. we need an emergency communication network that doesn't involve facebook, or internet. a network that works with cell phones
5. Is this really correct: 60% of County employees did not respond with input? Seems very concerning.
6. almost everyone has a cell phone
7. automated home phone calls would work too
8. A. Disaster/emergency preparedness and resiliency Broadband and County-wide cell service must be top priorities as they are key enabling components of all 4 County strategic priorities. Communication is critical to warn residents of emergencies and infrastructure must be in place throughout the County to assure people are notified. The County Building and Planning Codes need to better address fire safety requirements such as more fire-resistant construction and materials, seismic activated gas valves, mandated vegetation clearances, fire-safe access routes, etc.
9. To increase disaster preparedness as it relates to drought management, the county should make the process for water storage development, ponds for example, less expensive and complicated
10. When you get to Drought: I recommend a Goal to implement a plan to actively solicit developers to create Small Water Districts, seek funding to create same, and prioritize permitting for same. Related Goal, which reduces a barrier to drilling wells (b/c setbacks to septic fields): I recommend a Goal to implement a plan to actively solicit developers to create Small Wastewater Districts, seek funding to create same, and prioritize permitting for same.

Zoom Question Report

Topic: A Prepared and Resilient Community

Thursday, January 6th, 2022 - 5 PM - 6:15 PM

Report Generated: 1/6/2022 6:50:00 PM

Webinar ID: 843 8426 2921

<p>11. The County should create an emergency access program for folks who need to tend to their agricultural businesses, including licensed cannabis businesses, in areas that may be safe to enter during a fire emergency. A combination of departments including MCSO, Ag, and OES have tried to set this up for years with the Farm Bureau and this past year MCA participated as well, going so far as to provide a proposal for a specific program, but a program has not been developed or implemented. We should address this BEFORE the next fire season so all stakeholders are aware of the process.</p>
<p>12. Comment: Thank you Sup. Glenn McGourty for mentioning our center and the scope of our services. Means a lot.</p>
<p>13. The county needs to work with existing local organizations that already respond in emergency situations. Especially to relieve these organizations once the county can reach the areas due to our remote and large county, and be able to offset monetary outlays that local groups take on when the county has the funds to offset these costs. The county should also take responsibility for the properties they manage and weed abatement for fire safety.</p>
<p>14. on #3 here - we may want to have a schedule on actual training. having a nebulous schedule makes training hard to do. say we train quarterly.</p>
<p>15. Covelo really, really needs help getting a fire hydrant system in our downtown. We have lost SO many building over the years to fire. Our downtown is devastated. Our Water District keeps talking about wishing to get some funding to develop an emergency water system for fire fighting in our downtown, but seeing so small with just part-time staff, it's not something we can pull off up here on our own. We can't even build back our downtown very easily without this, as each building will have to come up with their own pressure tanks for code mandated sprinkler systems, which makes rebuilding prohibitively expensive.</p>
<p>16. Comment: Sarah, Thank you for mentioning my request.</p>
<p>17. Round Valley area also needs phone service. There are emergencies that no one can call for help because we have such incredibly frequent cell phone disruptions. I have heard of elders not being able to call for medical care. During fire season this could be a life and death situation for a lot more than just individuals</p>
<p>18. Social Media: I don't use FaceBook. I do use Instagram, but haven't looked for a County Instagram account. What works for me is being on the County's email list for announcements.</p>
<p>19. I think EOC should have a permanent location, as much as we believe UDRNC should have their permanent center. We can completely relate to this. Good Cell Service, alerts, good Green Signage for emergency personnel to find your home, continuing with alert systems including Sirens all help with resiliency and preparedness. Social Media with County, Public Health and MCSO has gotten better over time. Emergencies such as wildfires are no longer a new norm, they are actually a "Norm".</p>

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Thursday, January 6th, 2022 - 5 PM - 6:15 PM

Report Generated: 1/6/2022 6:50:00 PM

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20. Social media is only effective when internet communications exist, other methods should be established for those without access and/or when communications are down, when local radio stations are key.
21. For EOC we may need two locations - coast and inland. The coast could be cut off in the event of some types of disasters
22. Don't forget our local business community especially in unincorporated areas. Training in how to place important documents in the cloud and a plan for locating your employees when disaster strikes.
23. maybe the County works with HAM radio operators to get alerts out?
24. A resilient, mobile EOC would permit relocation away from fires or quakes. Think: self contained trailers. mobile generators and satellite uplink capabilities. Like a mobile sports broadcast facility.
25. Yes On Radio for communications
26. B. Ensure access to rural fire protection and emergency medical services 1. Given Mendocino County's terrible rural road network, medical air transport and telemedicine availability are essential, the later requiring good broadband / cell service, the former continued access to AirMedCare.
27. Supervisor McGourty, how many ambulances do we have in this County?
28. Yes, training county employees especially those with EOC on Ham Radio operations and working with local groups. We don't always have cell service or social media. This would go under preparedness. I.E. Covelo quite often has no cell service, no social media, no phone lines, and recently no power.
29. There are a lot of proposed Fire Safe regulations that would be very challenging for rural operators to comply with. Fire Safety is essential, but we also don't want to set bars so high that our economically disadvantaged rural community can't reach them. The county should engage with the Board of Forestry directly on these proposed regulations. In this advocacy, it would also be important to advocate that cannabis farmers are treated the same as all other farmers for all fire safe regulations.
30. Fire is definitely the priority but consider also other disasters like earthquakes. If bridges collapse on the coast what would we do?
31. An established EOC is critical at this point given the various threats an number of emergencies the county has proclaimed. We currently depend on various mobile assets which delay and degrade our ability to produce work like public messaging. The county does support HAM groups through various programs such as OES and Public Health Preparedness.
32. Rural Volunteer Fire Departments need to be able to have paramedics on staff as well as ambulances and life support features. The equipment is useless if no one is qualified to use the equipment. Covelo currently has only 2 driver/EMT teams who do all responding and transporting.

Zoom Question Report

Topic: A Prepared and Resilient Community

Thursday, January 6th, 2022 - 5 PM - 6:15 PM

Report Generated: 1/6/2022 6:50:00 PM

Webinar ID: 843 8426 2921

<p>33. A public information plan would assist with coordinating various public messaging platforms.</p>
<p>34. I believe we have 7 or 8 EMS vehicles.</p>
<p>35. Fire preparedness: Goal &amp; Implementation Policy to prepare a programmatic Coastal Development Permit to approve Major Vegetation in all areas of the Coastal Zone to remove dead, dying and diseased trees and vegetation. As it stands now, it can take thousands of dollars and many months to more than a year to obtain approval to remove D&amp;D trees and vegetation because of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area and Major Vegetation regulations. For example, our Norther Bishop Pine Forests are aging out (for a number of factors) and dying wholesale. Very high fire hazard. Owners have to decide whether to wait for them to fall or spend thousands for permitting and wait many months. Or remove without benefit of permit.</p>
<p>36. How are we building public private partnerships in order to enhance services like cell providers and EMS services, since many of these programs are privately controlled?</p>
<p>37. attracting talent and retaining them will always be the issue. let's be proactive and figure out a housing situation for EMS / Fire / Police.</p>
<p>38. Advocate for common sense Board of Forestry Fire Safe regulations that will work for our rural community</p>
<p>39. C. Improve and maintain transportation and road systems/access routes The Dept. of Transportation should maintain a current (monthly updated) list of planned road improvements, associated costs and completion status on the County's website to provide improved transparency to the public. The DoT should also provide residents with a way to report deficiencies – on-line! CalTrans closes at least 2 major roads (CA-1 and CA-128) due to periodic, regular flooding. The County needs to proactively demand permanent and timely solutions from the State. 3. For County roads with significant travel and that are poorly designed and maintained (such as Mountain View, Philo-Greenwood), the County should explore transferring these to CalTrans.</p>
<p>40. people don't want to use MTA, they use most likely because they have to</p>
<p>41. Investing in all the little rural communities and helping to expand housing opportunities in walkable communities will help reduce our demand on roads, reduce our carbon emissions, and help strengthen communities.</p>
<p>42. maybe we focus on specific areas that could be problematic during fires, like Sherwood road</p>
<p>43. These also pair with the community health and blue zones objectives, so it's a win, win, win.</p>



Zoom Question Report

Topic: A Prepared and Resilient Community

Thursday, January 6th, 2022 - 5 PM - 6:15 PM

Report Generated: 1/6/2022 6:50:00 PM

Webinar ID: 843 8426 2921

44. backside of redwood valley would be another area of focus
45. Fire preparedness: Ironically, there is funding for the Coastal Conservancy to support fire management in Coastal Zone, but it's for public agencies only. Does not alleviate the problem, as the vast majority of D&D trees are on private property. For proportion, keep in mind that cumulative expenses for an applicant to obtain a CDP for Major Veg Removal (including biological report, potential archaeological report, mitigation & management plan and restoration of the habitat), can cost upwards of \$50K. Just to remove D&D trees. This is why this is an urgent issue, to be addressed in a truly deep manner.
46. Properly engineered and maintained non-paved roads could be workable. The key is maintained, which comes with costs. The other issue is the need to interact with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (and other agencies) related to sedimentation concerns.
47. Jessica - no one wants to walk....too much to do, so little time
48. Would like to see a specific goal set here to address rural residential ingress/egress issues. Too many areas in the county only have a single access making disaster response difficult at best, life threatening if we don't plan now. It's a complicated problem as often potential secondary access routes are located on private land. Regardless, we need to begin. Identify and prioritize areas with singular in & out access, identify & pursue resources (state? Federal?), prioritize a starting place, develop a model for creating secondary emergency access where most needed in the county.
49. Rural areas like Covelo would benefit from even a weekly morning pick up and evening return route for those without transportation, or unreliable transportation to be able to do business in other areas
50. A volunteer Firefighter from RV said most of the time there are (2) ambulances in the inland corridor. Then often they are used to transfer people out of the County to other hospitals. Often we have (0) ambulances. Ambulances are a critical component to a resilient county.
51. The county does use the EAS (Emergency Alert System), which sends across public radio. It is the same system that NOAA is transmitting from
52. If we're not working hard to reduce vehicle miles driven, and increasing electric vehicle use, we're only making our future MORE unstable due to climate change.
53. Will the strategic plan be published and regularly updated on the County website with progress against milestones so to provide transparency to residents? Hopefully it won't sit on a bookshelf gathering dust.
54. Also want to mention the trash problem in the village or Mendocino, specifically the trash cans reaching capacity faster due to all the tourism and one time use products.

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Topic: A Prepared and Resilient Community

Thursday, January 6th, 2022 - 5 PM - 6:15 PM

Report Generated: 1/6/2022 6:50:00 PM

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<p>New trash cans need to be implemented. PERIOD. Our coast is too valuable to keep allowing our garbage to litter the streets and into the ocean.</p>
<p>55. How about a Gantt chart?</p>
<p>56. This is an unusual idea, but perhaps spending less time repairing potholes etc. would make people travel more slowly and when possible, walk more rather than jumping in our car to take a small trip.</p>
<p>57. in FY27 the County will have additional funds because the POB will be paid off...maybe some of that \$8M goes toward roads?</p>
<p>58. In the spirit of supporting local business, I wanted to point out that solely looking at funding sources through taxes, parcel, sale, etc. for EMS, roads, etc. are concerning. Parcel taxes add up for all of the special districts, etc. and this is a burden on agricultural/resource properties that have multiple parcels and may not see a return benefit. Some districts also have proposed square footage taxes which be significant for larger businesses such as wineries and tasting rooms.</p>
<p>59. how much tax revenue is coming to our county from cannabis?</p>
<p>60. Allowing for greater housing density in towns will help reduce rural road demands. This is something the County can do.</p>
<p>61. There's a major housing shortage, and prices have gone up, so it's not so easy for folks to move.</p>
<p>62. Lima - weed tax revenues since 2017 are around \$6M i believe</p>
<p>63. Will our comments be incorporated into the document before it's sent to the BOS?</p>
<p>64. And how does this integrate with the County General Plan?</p>
<p>65. Cannabis tax revenues for 2019 were nearly 5.6M. Since then the market has tanked. But what that amount doesn't include is the economic impact from local cannabis businesses spending money locally, which is a significant component of our local economy.</p>
<p>66. Zoning which encourages clustered housing and entities like community land trusts will decrease demand on roads because integral to such housing is cooperative ride sharing.</p>
<p>67. Implementing the Housing Element sure would help with all this too!</p>
<p>68. Thank you everyone!</p>