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By Jocelyn Gonzalez -Thies at 8:33 am, Apr 04, 2024

From: [Joshua Metz](#)
To: [pbscommissions](#)
Cc: [Anna Macken](#); [Glenn McGourty](#); [Ted Williams](#); [Ryan Rhoades](#); [rbartholow@gire.org](#)
Subject: Case # U_2023-0004: Mendocino Unified School District water tank replacement and well installation project
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 3:14:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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Good afternoon Rob,

This letter is in support of the Mendocino Unified School District (MUSD) Coastal Development Use Permit Application to demolish and replace two existing water storage tanks, a chlorination and control building, and related infrastructure; and to improvement to three existing wells and installation of up to 10 new wells.

Regional Government Services is contracted to administer the [Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District \(SMEDD\)](#), which is charged with facilitating progress on the regional [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\)](#). Goal 4 of the CEDS is focused on supporting increased resiliency across the two counties, and increasing local water supplies are specifically identified as critical projects. Moving this project forward would be consistent with the regional CEDS which is empowered through a Joint Powers Authority between the two county Board of Supervisors and certified by the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

Previously under a separate RGS service contract with Mendocino County, I was contracted to coordinate the 2020-21 drought emergency response, which involved galvanizing unprecedented State action to provide water to the town of Mendocino. I can confidently say this water storage and supply project is vital to health and safety of the residents, visitors, and economy of coastal Mendocino. As we heard loud and clear during the drought emergency, the Transient Occupancy Tax generated from coastal visitors is a significant contributor to the County general fund. Approving the next stage of this work will be critical to continued momentum towards increased community and economic resilience for the town and County.

While the proposed project is being developed by Mendocino Unified School District it has strong inter-agency support including the Mendocino City Community Services District, the Mendocino Fire Protection District, State Senate President Mike McGuire, the California Department of Water Resources, and many others. Along with all of these advocates, I hope you are able to move efficiently to approve the Coastal Development Use Permit to move this important project forward.

Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

Joshua Metz
Senior Advisor
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Assignment: **District Manager**

