



**AGENDA**  
**Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Friday, July 19, 2024, at 1:00 pm PST**

**Remote Attendance Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82922778261>

**In Person Meeting Locations:**

Mendocino College Coast Center (707) 961-2200  
1211 Del Mar Drive, **Fort Bragg**, CA 95437  
and

Mendocino County Executive Office (707) 463-4441  
Conference Room A  
501 Low Gap Road **Ukiah**, CA 95482  
and

Sonoma County Economic Development Board (707) 565-7170  
141 Stony Circle, Suite 110, **Santa Rosa**, CA 95401

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**CALL TO ORDER** by Robin Bartholow, Chairperson

**Item 1** Swearing In of New Board Appointment made to the SMEDD Board of Directors by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors at their Regular Meeting of June 25, 2024.

- Oath of Office - Anna Shaw

**ROLL CALL** by Harrison Tregenza

- Chairperson Robin Bartholow
- Vice Chairperson Paul Garza
- Board Member Lisa Badenfort
- Board Member Tim Karas
- Board Member Jeff Kelly
- Board Member Anna Shaw

Vacancies:

- Board Member Mendocino Appointment Vacant Seat
- Board Member Sonoma Appointment Vacant Seat
- Board Member At-Large Vacant Seat

**AGENDA CHANGES AND DELETIONS** - To Current Agenda Only

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Open time for Public Expression

*Time reserved for members of the public to speak on matters not otherwise appearing on the agenda.*

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. Unless otherwise requested by a Board Member, there will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and will be considered separately.*

There will be one opportunity for public comment on all consent items. Comments are limited to 3 minutes each, and the Chairperson may limit this time if reasonable under the circumstances.

**Item 2** Approval of Disbursements and Check Register as of June 30, 2024

**Item 3** Financial Reporting: Receive and File Summary Reports

**Item 4** Approve Meeting Minutes:

- [April 19, 2024](#)

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION** - Action Items

**Item 5** [Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair for Terms of Office from July 2024 through June 2025](#)

**Item 6** [Receive an Update on California Jobs First: Redwood Region RISE; North Bay Working Group; EDF Working Group](#)

**Item 7** [Receive Update on SMEDD Board Seats; Discuss and Consider Recruitment and Appointment of a SMEDD-Appointed At-Large Member and of Members Appointed by the Mendocino and Sonoma County Boards of Supervisors](#)

**Item 8** [Consider and Authorize the SMEDD to Respond to a Request Regarding a Mendocino Community Health Clinic Grant Application to U.S. Economic Development Administration - Approve a Letter of Support for Mendocino Community Health Clinic Inc.'s \(MCHC's\) application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)

**Item 9** [Consider and Authorize the SMEDD to Respond to a Request Regarding a Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District Application to Transit and Intercity Rail Capital \(TIRCP\) - Approve a Letter of Support for Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit \(SMART\) and Sonoma County Transit Authority, California Transportation Agency \(CALSTA\) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital \(TIRCP\) funding proposal to extend SMART service to Healdsburg](#)

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

**UPDATES**

- June 27-28, 2024 Sheba Person-Whitley, Regional Director, U.S. EDA, Regional Tour
- June 26, 2024 California Stewardship Network Meeting, Santa Rosa
- May 1, 2024 NorthBay NEXT - MSIV, Bill and Adele Jonas Center at College of Marin, Novato
- May 1, 2024 EDF Working Group Expert Session - Tribal Funding
- May 2-3, 2024 Biomass Utilization Symposium, UC Hopland Research & Extension Center
- May 13-15, 2024 Pacific Offshore Wind Summit, Sacramento

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- NCRP RFP for Project Technical Assistance
- Jobs First Catalyst Funds
- EDA PWEAA Assistance
- SBA Regional Innovation Clusters: <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/regional-innovation-clusters>

**Letters of Support Issued & Outcomes**

Request From	Topic/Project	SMEDD Letter Issued to Requestor	Status of Grant Award
Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART)	Connecting Cloverdale to the Bay – Equitable Transportation Access & Resilience Project	2/26/2024	Under Review

Regenerative Forest Solutions	Woody FeedStock Pilot Project (CalFire)	9/27/2023	Under Review ▾
Regenerative Forest Solutions	Woody FeedStock Pilot Project (Bay Area Council)	9/27/2023	Awarded ▾
Mendocino Forest Products	Biomass-to-Hydrogen Grant Application	9/15/2023	Awarded ▾
West Business Development Center	CalOSBA Blue Economy iHub	8/31/2023	Denied ▾
Regenerative Forest Solutions	Woody FeedStock Pilot Project USDA Forest Service	8/9/2023	Under Review ▾
Regenerative Forest Solutions	NCRP Woody FeedStock Pilot Project	8/9/2023	Awarded ▾
Sonoma County Meat Company	USDA Local Meat Capacity Grant	6/21/2023	Under Review ▾
Noyo Harbor	Noyo Harbor District Port Infrastructure Development	4/24/2023	Under Review ▾

**UPCOMING EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST** - *not necessarily SMEDD connected*

- Oct 22-24, 2024, [FIRA-USA Agricultural Robotics Show](#), Woodland, CA
- Nov 21, 2024, [Fall Economic Perspective](#), Sonoma State University, CA

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OR COMMENTS**

*Time reserved for members of the Board to report on AdHoc Committee activities and to speak on matters not otherwise appearing on the agenda. No Actions.*

**ADJOURNMENT** by Chairperson

For a copy of Board Packet materials, please visit [smedd.org](http://smedd.org) or email Abigail Scott ([abigail@smedd.org](mailto:abigail@smedd.org)).



**Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
April 19, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.**

**Meeting was held virtually over Zoom and  
In Person Meeting Locations:**

West Business Development Center - 345 North Franklin Street, **Fort Bragg**, CA 95437

and

Mendocino County Campus - 880 North Bush Street, **Ukiah**, CA 95482

and

Sonoma County Economic Development Board Room - 141 Stony Circle, Suite 110, **Santa Rosa**, CA 95401

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bartholow called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Present:	Robin Bartholow, Chair	Paul Garza, Vice Chair
	Jeff Kelly, Treasurer	Lisa Badenfort
	Tim Karas	Jim Mayfield

Board Vacancies: Four Seats

**Management Team:**

Joshua Metz, District Manager/Economic Development Advisor

Tracy Fuller, Fiscal Agent/Economic Development & Finance Advisor

Bradley Johnson, Sonoma County Economic Development Board Management Analyst

Katherine DiPasqua, Director of Special Projects and Partnerships of Economic Development District

Anna Macken, Mendocino County Administrative Analyst

Norma I. Alley, MMC, Clerk of the Board

Abigail Scott, Economic Development Advisor

**AGENDA CHANGES AND DELETIONS**

There were no changes or deletions to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Director Karas and seconded by Treasurer Kelly to approve the agenda. Motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No/4 Vacant roll call vote.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Bartholow called for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, Chair Bartholow closed public comment.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Item 1** Approval of Check Register as of March 31, 2024

**Item 2** Financial Reporting:

- Receive and File Summary Reports

**Item 3** Approve Meeting Minutes:

- February 24, 2023
- April 21, 2023
- May 19, 2023
- June 16, 2023
- July 21, 2023
- February 16, 2024

Chair Bartholow called for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, she closed public comment.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Garza and seconded by Treasurer Kelly to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No/4 Vacant roll call vote.

## **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Item 4** Approve Draft FY 2023-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update Report

District Manager/Economic Development Advisor Metz and Mendocino County Administrative Analyst Macken presented the report.

Chair Bartholow called for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, she closed public comment.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Garza and seconded by Director Badenfort to approve the Draft FY 2023-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update Report.

General Discussion commenced amongst the Board.

**PRIMARY AMENDMENT MOTION:** Treasurer Kelly and seconded by Director Karas to amend adding information regarding Business Technical Assistance and add specific engagements to areas throughout the Report. Motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No/4 Vacant roll call vote.

**VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:** To approve the Report, as amended. Motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No/4 vacant roll call vote.

**Item 5** Approve EDA Supplemental Grant (Grant No. ED20SEA3070045) & Planning Grant (Grant No. ED22SEA3020033) Progress Reports for Submission to the United States Economic Development Administration

District Manager/Economic Development Advisor Metz and Fiscal Agent/Economic Development & Finance Advisor Fuller presented the report and fielded inquiries from the Board.

General discussion commenced amongst the Board and support was given to postpone the item to the June meeting.

Chair Bartholow called for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, she closed public comment.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Garza and seconded by Director Badenfort postponing the item to the June Meeting. Motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No/4 Vacant roll call vote.

*For additional information, a motion to reconsider, and approval of this item, please see Board Member Reports and Comments.*

**Item 6** Receive an Update on the Status of Biomass Utilization Symposium Planning and Provide Guidance as Appropriate

Chair Bartholow introduced the item, District Manager/Economic Development Advisor Metz presented the report, and both fielded inquiries from the Board.

General discussion commended amongst the Board and a suggestion to research the use of Mail Chimp for the public to sign up for a regular SMEDD information sharing/newsletter list was provided.

Chair Bartholow called for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, she closed public comment.

**MOTION:** Treasurer Kelly and seconded by Director Karas to accept and receive the update on the status of the Biomass Utilization Symposium planning. Motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No/4 Vacant roll call vote.

**Item 7** Receive an Update on California Jobs First: Redwood Region RISE; North Bay Working Group; EDF Working Group

District Manager/Economic Development Advisor Metz, Mary Anne Petrillo, and Sonoma County Economic Development Board Management Analyst Johnson provided an update and fielded general inquiry from the Board.

Chair Bartholow called for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, she closed the public comment.

**Item 8** Receive Update on SMEDD Board Seats; Discuss and Consider Recruitment and Appointment of a SMEDD-Appointed At-Large Member and of Members Appointed by the Mendocino and Sonoma County Boards of Supervisors

Mendocino County Administrative Analyst Macken provided an update and fielded general inquiry from the Board.

Chair Bartholow called for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, she closed the public comment.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

### UPDATES

- CALED Annual Conference - "Elevate", Hyatt Regency, Santa Rosa
- Administrative Matters
- Sheba Person-Whitley, Regional Director, U.S EDA, possible Fall 2024 regional tour

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Jobs First Catalyst Funds
- EDA PWEAA Assistance

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT ISSUED & OUTCOMES

District Manager/Economic Development Advisor Metz and Fiscal Agent/Economic Development & Finance Advisor Fuller updated the Board on general matters of the District and fielded inquiries from the Board.

Chair Bartholow directed staff to provide an errors and omissions coverage report on the next agenda.

Chair Bartholow called a recess at 2:48 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:54 p.m.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST**

- May 1, 2024 - NorthBay NEXT - MSIV, College of Marin - Jonas Center, Novato
- May 1, 2024 - EDF Working Group Expert Session - Tribal Funding
- May 2-3, 2024 - Biomass Utilization Symposium - HREC, Hopland
- May 13-15, 2024 - Pacific Offshore Wind Summit - Sacramento

District Manager/Economic Development Advisor Metz announced upcoming events.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OR COMMENTS**

**MOTION:** Treasurer Kelly and seconded by Director Badenfort to reconsider Item 5. Motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No/4 Vacant roll call vote.

Fiscal Agent/Economic Development & Finance Advisor Fuller provided an update on Item 5 and requested direction authorizing submission of the narrative/report, as written, in addition to add expenditures numbers upon Treasurer's review and concurrence.

Chair Bartholow called for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, she closed public comment.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Garza and seconded by Director Karas authorizing submission of the narrative/report, as written, in addition to add expenditures numbers upon Treasurer's review and concurrence. Motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No/4 Vacant roll call vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bartholow adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

APPROVAL:

ATTEST:

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Robin Bartholow, Chair of the Board

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Norma I. Alley, MMC, Clerk of the Board





**DATE:** July 19, 2024  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Tracy Fuller, RGS Senior Advisor  
**SUBJECT:** Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair for Terms of Office from July 2024 through June 2025

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:** The purpose of this item is to elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson to serve for the term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive nominations for Board members to serve for the term July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the positions of Chairperson from amongst Mendocino County appointees, and a Vice Chairperson from amongst Sonoma County appointees. After receiving public comments, and deliberating, elect individuals to those positions.

**FINANCIAL IMPACTS:**

None.

**BACKGROUND:**

The SMEDD must adhere to numerous and varied laws governing its operations. One such law requires that the SMEDD adopt a set of Bylaws and adhere to them. The current Bylaws were approved by the District's Board of Directors on November 18, 2021. The Bylaws stipulate that the SMEDD shall have a Chair and a Vice Chair, and what their responsibilities and duties are:

ARTICLE VI – ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

Section 1. The SMEDD Board of Directors shall have a Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be appointed by SMEDD members by election. Unless sooner replaced by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, the Chair and Vice Chair will serve a term of one year each, with annual elections. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually from within the membership of the SMEDD Board of Directors. The sitting Chair and Vice Chair shall at no time represent the same member county. Each role shall rotate between representatives of member counties; no member county shall have a representative as Chair or Vice Chair for more than one consecutive year. They shall be elected beginning on July 1, and continuing to June 30, of the following year, or until their successors have been duly elected.

Section 2. Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the SMEDD Board of Directors and call for special meetings. The Chair shall carry out the duties listed in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policy and Procedures.

Section 3. Vice Chair. In the Chair's absence, the Vice Chair shall assume the Chair's responsibilities. The Vice Chair shall carry out the duties listed in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policy and Procedures.

Section 4. Removal of Chair. If the Chair is found to be in violation of any of the conditions for removal outlined in Article IV, Section 2, he or she may be removed by a motion from any member, and by majority vote of the SMEDD Board of Directors, with a quorum being present.

**DISCUSSION:**

In June 2023, the Board of Directors selected Robin Bartholow to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors, and Paul Garza to serve as the Vice Chair. Chairperson Bartholow was appointed to the SMEDD Board of Directors by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Vice Chairperson Garza was appointed to the SMEDD Board of Directors by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

The SMEDD Board may choose any member of the Board to serve as its Chairperson as long as the selection adheres to the Bylaws. The Bylaws state: Each role shall rotate between representatives of member counties; no member county shall have a representative as Chair or Vice Chair for more than one consecutive year.

This language requiring an annual rotation between the counties requires the SMEDD Board to choose its new FY 2025 Chair from amongst the Mendocino County Appointees, listed alphabetically:

Paul Garza

Tim Karas

Anna Shaw

The Board would then be required to elect a Vice Chair from the group of appointees from Sonoma County, also listed alphabetically:

Lisa Badenfort

Robin Bartholow

Jeff Kelly

The SMEDD Board of Directors is comprised of nine seats, three of which are vacant.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1: Entertain nominations for the positions of Chair. Entertain nominations for the positions of Vice Chair.
- 2: Other approach(s) as may be developed after public comments and Board deliberations.
- 3: Decline to act.

**RECOMMENDATIONS for Alternative 1:**

First Motion:

- Move to nominate a Mendocino County appointee (name) to serve as Chair for the 2025 Fiscal Year.

Second Motion:

- Move to nominate Sonoma County appointee (name) to serve as Vice Chair for the 2025 Fiscal Year.



**DATE:** July 19, 2024  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Josh Metz, SMEDD District Manager  
Bradley Johnson, Sonoma County Economic Development Board, Management Analyst  
**SUBJECT:** Receive an Update on California Jobs First: Redwood Region RISE; North Bay Working Group; EDF Working Group

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:** The purpose of this item is for the Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD) Board of Directors to receive an update on respective regional efforts and progress on the California Jobs First Initiative.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive and file.

**FINANCIAL IMPACTS:**

There are no anticipated financial impacts for this item.

**BACKGROUND:**

During the December 8, 2023, February 16, 2024, and April 19, 2024, regular SMEDD Board of Directors meetings, the SMEDD management team provided the Board with an overview and update on the CA Jobs First (previously known as CERF) initiative. The overview and update included the following:

- Regional Representation: Mendocino County is represented by the Redwood Region RISE Coalition. Sonoma County is represented by the Bay Area Jobs First Collaborative.
- Both counties have participated in a solicitation for regional projects for their respective regions to be funded by Catalyst Funds\* at \$9 million per region.
- Each region is guided by the principle to create high wage, climate resilient, and sustainable jobs.

\*The Catalyst Program reserves funds for each California Jobs First region to bridge the gap between each region's Jobs First Strategy and implementing projects designed to achieve outcomes that align with those strategies. Catalyst funds will support each region's Jobs First Collaborative to invest in sector specific pre-development activities, enabling regions to take projects from exploratory and last-mile to ready-to-go projects that can access local, state, and federal government funds, as well as private and philanthropic investments.

Mendocino County is part of Redwood Region RISE (Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy), which is a regional community coalition of close to a thousand members working together to develop a 10-year vision that aims to bring good, sustainable jobs to Tribal Lands, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties - through the California Jobs First (previously known as Community Economic Resilience Fund [CERF]) initiative.

The Sonoma County EDB has been working with a subregional round table under the Bay Area Jobs First Collaborative. This subregional roundtable includes Sonoma and Marin Counties. The Subregional roundtable collected projects that meet the fundamental industry and vision priorities. Projects must promote the growth of sustainable, climate forward, high wage, and high growth jobs.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Mendocino County - Redwood Region RISE**

The \$9 million in catalyst funds is marked as fully spent within its four-county region. The allocation of how it will be spent is not yet decided. The California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP), Arcata Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), and voting tables will be responsible for allocating funds. The Redwood Region RISE held an in-person meeting for voting block members in late April 2024 in Humboldt. Voting criteria and scoring was workshopped by attendees at this meeting. The County of Mendocino Economic Development Division is a member of the voting block for Redwood Region RISE. Economic Development Division staff participated in the voting selection of projects submitted for development in the region.

There are many Mendocino County engaged actors in the Redwood Region RISE coalition across industry, academia, government, and community-based organizations. Within the SMEDD, Board Members, Mendocino County staff, and the Regional Government Services (RGS) team are engaged in a variety of intersecting ways. This report summarizes work being led by Mendocino County staff, Mary Anne Petrillo as the Blue Economy & Working Lands Sector Table co-leader, and a new Economic Development Finance Working Group being led by the RGS team.

### **Blue Economy Update:**

In pursuit of developing a robust strategy and work plan for the Blue Economy sector, significant strides have been made. Through a combination of virtual and in-person meetings, the Blue Economy Sector Table has grown to over 20 participants, reflecting a diverse array of organizations invested in the region's economic and environmental prosperity.

#### **Achievements:**

1. **Vision Statement:** The Blue Economy Sector Table has crafted a vision statement: *The Redwood Region is poised to become a global leader in rural regenerative blue economies. To achieve this, we will form collaborative networks of stakeholders to advocate for policy and investment, drive innovative technologies, revitalize infrastructure, create robust and expanded markets, and advance oceanic research.*
2. **Strategic Directions:** The Blue Economy Sector Table's strategic directions outline key areas of focus, including advocacy, market expansion, ocean research, and innovation. These directions serve as guiding pillars for future endeavors.

3. **SWOT Analysis:** The Blue Economy Sector Table has conducted a SWOT analysis, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within the Blue Economy sector. This analysis will provide valuable insights for informed decision-making and strategic planning.

While the Blue Economy Sector Table acknowledges the challenges posed by climate change and sea-level rise, it remains optimistic about the opportunities for development and innovation within the Blue Economy sector. By leveraging collective expertise and resources, the Blue Economy Sector Table is confident in its ability to overcome these challenges because the local Blue Economy presents a multitude of promising opportunities for sustainable growth. Some highlights are streamlined permitting, efficiently managed dredging, advancements in direct sales and harvesting technologies by fishermen, and the proliferation of online platforms for seafood commerce are just a few examples. Additionally, infrastructure improvements and collaborative research initiatives will further enhance the region's potential for both economic and environmental prosperity.

In conclusion, the Blue Economy Sector Table is progressing in developing its strategy and work plan for the Blue Economy sector in partnership with the Working Lands contingent because it takes a collective effort to create economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, and community resilience. The Blue Economy Sector Table is poised to make meaningful contributions to the advancement of a rural regenerative economy in the California Redwood Region.

#### **Economic Development Finance (EDF) Working Group**

Regional Government Services, under a separate service contract with the Arcata Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) serving as the Redwood Region RISE Fiscal Agent, is facilitating the Redwood Region RISE Economic Development Finance (EDF) Working Group. The EDF Working Group is occurring in two phases with Phase 1 undertaken from January 2024 to June 2024, and Phase 2 following directly through December 2024. Additional information is readily available to the public at the following website: <https://ccrp.humboldt.edu/edf-working-group>

In support of the Educational and Capacity Building Efforts, the following Expert Sessions were hosted and made available to Working Group members. Recordings and slide shows from these meetings are available on the EDF Website: <https://ccrp.humboldt.edu/edf-working-group>.

#### **2/12/24 – Expert Session on Economic Development Finance 101**

- Gurbax Sahota, CEO, California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED)

#### **4/3/24 – Expert Session on Tax Increment Financing / Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts**

This expert session focused on Tax Increment Financing and Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts, and their role in advancing economic development goals. The session provided valuable insights and guidance on the establishment and benefits of TIF, particularly through the lens of Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs).

- Joseph Dieguez, Vice President, Kosmont Companies
- Scott Adair, Director of Economic Development, Humboldt County

#### **5/1/24 – Expert Session on Tribal Funding Considerations**

This expert session, hosted by the Redwood Region RISE's EDF Working Group, focused on the unique considerations surrounding Tribal Funding. This session was particularly focused on the experiences of

Tribal leaders and experts as they navigated the complexities of securing funding for projects on Tribal lands.

- Sara Barbour, Deputy Director, Yurok Economic Development Corporation (YEDC)
- Jason Ramos, Tribal Administrator, CEO Tribal Business Enterprises, Tribal Council, Blue Lake Rancheria
- Ross Welch, Executive Director, Arcata Economic Development Corporation

#### **6/5/24 – Expert Session on New Market Tax Credits**

This expert session focused on New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) and their potential to stimulate investment in economically distressed communities. Attendees received an Overview of New Market Tax Credit 101 followed by a Q&A session and a deep dive into a local North Coast project that utilized NMTC.

- Jon Penkower, Principal, Bridge Strategic Partners & Managing Director, CSCDA

RGS is taking on an expanded role providing Technical Assistance to Sector Table leads in preparing evaluation frameworks for subsequent Catalyst and Implementation funding rounds.

#### **Sonoma County - Bay Area Jobs First Collaborative**

The Sonoma-Marin Regional Roundtable’s facilitators will vote on a set of initial project submissions and bring them to the larger Bay Area Collaborative in the future. The Bay Area Collaborative will bring a set of projects to the State to be funded as pilot projects in this first phase. The Sonoma County EDB submitted a project proposal for \$300,000 to fund an Ag-Tech Innovation Hub Feasibility Study for the North Bay that will leverage the May 2023 SMEDD Ag-Tech Brainstorming Session. The feasibility study would investigate key partnerships, regionally unique focus areas, functions, services, phasing options and location alternatives for a potential North Bay Ag-Tech Innovation Hub. Additionally, the feasibility study will include a pilot project that will analyze the reuse and repurpose of the Manzana facility that is scheduled to be vacated in late fall 2024. The Bay Area Jobs First Collaborative is still considering project funding applications and it is unclear at this time when funding allocations will be made.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

**1:** Receive and file the California Jobs First: Redwood Region RISE; North Bay Working Group; EDF Working Group update

**2:** Consider, *modify*, and approve the recommendation for the District to receive and file the California Jobs First: Redwood Region RISE; North Bay Working Group; EDF Working Group update

**3:** Other approach(s) as may be developed after public comments and Board deliberations.

**4:** Decline to act.

#### **RECOMMENDATION for Alternative 1:**

Move to:

- Receive and file an Update on California Jobs First: Redwood Region RISE; North Bay Working Group; EDF Working Group



**DATE:** July 19, 2024

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Josh Metz, Regional Government Services, District Manager  
Tracy Fuller, Regional Government Services  
Bradley Johnson, Sonoma County Economic Development Board, Management Analyst  
Anna Macken, Mendocino County, Administrative Analyst II

**SUBJECT:** Receive Update on SMEDD Board Seats; Discuss and Consider Recruitment and Appointment of a SMEDD-Appointed At-Large Member and of Members Appointed by the Mendocino and Sonoma County Boards of Supervisors

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:**

The purpose of this item is to update the Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD) Board of Directors on the status of Board recruitment efforts in Mendocino and Sonoma counties, provide an update on County processes, and recommendations to fill three vacant board positions.

**FINANCIAL IMPACTS:**

There are no anticipated financial impacts.

**BACKGROUND:**

The SMEDD Board has nine seats. Three seats are currently vacant. One vacant seat is to be appointed by the County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors; one vacant seat is to be appointed by the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors; the remaining vacant seat is a singular At-Large seat to be appointed by the Board of Directors of the SMEDD. The purpose of this item is to provide the SMEDD Board with the opportunity to discuss and take action as may be appropriate to filling the two vacant SMEDD Board seats that must be appointed by the respective County Boards of Supervisors, and/or the vacant At-Large seat that must be appointed by the SMEDD Board of Directors.

**DISCUSSION:**

The County of Sonoma has received four applications for the Sonoma County vacant seat. The Sonoma County Economic Development Board has reviewed these applications and will be recommending to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors that they take action at their Board of Supervisors meeting on 9/10/2024 to appoint Nicholas Schwanz to the SMEDD Board of Directors. Nicholas Schwanz is a multifaceted professional with expertise in environmental consulting, brand consulting, and marketing consulting. He is also part owner and operator of Solar Punk Farms in Guerneville, California. Nicholas



serves on the Sonoma County Economic Development Board of Directors, and has shown keen interest in climate-forward innovative initiatives such as biomass utilization, ag-tech, and the blue economy.

The County of Mendocino has one vacant Board Member position. Applications are being accepted. Jim Mayfield resigned from the SMEDD Board in April 2024. Mary Anne Petrillo resigned from the SMEDD Board in June 2024. The County Board of Supervisors appointed Anna Shaw to the SMEDD Board in late June 2024. As of this writing, the County of Mendocino has received one application to fill the empty seat. The County's Economic Development Division will be reviewing the application in the near future, and it is expected that it will make a determination regarding recommending the candidate to the County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors for appointment to the SMEDD Board.

The SMEDD has posted *all* the vacancies on the SMEDD web page, and is using other available opportunities to publicize all the vacancies and invite interested individuals to apply. The Board may wish to personally recruit candidates.

If the SMEDD Board would like to recruit with an application process, an application form could be based upon the existing forms used by the Counties. The At-Large vacancy could be publicized either with an application deadline or as "open-until-filled". At this point, vacancies have been publicized without any deadlines for submittals.

The SMEDD Board should discuss a process and timeline for recruiting and filling the vacant At-Large seat, which is the Board's only At-Large seat and the only seat appointed directly by the SMEDD Board.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

**1:** Discuss and Consider Recruitment and Appointment of a SMEDD-Appointed At-Large Member and of Members Appointed by the Mendocino and Sonoma County Boards of Supervisors. Provide Direction to the General Manager if appropriate.

**2:** Consider, *modify*, and approve the recommendation to Discuss and Consider Recruitment and Appointment of a SMEDD-Appointed At-Large Member and of Members Appointed by the Mendocino and Sonoma County Boards of Supervisors. Provide Direction to the General Manager if appropriate.

**3:** Other approach(s) as may be developed after public comments and Board deliberations.

**4:** Decline to act.

**RECOMMENDATION for Alternative 1:**

Move to:

- Discuss and Consider Recruitment and Appointment of a SMEDD-Appointed At-Large Member and of Members Appointed by the Mendocino and Sonoma County Boards of Supervisors. Provide Direction to the General Manager if appropriate.



**DATE:** July 19, 2024  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Josh Metz, SMEDD District Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Approve a Letter of Support for Mendocino Community Health Clinic Inc. (MCHC's) application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:** The purpose of this item is to consider approving a Letter of Support (LOS) for the Mendocino Community Health Clinic Inc.'s (MCHC's) application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Direct SMEDD District Manager to provide the requested LOS in support of Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity Submission.

**FINANCIAL IMPACTS:**

None.

**BACKGROUND:**

SMEDD received a request from the Mendocino Community Health Clinic Inc. (MCHC's) to provide a LOS for their Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity submittal.

**DISCUSSION:**

This request is in line with the established Board practice of providing LOS for grant proposals from regional stakeholders that align with SMEDD's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Goals. The Mendocino Community Health Clinic, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), provides high-quality comprehensive health and enabling services to the underserved, uninsured, and low-income populations of Mendocino and Lake Counties, California. They serve 29,415 unduplicated patients annually at their four existing health center locations. MCHC's proposed Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance project, located at 1 Madrone Street in Willits, California, will provide services at a fifth location, expanding the MCHC's service reach, which aligns with the Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) published in April 2022. The project supports CEDS' Objectives:

- 2.1 - Strengthen communities (by increasing access to basic services), and

#### 4.6 - Mitigate/Adapt to the Climate Crisis

In addition, we expect the project to act as an economic engine for the community by creating numerous construction and design jobs as well as 45 new health center jobs to serve patients at the Willits location. These are attractive positions at a key regional health center network.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

**1:** Approve the Staff recommendation to provide the LOS for the Mendocino Community Health Clinic Inc. (MCHC's) application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity.

**2:** Consider, *modify*, and authorize the Staff recommendation to provide the LOS.

**3:** Other approach(s) may be developed after public comments and Board deliberations.

**4:** Decline to act.

#### **RECOMMENDATION for Alternative 1:**

Move to:

- Approve a Request to Produce a Letter of Support for Mendocino Community Health Clinic Inc. (MCHC's) application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [DRAFT LOS](#) for the Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity



July 10, 2024

Rod Grainger  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mendocino Community Health Clinic Inc.  
1165 South Dora Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity (FY23 PWEAA NOFO)

Dear Mr. Grainger,

I am writing to express my support for Mendocino Community Health Clinic Inc. (MCHC's) application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Mendocino Community Health Clinic (MCHC), a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), provides high-quality comprehensive health and enabling services to the underserved, uninsured, and low-income populations of Mendocino and Lake Counties, California. They serve 29,415 unduplicated patients annually at their four health center locations.

MCHC's proposed PWEAA project, located at 1 Madrone Street in Willits, California, aligns with the Sonoma/Mendocino Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) published in April 2022. The project supports CEDs' Objectives:

- 2.1 - Strengthen communities (by increasing access to basic services), and
- 4.6 - Mitigate/Adapt to the Climate Crisis

In addition, we expect the project to act as an economic engine for the community creating numerous construction and design jobs and 45 new health center jobs (at capacity) to serve patients at this location. These are attractive positions at a key regional health center network.

The Sonoma/Mendocino Economic Development District gives this project its highest recommendation. If you have any questions, please contact me at (707)216-1725 or [josh@smedd.org](mailto:josh@smedd.org).

Sincerely,

Paul Garza Jr., Chair  
SMEDD Board of Directors

Joshua Metz  
SMEDD District Manager



**DATE:** July 19, 2024

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Josh Metz, SMEDD District Manager

**SUBJECT:** Approve a Letter of Support for Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) and Sonoma County Transit Authority, California Transportation Agency (CALSTA) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital (TIRCP) funding proposal to extend SMART service to Healdsburg

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:** The purpose of this item is to consider approving a Letter of Support (LOS) for Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) and Sonoma County Transit Authority, California Transportation Agency (CALSTA) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital (TIRCP) funding proposal to extend SMART service to Healdsburg.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Direct SMEDD District Manager to provide the requested LOS in support of CALSTA TIRCP grant submission.

**FINANCIAL IMPACTS:**

None.

**BACKGROUND:**

SMEDD received a request from the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) and Sonoma County Transit Authority to provide a LOS for their CALSTA Transit and Intercity Rail Capital (TIRCP) funding proposal.

**DISCUSSION:**

This request is in line with the established Board practice of providing LOS for grant proposals from regional stakeholders that align with SMEDD's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Goals. Extension of the SMART rail line to Healdsburg and beyond is included as a project under CEDS Goal 2: Increase Equitable Community-Wide Prosperity. Successful funding of the proposed \$81M grant program would advance the SMART system north to and through Healdsburg.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

**1:** Approve the Staff recommendation to provide the LOS for the CALSTA TIRCP grant program submission from a regional coalition including the Sonoma-Marín Area Rapid Transit (SMART) and Sonoma County Transit Authority.

**2:** Consider, *modify*, and authorize the Staff recommendation to provide the LOS.

**3:** Other approach(s) may be developed after public comments and Board deliberations.

**4:** Decline to act.

**RECOMMENDATION for Alternative 1:**

Move to:

- o Approve a Request to Produce a Letter of Support for the California Transportation Agency (CALSTA) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital (TIRCP) funding proposal for the Sonoma-Marín Area Rapid Transit (SMART) and Sonoma County Transit Authority.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [DRAFT LOS](#) for the California Transportation Agency (CALSTA) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital (TIRCP) funding proposal for the Sonoma-Marín Area Rapid Transit (SMART) and Sonoma County Transit Authority.



July 19, 2024

The Honorable Toks Omishakin  
Secretary, California State Transportation Agency  
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2024 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Cycle 7 – Support for SMART Application

Secretary Omishakin:

On behalf of the Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD), we are pleased to support Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District's (SMART) request for Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funds towards completion of the SMART Rail and Pathway Project.

SMART is experiencing unprecedented ridership growth as the pandemic and fire traumas fade and the new North Bay travel patterns emerge. By 2025, the SMART system will cover 48- of the 70-mile voter approved railroad, with 14 stations and 37 miles of pathway open to the public. SMART is providing more service on both weekdays and weekends than was originally planned and the frequency is attracting new riders every day. When combined with SMART's new short line freight railroad services, the entire system is critical to the economic development of North Bay communities and industries.

We at SMEDD are focused on regional economic investment. Our region across Sonoma-Mendocino Counties recognizes it must diversify its economy to build resilience against downturns in consumer confidence, discretionary spending, and real estate investment. We seek to improve educational access as educational attainment, a traditional strength for the region, has not kept pace with US gains and now trails the national average for postsecondary completion. As an example, the City of Cloverdale has a bachelor's degree rate of 24% compared to Marin County's average of 61% graduate rate. And just as significantly, average earnings are not keeping up with housing costs, creating a disproportionate impact on minority workers.

Completion of the SMART Rail and Pathway system is all about creating healthy and resilient transportation systems in Northern Sonoma County and across the North Bay and North Coast that will facilitate safe access to public education locally and region-wide.

We thank you for your favorable consideration of this TIRCP request to match our communities' commitment to a healthier transportation future.

Sincerely,

Paul Garza Jr., Chair  
SMEDD Board of Directors

Joshua Metz  
District Manager