



August 21, 2018

Governor Edmund G. Brown
State of California
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Land Use Planning for Sonoma Developmental Center

Dear Governor Brown:

As the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) prepares to close, the Glen Ellen Forum requests your administration's support for a land use planning agreement for the 860 acre property. A nonprofit serving over 600 people from Glen Ellen and the greater Sonoma Valley, we are concerned that if no agreement is in place before you leave office, it will be much harder to maintain community trust and engagement in what state agency and department directors have consistently promised as a "community-driven process" to plan a new future for SDC.

To this end, we request the appropriation of adequate planning funds from the state *before the end of 2018* to provide Sonoma County and the local community the financial resources to complete a land use planning process that will result in a specific plan for future use of the SDC property. In conjunction with this appropriation, we request the state's commitment to sufficient ongoing financial support to fully cover what will likely amount to several years of warm shutdown costs beyond June 2019.

The closure of SDC will have profound impacts on the future of Sonoma County and on our local community. In addition to requesting the state to fund the necessary local land use planning process, we are united with partners throughout the region in seeking an agreement with the state that accomplishes four initial goals and makes good on the promise that the community's vision will take priority:

1. SDC functions as a pinch point in the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor. We request a conservation vision for the property's remarkable open spaces, and an agreement and timeline for the permanent preservation of SDC's 700+ acres of open space lands, water resources, and diverse natural habitats.
2. Large portions of SDC are presently open to the public for recreational use, and should remain so during warm shutdown and beyond. We request a plan to ensure public access and safety for everyone who uses SDC's extensive trail and road system.
3. SDC property abuts Eldridge and Glen Ellen, thus creating significant zones of wildland urban interface. Without maintenance, continued use, and security on its open lands and campus, fire danger is significantly increased. The risk of catastrophic fire must be addressed as land use planning for the property moves forward.
4. We request creation of an organizational structure and entity (e.g., an Eldridge Trust modeled on the highly successful Presidio Trust) to identify and manage interim uses of SDC during the warm shutdown period

and beyond. We must maintain a level of activity and presence on the property that will reduce risks posed by a large vacant campus.

The people of Glen Ellen and the greater Sonoma Valley treasure this property and are galvanized by the opportunity to shape its future. Your administration has done an admirable job managing the closure of SDC. We hope your administration shows the same level of commitment and dedication to quickly approving an agreement that ensures funding for land use planning and support for interim stewardship and management.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alice Horowitz, Chair
SDC/Eldridge Committee of the Glen Ellen Forum

CC Senator Mike McGuire
 Senator Bill Dodd
 Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
 Assemblymember Mark Levine
 Assemblymember Jim Wood
 Sonoma County Supervisor James Gore, Chairman
 Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom
 US Congressman Mike Thompson
 CA Dept. of General Services Director Daniel Kim