

To say many of us involved in the Sonoma Developmental Center planning process all these years have lost trust in County and State government is an understatement. I, personally, never trust developers; no love lost there.

Trust might be broken for a “good reason,” but it still remains broken. Trust is not built instantaneously; it takes time, effort, and sincerity on the part of everyone involved.

Sadly, it’s doubtful our trust - at least regarding the SDC - can ever be regained.

Among other things, legislation enabling the SDC planning process gave priority to affordable housing, deed-restricted housing, housing for individuals with developmental disabilities, and protection of open space and natural resources.

Developer Keith Rogal’s builder’s remedy proposal makes a mockery of these good intentions.

But Rogal and his developer cronies are not solely responsible for this fiasco. Sprinkled throughout the enabling legislation are the words “as the director [of the Department of General Services] deems fit to be in the best interest of the state.”

I don’t know how the director of DGS decides it’s “in the best interest of the state” to obliterate the trust an entire community placed in its governing bodies. I sure would appreciate an answer.