

THE GLEN ELLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.glenellenhistoricalsociety.org
PO BOX 35, GLEN ELLEN CA 95442

January 22, 2021

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Chair Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

575 Administration Drive
Room 100 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: January 26, 2021 Sonoma Developmental Center Workshop

Dear Chairwoman Hopkins and Board of Supervisors:

Attached please find the Glen Ellen Historical Society's proposal envisioning the permanent protection, preservation and management of selected buildings and structures, the historic cemetery, and related landscapes that sit within the boundary of the historic district of Sonoma Developmental Center. This proposal includes a museum, library, and visitor center on the grounds contiguous with and complimentary to the Historic Cemetery, Open Space and Wildlife Corridor (Eldridge Historic Preservation Proposal).

We hope you will seriously consider our proposal in your discussion on January 26 in preparing a Specific Plan for the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC).

Throughout its 150-year history, Sonoma Developmental Center has been an integral and critically important part of our Glen Ellen and Eldridge communities. As historians and long-standing members of the community, we understand that efforts to save buildings on the campus are woven into a complex tapestry of important social needs and political realities including, but not limited to housing, economic development, equity, diversity, tourism, sustainability and climate change.

Preservation serves to enhance the attraction and appreciation of neighborhoods and the value of private property. Studies across the nation have documented that where local historic districts are established, property values typically appreciate faster, or at very least are stabilized where they might have been previously declining. Historic districts establish a climate for enhanced stability, civic pride, and further private investment in the area.

These historic buildings and landscapes embody the intentions, assumptions and lives of those who built, lived and worked here. They have amazing stories to tell about what the community was and how it became what it is today. Preserving this landscape and historic buildings serves as a bridge to our past and provides our community a sense of pride in our heritage, reminding us of our uniqueness in the world.

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We are deeply grateful for your consideration of our comments and look forward to working together to embrace creative new ways to preserve and protect this treasure that has come to mean so much to our community.

On behalf of The Glen Ellen Historical Society, with gratitude,



Angela Nardo-Morgan, Board President

ELDRIDGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROPOSAL



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Serving the Communities of Glen Ellen and Eldridge since 1996
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