

26.09.2025 Press Dem LTE Teri Shore

### **A renewed debate over Sonoma Developmental Center land**

Editor: The importance of protecting the Sonoma Valley wildlife corridor from the massive development proposed for the historic campus on the former Sonoma Developmental Center lands wasn't mentioned in the recent article about the new environmental review process ("**County seeking input on new study of disputed SDC project**," Sept. 16). A key reason that a judge threw out the previous environmental impact report for the SDC specific plan was its failure to provide specific and meaningful measures for protecting natural resources from harm as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The EIR also punted on wildfire safety, climate pollution, air and water quality, historic preservation, affordable housing and multiple other environmental issues. The county and its consultants never seriously considered alternatives to scale back urbanization and protect historic buildings. So now we have to start over, making the same arguments about why it makes no sense to put 950 new homes, a hotel and conference center, commercial buildings and 3,000 parking spaces in the middle of a wildlife corridor and greenbelt in a high wildfire zone in the heart of rural Sonoma Valley.

— *Teri Shore, Sonoma*