

LET THE PUBLIC SPEAK

Find another consultant

EDITOR: The county's decision to rehire the consultant who developed a deficient environmental impact report for the Sonoma Developmental Center property should provoke the justifiable ire of residents ("Rebuked by judge, firm gets do-over," May 11). If you hire someone and they do a terrible job, don't reward them and hire them again, especially with an additional \$900,000 of taxpayers' money — and especially not on a "sole source" bid basis.

To paraphrase Shakespeare — something is rotten in the state of Sonoma. A court ruled the previous EIR was poorly done and did not address fire evacuation, historic preservation, wildlife or environmental issues adequately. Neither Permit Sonoma nor the county supervisors should have embraced it. Sonoma Valley residents were forced to go to court and win.

In dealing with the SDC property, the county has not listened to the affected community, has forced litigation and now is not only rehiring the same failed consultant but is restricting transparency and public input into a process, adding to the frustration and anger of Sonoma Valley residents. This regrettable decision portends a more contentious future for this unique property.

CHRIS KOCH

Kenwood