

July 14, 2026

Gerald G. McLaughlin
Department of General Services, Asset Management Branch
707 3rd Street, 5th Floor
West Sacramento, CA 95605

**RE: Urgent Request for Immediate Site Remediation and Security Response —
Former Sonoma Developmental Center**

Dear Mr. McLaughlin,

I am writing to bring to your urgent attention to the deteriorating and unsafe condition of the former Sonoma Developmental Center property, a 900-acre state-owned site under the Department of General Services' management. I am a member of the public who, like many families, hikers, and neighbors, regularly visits this land. What I have observed there is no longer a matter of routine maintenance backlog — it has become a genuine public safety and public trust concern that requires immediate action.

On my most recent visits, I documented the following conditions, and I have attached photographs for your review:

- Overgrown, high weeds and vegetation across multiple areas, creating both a fire hazard and a habitat for concealment that compromises visitor safety. Even though CCC or State Parks have tried to control the weeds it is an overwhelming situation and has not been very successful. Weeds are still high and encroaching all over the campus.
- Overflowing, uncollected trash accumulating in public areas of the grounds.
- Multiple buildings with broken doors and smashed windows, leaving structures exposed and creating an attractive nuisance for trespassing, injury, and further vandalism.
- **Hate speech graffiti**, including antisemitic imagery paired with a swastika, painted on several walls in an area accessible to the public, including children. This is deeply disturbing and cannot be allowed to remain on state property, where it stands unaddressed for every visitor — including young children — to see.

I want to be clear that this letter is not written in anger, but in genuine concern and with a sincere hope for partnership. This property has real, valuable potential for the community as public open space and trails. Its neglect does a disservice to that potential and to the families who currently use it in good faith, unaware of the hazards and hostile messaging they may encounter.

I have also observed private security vehicles patrolling the property. I do not know whether these conditions have gone unreported to DGS, or whether they have been reported and not yet acted upon. Either way, the outcome is the same: hazardous conditions and hate symbolism have been allowed to persist on land the state is responsible for maintaining and securing.

I am respectfully requesting the following actions:

1. Immediate removal of the hate graffiti described above, given its harmful and hostile nature especially for young children.
2. A prompt site inspection by DGS staff to assess weed abatement, trash removal, and structural hazards (broken doors and windows).
3. Confirmation of what security protocols are currently in place, and whether patrol staff are instructed to report and document hazards such as vandalism, hate speech, and structural damage.
4. A point of contact and a general timeline for remediation, so that our community can share this information with the many families who use the property.

I have attached photographs documenting these conditions, including the graffiti, and I am prepared to provide any additional information that would help DGS respond quickly. Given the public safety and public trust implications, I am also sharing this letter and the accompanying photographs with local media and elected officials representing Sonoma County. I believe this issue is best resolved through prompt, cooperative action, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you or your staff directly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

I look forward to your response and to seeing this property properly cared for, for the safety and benefit of everyone who visits it.

With hope and gratitude,

Angela

Angela Nardo-Morgan

Enclosures: Photographs

The following photographs depict various common situations across the campus. Hate graffiti in multiple places, overflowing trash, uncontrolled high weeds, broken windows and doors that have been hacked off in an attempt to enter buildings. Many buildings have doors that are wide open.



