

## SDC plan deserves legal challenge

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Regarding the lawsuit challenging the Sonoma Developmental Center plan: the Board of Supervisors actually reduced the amount of affordable housing by nearly 50% of the amount recommended by the Planning Commission — to 124 on 750 potential units, despite their talk about affordable housing needs. Many mistakenly believe that there is a lot of affordable housing planned, but in reality, the overwhelming majority of the housing currently planned will be market rate.

The lawsuit co-plaintiffs support more affordable and workforce housing with a smaller amount of market rate housing, but at a scale appropriate to the surrounding community. The County's plan to increase the population of Glen Ellen by 300% is out of scale and would have severe environmental consequences.

A newly formed community coalition, SCALE ([scaledownsd.org](https://scaledownsd.org)), one of the lawsuit's co-plaintiffs, advocates for Housing First!; prioritizing residential housing over commercial development by maximizing the amount of affordable housing on the site, with a focus on housing for people with low incomes, essential workers, and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Currently, there is no requirement in the Specific Plan to build housing first. A developer could come in and build a hotel or other commercial buildings (400,000 square feet) and not even construct housing. Yet, a market study demonstrated that there is little demand for commercial development on the site other than a hotel.

Community groups had no choice but to **sue the County** to prevent a short sighted plan from becoming an unsustainable reality.

— **Alice Horowitz, Glen Ellen, Eldridge For All**