

## Repurposing SDC

EDITOR: There are some things that should not be sold to the highest bidder. The Sonoma Developmental Center has irreplaceable historical value and environmental potential. In my opinion, affordable housing should be built near jobs, schools and the SMART line, not on the developmental center property.

Many buildings on the campus have beautiful California mission style architecture that could be restored to create a premier conference campus. If redevelopment is done right, the new facility could offer:

Continued and enhanced local police and fire services.

A world-class conference center with lodging, meeting rooms and one or two restaurants.

Housing for people employed on site.

A Jack London museum and library with an indoor and an outdoor theater.

A natural history museum featuring a wildlife rehab center, a demonstration fish hatchery and an arboretum.

A building materials recycling lab, which tests new methods for building demolition and materials reuse using Sonoma Development Center buildings slated for removal as test materials.

Enlarged and restored riparian and wildlife corridors.

This scope of redevelopment is realistic and logical and more likely to garner the support of local residents and visitors to the Sonoma Valley.

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