



April 20, 2018

Supervisor James Gore, Chair  
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Drive  
Room 100 A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Re: Development of New County Facilities**

Dear Chairman Gore,

We were very pleased to learn the County's long studied facilities redevelopment will be presented to the Board of the Supervisors later this month. It has been generally recognized for many years that the existing county facilities dramatically underutilize the existing County campus space, developed at a time when Santa Rosa was still an agricultural town. The buildings are now unsuitable to deliver public services and rehabilitating the facilities is not a wise investment of public taxpayer funds as well as a continued misuse of the land.

Santa Rosa is now one of the largest cities in the Bay Area, and in the State of California, as well as the population, economic, and service center of Sonoma County. With a desperate need for housing and an economic boost for our City coming out of the recent fires, our organizations have come together in historic partnership to urge the Board of Supervisors to move toward a solution that addresses both needs. It is clear that moving the majority of County facilities to the downtown core of the City would meet both of these needs.

First, moving the County facilities to downtown Santa Rosa provides an economic stimulus from the relocated workforce that exceeds what is possible at the existing, isolated campus site. A civic center in the downtown could be just the type of flagship development to boost incentives for business and housing to grow in our downtown. With more people working and living downtown near shops and transit, the city and county's environmental and climate goals are also enhanced.

Second, opening the existing County campus for mixed housing and commercial development, creates a much better use for the site. Indeed, with the development of several thousand housing units on this site, plus the financial incentive for more housing downtown due to the increased workforce presence, the County can make significant

strides toward its stated housing development goals without putting pressure on our cherished natural resources and open space.

Finally, the Board of Supervisors and the City Council have both prioritized housing and economic development within the County's urban centers. Taking this opportunity to move the County's facilities to downtown Santa Rosa is a clear demonstration that our elected leaders are committed to delivering the community's priorities.

Respectfully,



Peter Rumble, CEO  
Santa Rosa Metro Chamber



Kerry Fugett, Executive Director  
Sonoma County Conservation Action



Dee Swanhuysen, Board Member  
Greenbelt Alliance



Teri Shore, Regional Director, North Bay  
Greenbelt Alliance



Craig Nelson, Board Chair  
North Bay Leadership Council

CC: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors  
Santa Rosa City Council  
County Administrator, Sheryl Bratton  
City Manager, Sean McGlynn  
County Counsel, Bruce Goldstein  
General Services Director, Caroline Judy