

RVMAC Logo, address

Redwood Valley, September 20, 2022

Dear Members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, Glenn McGourty, Maureen Mulheren, John Haschak, Dan Gjerde, Ted Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Darcie Antle,

Please help us keep the recreational areas of the old Redwood Valley School as a community property and work with us to find a solution that benefits all.

We implore you to do whatever is possible to support our fervent wish to hold onto this piece of land, whether it be as Mendocino District Supervisor, CEO, or in another function you may have.

Imagine the consequences: perhaps this land is most suitable as a storage facility, and regrettably, we already have one, smack in the middle of Redwood Valley. It's a dead space, instead of a central, vibrant part of our town.

Why does it matter?

The people of Redwood Valley are on the cusp of losing this property forever, contrary to the wish of the family that donated it. Our community is disadvantaged with parks compared to other districts. Mariposa, one of the two county parks in Redwood Valley, is unmaintained, dangerous, and closed to the public. That leaves us only Lyons Park with just three acres of space, and last improved more than thirty years ago. The other parks in our district are miles away, in Talmage (South Cow Mountain/BLM) and Potter Valley (Frank Hunter McKee Memorial Park). Locally, the options for community outdoor recreation are very slim.

What are the possibilities?

The Great Redwood Trail project runs adjacent to the school property and is an ideal location for an educational hub where trail users can get information about the river and its role in the ecology and economy of Mendocino County. It can be a place to rest and recuperate, with a park and Russian river access, with dual use for the people of Redwood Valley as well as trail visitors.

Why is this property part of our collective responsibility?

Education is not limited to schools and buildings: all of us need to be schooled about ecology and preserving our fragile environment for our survival. The mission of the UUSD can also encompass outdoor educational spaces for all ages.

Please consider at the least a reassessment of two separate parcels: one with the buildings and the other with the tennis courts and baseball field, with river access, and return the latter to the people who benefit most from its preservation.

Respectfully,

The Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council

Dolly Riley, (Chair), Jini Reynolds (Vice Chair), Katrina Frey (Treasurer), Chris Boyd, Marybeth Kelly, Sattie Clark, Patricia Ris-Yarbrough, Adam Gaska

*The voice of the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council on a matter of concern for the community is not necessarily the opinion of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.*