



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 5/6/2025

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File #: 25-616

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Supervisor Michelle Bushnell & Supervisor Mike Wilson

**Agenda Section:** Consent

**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**SUBJECT:**

Letter of Opposition to Conditional Release and Placement of Richard Stobaugh

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Chair to sign the letter.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This action supports the following areas of your Board's Strategic Plan.

Area of Focus: Safe & Healthy Communities

Strategic Plan Category: 1001 -Support and sustain partnerships between public safety and partner agencies to enhance public safety in our communities

**DISCUSSION:**

The Board of Supervisors has reviewed the circumstances surrounding Richard Stobaugh's proposed placement in the community of Manila and finds the decision deeply troubling on multiple fronts. Stobaugh's history of predatory, violent sexual behavior demonstrates a significant and ongoing threat to public safety. The classification of Stobaugh as a sexual sadist only reinforces this concern.

Although the state's Conditional Release Program (CONREP) is guided by rehabilitative principles, the community into which a sexually violent predator is placed must not be sacrificed for the sake of reintegration. The Board finds the revocation rate within the CONREP, nearly one-third of participants, as a glaring red flag that must inform placement decisions, particularly for individuals with histories as egregious as Stobaugh's.

Additionally, the community of Manila is uniquely ill-suited for this placement. Its small size, geographic isolation and limited law enforcement resources leave it especially vulnerable. Community members have voiced strong and justifiable concerns regarding the risk to their safety and well-being.

This Board strongly supports the position of the Sheriff and District Attorney, both of whom have formally objected to this placement. Proceeding with the relocation of Stobaugh despite these objections undermines both the authority of local officials and the trust of the residents they serve.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

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General Fund

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

None

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

None

**ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Board Discretion

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Letter of Opposition

**PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:**

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A