



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5th Street, Suite 111, Eureka, CA 95501-1153
Telephone (707) 476-2390 Fax (707) 445-7299

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Hammond Trail Bridge Replacement Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$8,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Hammond Trail Bridge Replacement Project.

Funding for this project would be used to replace the Hammond Trail Bridge, which provides an active transportation route across the Mad River between Arcata and McKinleyville, the second and third largest communities in Humboldt County. The Hammond Trail Bridge is a former railroad bridge that was re-purposed for bicycle and pedestrian use in 1983 but must be replaced because the steel trusses have suffered significant rust and deterioration, making rehabilitation prohibitive.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to yield significant community benefits by ensuring active transportation services in the area and continued public safety by replacing the deteriorating existing bridge. The project would provide local, regional, and statewide benefits by preserving a key link of the California Coastal Trail and U.S. Bicycle Route 95 and ensuring a nonmotorized route alternative to Highway 101 between McKinleyville, Arcata, and Humboldt Bay.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors



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The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Project Rebound – Humboldt County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$218,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Project (Project Rebound).

Funding for this project would be used for a community-wide effort led by the County of Humboldt and in collaboration with its partner communities and jurisdictions to deconstruct and rebuild the County's comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDs). The project is designed to focus on creating specific, measurable, and actionable economic strategies that emphasize economic recovery, economic self-sufficiency, and economic equity.

In the past, the County has been able to "piggyback" off previous CEDs work. However, in a post-COVID economy, a complete reanalysis of our County's economic development strategies is required, including revenue analysis, industry studies, labor pool investigations, and a comprehensive business community needs assessment.

This important project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars, as it will help address the poverty rate in Humboldt County, which is above the State and National Average. The health of Humboldt County's economy relies in part on receiving much-needed Federal and State aid for disadvantaged persons and the jobs created through those funds provides individuals with assistance. Funds from Project Rebound will help strengthen the County's local economy, thus lessening the need for dependence on State and Federal aid.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors



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The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Crisis Stabilization Unit Youth Treatment Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$575,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Crisis Stabilization Unit Youth Treatment Project.

Funding for this project would be used to rehabilitate Humboldt County's Crisis Stabilization Unit and inpatient Psychiatric Health Facility in order to accommodate the treatment of minors. The County currently has waivers from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to treat minors at the Crisis Stabilization Unit and Psychiatric Health Facility but is unable to exercise them due to constraints with the physical layout of the units. Moving the Crisis Stabilization Unit downstairs and converting the vacated space into a wing of the Psychiatric Health Facility available to youth will allow the County's Health & Human Services Department to securely separate minors from adults patients, increase overall bed capacity, optimize bed utilization, and allow the County to stay in compliance with the conditions of the waiver from the state DHCS.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars as it would address unmet needs for youth mental health crisis services, which are of critical importance to the local community. Currently, Humboldt County must transfer minors out-of-county for inpatient mental health treatment. Transferring minors for out-of-county care is extremely costly and separates youth from their families and support systems, increasing trauma and inhibiting recovery.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors



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May 18, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Garberville Complete Streets Project (Redwood Drive)

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$6,860,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Garberville Complete Streets Project. Funding for this project would be used to improve, retrofit and reconstruct existing sidewalks and roadway on Redwood Drive to provide safe and convenient travel by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transit.

Redwood Drive, which runs through Garberville, has the highest average daily traffic load in Southern Humboldt County. Current counts in the reach of road addressed by this project are approximately 9,800 vehicles per day. An average of five accidents occurs annually on this stretch of road, making it one of the higher accident zones on the County road system.

Humboldt County has completed improvements on all other sections of Redwood Drive, including replacing a narrow, functionally obsolete concrete arch bridge over Bear Gulch with a wider bridge that is capable of handling the growth of motorist, pedestrian, and bicyclist usage. The Garberville portion of Redwood Drive is characterized by pedestrian and vehicular congestion, deteriorating roadway surfaces, insufficient pedestrian facilities, higher speeds due to on/off ramps, and a budding business hub for much of the greater southern Humboldt area. A complete streets solution has the opportunity to improve the safety of the business loop corridor that is shared by motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

In addition to safety and capacity improvements, this project will yield economic benefits, as it is a gateway project for both Mendocino County on the South-Bound Highway 101 and Humboldt County for North-Bound Highway 101. It should be noted that this project is included in the Regional Transportation Plan of the Humboldt County Association of Governments. Furthermore, Humboldt County has committed to financing the 20 percent local match that would be required for this type of Federal-aid highway project.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
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The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Community Corrections Re-Entry Resource Center Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our request for \$1,624,815 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Community Corrections Re-Entry Resource Center Project.

The proposed Humboldt County Community Corrections Re-Entry Resource Center is planned to be built next to the existing Humboldt County Correctional Facility (HCCF). The structure would house a small (44 beds – 28 male, 10 female, & 6 mental health) minimum security in-custody, program oriented, custody unit that focuses on preparing inmates to successfully re-enter society. These 44 minimum security beds would help relieve the HCCF of much needed higher security beds to house the shift from inmates previously sentenced to State prison.

The facility also would focus on out-of-custody re-entry programming. The County's current Day Reporting Center would move into this facility and pick up much needed space. The Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) also would move into the new space, thus allowing that program to expand its re-entry programs. These out-of-custody programs would incorporate additional intense case management, evidence-based programs, mental health, and substance abuse services geared toward reduction of recidivism in Humboldt County. The overall goal of the facility is to provide offenders with transition from an institutional setting to that of an independent and responsible community living.

It should be noted that the Sheriff's Office completed a jail needs assessment of the impact that California Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109) has had on the average daily population. State Assembly Bill AB 109 (Public Safety Realignment Act County Jail Prison) was enacted in 2011 and shifted thousands of lower level state inmates back to county jails. These inmates bring an entirely different set of needs to the county jails and have had a tremendous impact statewide on county jails. The inmate population and probationer caseload has changed from lower level criminals to that of a much higher, sophisticated criminal level. The focus is also changing from a "lock 'em up" mentality to that of a program oriented "re-entry to society" theme that is based on intervention programs.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,


Virginia Bass, Chair

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors



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The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Courthouse Entrance and Restroom Modification Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$1,500,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Courthouse Entrance and Restroom Modification Project.

The objective of this project is to design and construct improvements to the Humboldt County Courthouse in an effort to remediate barriers to access as defined under Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA). Pursuant to the proposed project, the current non-accessible 4th Street parking lot and 4th Street entrance to the Humboldt County Courthouse in Eureka will be demolished and replaced with a new lot and three ADA accessible parking stalls. In addition, the County will replace the existing non-compliant concrete path of travel linking the 4th Street entrance to the public right of way and site arrival points to ensure proper site grades that meet the requirements outlined in the ADA.

In addition, the 4th Street security vestibule will have the existing non-accessible doors replaced with fully ADA-compliant powered sliding doors. Sixteen public restrooms in the building will be completely remodeled with eleven of them to be constructed in a fully ADA-compliant manner. The floors on the 3rd and 4th floor elevator vestibule will be leveled and replaced to ensure full compliance with the ADA and accessible High/Low hydration station drinking fountains will be installed in multiple locations in the building.

Humboldt County's Courthouse serves as the County seat where the main County administrative, judicial and law enforcement functions are carried out. Providing appropriate levels of accessibility for the public will allow residents to do business with the County and courts, regardless of their ability.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
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The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Mattole Road Repair and Paving Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$8,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Mattole Road Repair and Paving Project.

Humboldt County currently has a deferred maintenance backlog totaling approximately \$250 million and expends road funding as judiciously as possible. A priority for our County's Department of Public Works is repairing and rehabilitating a 10-mile stretch of road that provides access to Mattole Valley and the Bureau of Land Management's King Range National Conservation Area (NCA). The road connects via Centerville Road, State Highway 211 to State Highway 101 and is a Primary Evacuation Route. The road also connects to Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the California Coast.

Mattole Road serves a large expanse of the County and is a key fire response route in the area. Unfortunately, critical incident response times are slowed due to the deteriorated condition of the roadway.

It should be noted that this project is included in the Regional Transportation Plan of the Humboldt County Association of Governments. Furthermore, Humboldt County has committed to financing the 20 percent local match that would be required for this type of Federal-aid highway project.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors



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The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
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RE: Humboldt County One Stop Permitting Center Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$4,320,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the One Stop Permitting Center Project.

Humboldt County has been in the process of planning the One Stop Permitting Center since 2018 and has identified a viable leased property that will be an ideal location for the new facility. The building will be used to streamline the permitting of County projects by housing Planning & Building, Public Works/Land Use, and Environmental Health under one roof.

After a multi-year facility master planning effort, Humboldt County has identified the One Stop Permitting Center as a project of the highest need. Serving two primary purposes, this initiative will allow the County to demolish one of its oldest and unsuitable buildings while providing a modernized and expanded platform to deliver services to the public. This first project under the master plan will allow the renovation of other existing County facilities, paving the way for future investment and enhancement of County services.

The One Stop Permitting Center will provide an immediate and important impact to the community it serves, greatly streamlining the process of applying for and receiving permits from Planning, Building, Land Use and Environmental Health. Current facilities serving these purposes are spread out, crowded, largely inaccessible, and extremely outdated. The public has strongly supported the One Stop Permitting project for years and it will be warmly received as a community resource.

Requested federal funding will be used for construction costs applicable to the project. The County will provide design fees, staff time to manage and administer the work, and ongoing rental and maintenance costs. Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors



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May 18, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Briceland Road/Shelter Cove Road Rehabilitation and Paving Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$8,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Briceland Road/Shelter Cove Road Rehabilitation and Paving Project.

Humboldt County is seeking to repair 10 miles of roadway that provides access to the King Range National Conservation Area (NCA), which is under the purview of the Bureau of Land Management. These roads provide coastal access and are ingress and egress through a high-fire area and are a primary evacuation route for the population of the Shelter Cove community and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, critical incident response times are slowed due to the deteriorated condition of the roadway.

Humboldt County currently has a deferred maintenance backlog totaling approximately \$250 million and expends road funding as judiciously as possible. A priority for our County's Department of Public Works is addressing the needs at Briceland Road/Shelter Cove Road. Once completed, this project will improve public safety, access to natural resources, and will provide reduced sedimentation to improve water quality.

Notably, this important project is included in the Regional Transportation Plan of the Humboldt County Association of Governments. Furthermore, Humboldt County has committed to financing the 20 percent local match that would be required for this type of Federal-aid highway project.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors



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May 18, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Ferndale Veterans Memorial Building Improvements and ADA Barrier Removal Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$694,350 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Ferndale Veterans Memorial Building Improvements and ADA Barrier Removal Project.

The Ferndale Veterans Memorial Building is in a state of disrepair and without a significant funding source to address the many needs of the facility. The highest priority needs at the facility are modernization of the building HVAC system (including the removal of hazardous materials), removal of ADA barriers to the building and site, and interior improvements to improve functionality and reduce ongoing maintenance needs. There are many additional smaller projects that are expected to be accomplished by County Building Maintenance staff over the course of time.

The Ferndale Veterans Memorial building is a public resource to the community that it serves. The building hosts community events, is a hub for charitable activities and fundraisers, and provides our Veterans groups with a place to meet and connect with each other and with the community.

Requested federal funding will be used for construction costs applicable to the project, as well as design and permit fees needed to complete the work. The County will provide staff time to manage and administer the work.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors



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May 18, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Public Works Main Office Renovation, Expansion, & ADA Barrier Removal Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$2,385,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Department of Public Works Main Office Renovation, Expansion & ADA Barrier Removal Project.

The proposed project would renovate and enhance the existing Public Works building located at 1106 2nd Street in Eureka, removing all ADA barriers, creating a safe and accessible site, remodeling and beautifying an existing structure in the fabric of Old Town Eureka, and expanding the facility to bring all Public Works Staff under one roof.

The Public Works office provides a critical need in the management of County roads, infrastructure, facilities, parks and natural resources. The building serves as the front door for Public Works services to the public, but it is currently inaccessible to people with disabilities and the facility is dated and in need of major repairs. Additionally, the facility is too small to house all Department staff in one location, creating additional leasing costs, inefficiency, and opportunities for miscommunication.

Creating a modern and accessible Public Works facility at this location would yield immediate benefit to the public. An accessible public counter would be created to serve customers, energy efficiency would be improved dramatically, and the ever increasing costs of rental properties and inefficiencies of remote staff locations would save taxpayers dramatically over the long term.

Requested federal funding will be used for construction costs applicable to the project. The County will provide design fees, staff time to manage and administer the work, and ongoing maintenance costs.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors



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May 18, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Alderpoint Road Evacuation Safety Route Improvement Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$8,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Alderpoint Road Evacuation Safety Route Improvement Project.

Alderpoint Road connects through Redwood Drive and Highway 101 to Highway 36 and serves a high-risk fire area while also connecting rural areas of Humboldt and Trinity Counties. Humboldt County is seeking to repair 10 miles of this critical roadway, which will greatly improve emergency access. It should be noted that Alderpoint Road is a High Priority Secondary Access Road should Highway 101 be closed/if needed for evacuation purposes.

Humboldt County currently has a deferred maintenance backlog totaling approximately \$250 million and expends road funding as judiciously as possible. A priority for our County's Department of Public Works is addressing the needs Alderpoint Road. In addition to safety improvements, this project also would provide a number of environmental benefits, including reduced sedimentation to improve water quality.

This important project is included in the Regional Transportation Plan of the Humboldt County Association of Governments. Furthermore, Humboldt County has committed to financing the 20 percent local match that would be required for this type of Federal-aid highway project.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors