



Redwood Coast Regional Center

Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community



Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: PLN-2024-19020

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to support the specialized residential and community building opportunities for disabled adults in Northern Humboldt County. The need for specialized residential opportunities that are inclusive, and community based are clear. Every year, Redwood Coast Regional Center surveys our clients, families, and stakeholders and the number one unmet need is *always affordable housing*. Lack of secure housing for our most vulnerable residents affects all other measures and is the foundation for success and avoiding institutional settings.

Currently there is little supportive housing for adults with disabilities and there are no day or employment services north of Arcata. People with disabilities are priced out of the housing market in McKinleyville, even though it is the town where they grew up, have family, community contacts and social networks. I am fully in support of community developments which increase access to the needed support and that help people with disabilities remain in their home communities and am excited to answer any questions the Planning Commission might have regarding the needs of our local residents with disabilities.

Thank you for your service to the community.

Sincerely,

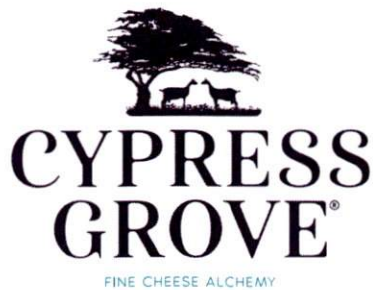
Heather Odle

Director of Community Services

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June 9, 2025

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: PLN-2024-19020

Dear Commissioners,

I'm eager to show my support for We Are Up. I really believe in this project! I've known Mary Keehn, the visionary behind We Are Up, for over two decades. She founded Cypress Grove in her kitchen many years ago and grew it to be a nationally distributed, much-loved and respected company, renowned for its goat cheeses, especially the iconic Humboldt Fog. Now she has set her sights on creating an equally vibrant vision, one that will also touch and enrich many: an innovative community for people with and without disabilities.

There's an axiom in the start-up world: bet on the person more than the idea. In this case, however, it's a good odds-on-bet for both the founder *and* the idea. Mary has already assembled a talented and dedicated Board of Directors to help with steering and oversight. Now she's applying for permits to bring her inspiring vision to life. Your approval is the necessary next step to move this project forward.

Please throw your support behind We Are Up. Your approval will give this vision momentum, setting it on its way towards leveraging multi-sector public and private funding to support future programs and expansion. These services will help fill critical gaps in the continuum of care for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our rural Northern California community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Pamela Dressler
President and Managing Director

