

- Administration, Finance, and Human Resources
1275 Eighth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 826-8633
- Billing
1385 Eighth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 826-8642
- Burre Dental Center
Mobile Dental Services
959 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501
- Del Norte Community Health Center
550 East Washington Boulevard
Crescent City, CA 95531
- Eureka Community Health & Wellness Center
2200 Tydd Street
Eureka, CA 95501
- Ferndale Community Health Center
638 Main Street (PO Box 1157)
Ferndale, CA 95536
- Fortuna Community Health Center
3750 Rohnerville Road
Fortuna, CA 95540
- Humboldt Open Door Clinic
770 Tenth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
- McKinleyville Community Health Center
1644 Central Avenue
McKinleyville, CA 95519
- Mobile Health Services / Telehealth & Visiting Specialists Center
2426 Buhne Street
Eureka, CA 95501
- NorthCountry Clinic
785 18th Street
Arcata, CA 95521
- NorthCountry Prenatal Services
3800 Janes Road, Suite 101
Arcata, CA 95521
- Open Door Downtown
622 H Street,
Eureka, CA 95501
- Open Door Gynecology Services
3770 Janes Road,
Arcata, CA 95521
- Redwood Community Health Center
2350 Buhne Street, Suites A & C
Eureka, CA 95501
- Willow Creek Community Health Center
38883 Highway 299
Willow Creek, CA 95573
- Member Services
550 E Washington Blvd, Suite 100
Crescent City, CA 95531
963 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501

April 6, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Open Door Community Health Centers, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Open Door is very aware of the impact that safe, affordable housing has on the health of our patients and the community in general. We believe that housing is health. Access to safe, affordable housing is a key component to the overall health of our community.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.





List of Letters of Support Submitted to Humboldt County Planning and Building Department:

1. Amber Madrone Anderson, Director of Development, CASA of Humboldt, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
2. Andrew Whitney, Program Coordinator, County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department, Housing Programs, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding
3. Bryna Lipper, Chief Executive Officer and Ali O. Lee, Senior Program Officer, Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers Community Foundation, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding
4. California Assemblymember Jim Wood, Second District, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
5. California Assemblymember Jim Wood, Second District, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding
6. Chris Jowaisas, Head Grower and Teacher, HCOE Humboldt Hydrofarms, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
7. Claudia Lima, Parent and Board Member, We Are Up, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding
8. Colin Fiske, Executive Director, Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding
9. Connie Stewart, Executive Director of Initiatives, Cal Poly Humboldt - letter of support for project and REAP grant funding
10. Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Trinidad Rancheria, Chairperson, North Coast Tribal Transportation Commission, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding
11. Jon G. Sapper, Ed.D, Deputy Superintendent of Humboldt County Schools, Retired, letter of support for Humboldt Health Foundation grant
12. Judge Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge, Yurok Tribe, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
13. Julie Fulkerson, Business Owner, Past Mayor and County Supervisor, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
14. Keith Flamer, PhD, President/Superintendent, College of the Redwoods, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
15. Kimberly Smalley, PhD, BCBA-D Executive Director, Redwood Coast Regional Center, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding
16. Lewis Litzky, Former CPA, Community member, Current Treasurer of Food for People, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
17. Michael Davies-Hughes, Superintendent of Schools, Humboldt County Office of Education, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
18. Morgan March, Department Director, Dishgamu Humboldt Community Land Trust, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding

19. Pamela Dressler, President and Managing Director, Cypress Grove Cheese, letter of support, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
20. Representative Jared Huffman, Member of Congress of the United States House of Representatives, Second District, California, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding
21. Ross Welch, Executive Director, AEDC Small Business Lending Center, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
22. Sara Dronkers, Chief of Staff, Humboldt Area/Wild Rivers Community Foundation, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
23. Sierra Braggs, CMS Waiver & Employment Specialist Manager, Redwood Coast Regional Center letter of support, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
24. Tory Starr, MSN, PHN, RN President/Executive Officer, Open Door Community Health Centers and Board Member, We Are Up, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services
25. Tory Starr, MSN, PHN, RN President/Executive Officer, Open Door Community Health Centers and Board Member, We Are Up, letter of support for project and REAP 2.0 grant funding
26. Tracey Barnes-Priestley, M.A. Faculty/Leadership Team Member OLLI, Cal Poly Humboldt, letter of support for project and a grant from the California Department of Developmental Services





8/22/2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of a proposal from We Are Up for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services. We Are Up was established as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit in Humboldt County in early 2022 with a strategic vision of developing an inclusive, intergenerational community offering secure housing, income opportunities, and mutual support systems for people with and without disabilities.

At CASA of Humboldt we work with youth in foster care, many have developmental and or intellectual disabilities and as they age out of the system there is no where to turn. Currently, Humboldt County lacks services for these young adults to transition into a caring, supportive, inclusive community. The need for the We Are Up community is extensive here in Humboldt County. People with disabilities deserve to live, work, and feel a sense of worth, acceptance, and inclusivity.

The six-member Board of Directors brings passion, experience, deep community ties, and fundraising expertise to provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience a full life in the mainstream community. Grant funds will enable We Are Up to hire staff members to identify and implement evidence-based, best, or promising practices in employment supports and innovative strategies for job attainment, retention, and career advancements in competitive integrated employment. As the Development Director of CASA of Humboldt and a parent to an adult child with developmental and intellectual disabilities I encourage your support as We Are Up builds a foundation from which to leverage multi-sector public and private funding for program sustainability and expansion. These services will help fill critical gaps in the continuum of care for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in this rural Northern California community.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amber Madrone Anderson".

Amber Madrone Anderson, Director of Development
CASA of Humboldt



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
HOUSING PROGRAMS

3015 H Street Eureka CA 95501
Phone: (707) 445-7541 Fax: (707) 268-3792

Beth Burks
HCAOG Executive Director
611 I Street Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: 2022 Humboldt County Association of Governments REAP 2.0 Application

Dear Ms. Burks:

I am writing this letter in support of HCAOG's proposed 2022 Regional Early Action Planning Grant to Improve Transportation and Housing Choices in McKinleyville.

HCAOG, Humboldt Transit Authority, and the non-profit We Are Up have partnered and are seeking to lay groundwork for transforming existing development patterns in McKinleyville towards mode shift, infill development, and affirmatively furthering fair housing outcomes by expanding transit and providing integrated housing opportunities for people with disabilities, seniors, and full-time students.

McKinleyville is among the County's fastest growing areas and the County is working on several planning efforts to promote infill, reduce sprawl and create transportation choices for existing and future residences. Among these efforts are the McKinleyville Town Center Master Plan and the McKinleyville Multimodal Connections project. The HCAOG project compliments these efforts.

The HCAOG proposal combines two much needed innovations for our County. The We Are Up project would be the first housing development to support integrated housing opportunities for people with disabilities, seniors, college students, and visiting medical professionals. Support for the We Are Up project's predevelopment costs will fund what is often the most precarious step in the development process and accelerate housing on the site. Although in an infill location, the parcel was not included in the County's Housing Element land inventory due to site constraints. With We Are Up's vision and creative approach, a 50-unit development is proposed.

The on-demand micro transit system will also be a first for the Humboldt region. Success of these programs in other rural and semi-rural areas is encouraging and the potential for replicating the project to other areas of the County will aid the County in limiting car dependency of future growth.





363 Indianola Road, Bayside, CA 95524
info@hafoundation.org
(707) 442-2993

December 15, 2022

California Department of Housing & Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Support for We Are Up & HCAOG's REAP 2.0 Grant Application

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

The Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers Community Foundation submit this letter in support of We Are Up www.weareup.org and the Humboldt County Association of Governments' (HCAOG) www.hcaog.net REAP 2.0 grant application to improve access to public transportation with fewer carbon impacts and supportive housing for vulnerable populations in McKinleyville—the fastest growing un-incorporated area in Humboldt County.

The Humboldt Area Foundation & Wild Rivers Community Foundation serves Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties, in California, and Curry County in Southern Oregon. This project aligns with our strategic goals for a Thriving, Just, Healthy and Equitable Region: specifically addressing priority areas of just economic development and thriving youth and communities: www.hafoundation.org

Although McKinleyville is rural Humboldt's largest and fastest-growing unincorporated community, it has only two public transportation options—the fixed-route Redwood Transit Services (RTS) system operated by the Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA), and Dial-A-Ride, paratransit, a shared van system, for seniors and people with disabilities living within a one-and-a-half-mile radius of the RTS route. With a REAP 2.0 grant, HCAOG's mobility on-demand, micro-transit program will be a lower-emission alternative to private vehicle commutes.

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few. With a REAP 2.0 grant, HCAOG and partners We Are Up, and HTA will implement an approach to disrupt current, car-centric, development in McKinleyville by creating accessible, transit options in conjunction with higher density, in-fill, small footprint housing. This grant supports We Are Up in developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities) for people with and without disabilities, including seniors comprising 19.2% of Humboldt's population (Census 2020).

This pilot housing and transit collaboration can be replicated in rural communities with population densities too low to support a traditional, fixed-route transit system and with a high

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: HEALTH
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
INSURANCE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
NATURAL RESOURCES

Assembly California Legislature



JIM WOOD
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

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P.O. BOX 942849
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FAX (707) 463-5773

50 D STREET, SUITE 450
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 576-2526
FAX (707) 576-2297

1036 5TH STREET, SUITE D
EUREKA, CA 95501
(707) 445-7014
FAX (707) 455-6607

August 22, 2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

RE: We Are Up Grant Application

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in full support of the proposal from We Are Up for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services to hire capacity building staff to allow the organization to serve more quickly.

The We Are Up mission, to build an inclusive, inter-generational community that will offer secure housing, income opportunities and mutual support systems for adults with and without disabilities. One where residents will contribute to the community at large through a welcoming community center, farm-to-table food production and conservation. Contribute and Community are key words in their innovative mission. Words that will give residents the opportunity to live their best lives.

The six-member Board of Directors brings innovation, passion, experience, deep community ties, and fundraising expertise to provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience a full life in the mainstream community. In less than one year, with all volunteer help and donations the young organization has:

- secured 15+ pastoral acres with walking distance access to grocery, health care, pharmacy, bank, entertainment, health club, and bus line. The location allows access to a full life for those residents who may not drive.
- completed all entitlement studies for the land, have architect drawn site plan, and are working on final stages of our CEQA docs.
- garnered strong support of Planning department, Regional Center, Open Door, Cal Poly, and many other organizations.
- formed a 501(c)3, developed a website, social media accounts, active board and strong volunteer base.
- held one public event and are planning for a second major fundraising event
- created innovative, community inclusive fundraising techniques
- moved and planted 30 mature apple trees – 75% have been “adopted” by community members in honor of at \$1000 each covering all costs.

Grant funds will enable We Are Up to hire staff members to identify and implement evidence-based, best, or promising practices in employment supports and innovative strategies for job attainment, retention, and career advancements in competitive integrated employment.

COMMITTEES
CHAIR HEALTH
BUDGET
INSURANCE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

SELECT COMMITTEES
HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
CRAFT BREWING AND DISTILLING
SEA LEVEL RISE IN CALIFORNIA

Assembly California Legislature



JIM WOOD
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

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FAX (707) 455-6607

December 15, 2022

California Department of Housing & Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: We Are Up & HCAOG REAP 2.0 Grant Application

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of the innovative proposal from HCAOG and We Are Up for REAP 2.0 grant funding.

This type of public-private partnership is exactly what is needed to solve some of the most impenetrable problems of the region and may well serve as a model for other parts of the state as well. With one grant, these innovators are securing space for infill housing for some of the most marginalized in our community and providing transportation solutions for the fastest growing community in the county.

The We Are Up mission, to build an inclusive, intergenerational community that will offer secure housing, income opportunities and mutual support systems for adults with and without disabilities is well underway. The non-profit has secured a 15-acre site that is a prime location for infill housing because it is within walking distance of a grocery store, health care facilities, a pharmacy, a bank, entertainment venues, a health club, a bus line, designated recreational trails, and other services.

Following community input, We Are Up has prepared an architect-drawn site plan for 50 units of housing, and will submit their CEQA documents before year end. Their design, successful in Europe but not seen in the US, is one where all residents -- adults with and without disabilities -- will contribute to the community at large through a welcoming community center, farm-to-table food production and conservation. Residents will no longer be isolated but able to participate in the community and contribute. They will have the opportunity to participate in meaningful employment and community engagement. The REAP 2.0 grant sought by We Are Up would fund the pre-development phase of We Are Up's innovative housing model that will be the first community of its kind in the nation.

The REAP grant will also support transforming transit choices throughout McKinleyville by piloting a program for on-demand microtransit. This component of the project will reroute the development trends in the County's largest and fastest-growing unincorporated community, which struggles with the legacy of car-centric development and the resulting sprawl. By funding microtransit options in McKinleyville, this grant will enable affordable, low-carbon transportation options that will connect to the local bus service and increase public transportation options.

I encourage you to support HCAOG and We Are Up as they leverage public and private support to improve transit and housing options for McKinleyville residents. These services will not only improve transportation options to reduce vehicle emissions but will also help fund the development of much-needed infill housing for people with autism or other disabilities in Humboldt County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Wood".

JIM WOOD
Assemblymember, 2nd District

August 20 2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants. CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O Box 944202
Sacramento. CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee,

I write in support of the proposal from We Are Up for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services. Receiving this grant will greatly help to facilitate We Are Up's mission to provide housing, community, and job training in a supportive environment for adults with autism.

We Are Up's vision is already manifesting through the development of a beautiful 15 acre site in McKinleyville, California. Through careful design and planning, architects have proposed an infrastructure that will provide a perfect place to house residents, hold community events, create jobs in a variety of fields and be a place for education.

My experience is in working with the Humboldt County Office of Education horticulture program, specifically with Career Tech Education high school students. We have created a small business called Humboldt Hydrofarms where we produce a variety of different food crops using hydroponic methods. Different high school classes come each day of the week and learn how to grow food, but more importantly the basic skills involved in holding a job. Skills like showing up on time, staying on task, asking for help when needed, having a positive attitude and working efficiently will serve these students for the rest of their lives.

I am thrilled to partner with We Are Up and be able to develop mutually beneficial relationships between the Humboldt County Office of Education, the Humboldt Hydrofarm and our CTE jobs program. I have already begun the planning process with Mary Keehn and being able to bring my students to the We Are Up site in McKinleyville will help to foster a richer breadth of learning for them, and including residents in our educational jobs training will be powerful.

Please consider We Are Up for any assistance that is available. I have no doubt that any support given will help catalyze positive change for many individuals, families, students and the Humboldt County community at large.

Warmly

Chris Jowaisas
Head Grower and Teacher, HCOE Humboldt Hydrofarms

December 20, 2022

California Department of Housing & Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Claudia Lima, the mother of 25-year-old Christopher who has Downs Syndrome. Since the day we found out Christopher was going to be born with Downs Syndrome, our entire focus is providing him and his peers an inclusive full life. To accomplish this, I have been very involved in the special needs community, both on the state and local level.

I served on the State Council of Developmental Disabilities; the Area I Board of Developmental Disabilities; Area Director for Humboldt County Special Olympics; Adapted PE Advisory Committee Cal Poly Humboldt; just to name a few.

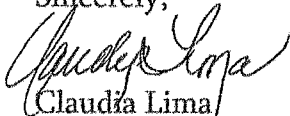
Before We Are Up came into existence, we had been forced to consider placing Christopher in residential housing out of the area. But Humboldt County is his home. This is where his family, friends and community supports are.

We Are Up is mobilizing businesses, community friends and family to bring this essential housing to Humboldt where we currently have very limited housing for people with disabilities. The support from our community has been phenomenal.

We Are Up has accomplished a tremendous amount to reach its goals, accomplished with all donated funds and without the benefit of a single paid staff member. Parents and community members recognize the critical need in Humboldt for accessible housing.
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p0816-disability.html>

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong commitment to We Are Up's and HCAOG's efforts and we hope you will look favorably on their proposal to provide services that will help fill critical gaps in housing, accessibility, and the continuum of care for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our rural Northern California community.

Sincerely,



Claudia Lima

535 Cedar Hill Lane

Arcata, CA 95521

707.498.1324

claudiajlina@gmail.com



December 14, 2022

Beth Burks
Executive Director
Humboldt County Association of Governments
611 I Street, Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Support for REAP 2.0 Grant Application: Improving Transportation and Housing Choice in McKinleyville

Dear Ms. Burks:

The Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities (CRTP) is a nonprofit organization based in Humboldt County whose mission is to promote transportation solutions that protect and support a healthy environment, healthy people, healthy communities and a healthy economy on California's North Coast. We have nearly 700 members and supporters throughout the region, many of them in McKinleyville.

McKinleyville is our area's third largest community, but one that has historically suffered from a sprawling development pattern with few transportation options beyond the personal automobile. CRTP is a current stakeholder in the McKinleyville Multimodal Connections Project, a state-funded planning process to advance safe active transportation options, as well as the county-run McKinleyville Town Center planning process, which seeks to encourage centrally located denser pedestrian and transit-oriented infill development. We also partnered with the Western Transportation Institute and your organization, the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG), in the McKinleyville Transit Study, which concluded in 2021 and recommended implementing an on-demand microtransit system in the community.

CRTP is extremely excited to support HCAOG's REAP 2.0 application for the Improving Transportation and Housing Choice in McKinleyville project. This project would both implement the vision of the McKinleyville Transit Study for on-demand microtransit and support the development of a higher density inclusive housing project called We Are Up in the core area of McKinleyville.

The microtransit component of this project will vastly improve affordable, low-carbon transportation options in McKinleyville and, by connecting to the regional fixed-route transit system, in the region as a whole. The infill housing component of the project will provide much-needed homes for people with autism and other disabilities within walking distance of jobs,

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

Department of Initiatives, University Advancement

707 845-9535 PHONE
707 826-3403 FAX
Ces54@humboldt.edu EMAIL
707 845-9535 ALT

December 16, 2022

California Department of Housing & Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt (Cal Poly Humboldt) it is my pleasure to write this letter in strong support for We Are Up and Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) in their REAP 2.0 application.

Cal Poly Humboldt is part of the 23-campus California State University system. Located in Arcata, California – the next town to the south of McKinleyville where this proposal is situated – we have approximately 5,739 students and 490 faculty members. These populations are expected to grow dramatically in coming years. Many of our students and faculty reside in McKinleyville; thus, we have a keen interest in improving their housing and transit options.

We Are Up is working quickly toward realizing a strategic vision of developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community offering secure housing, income opportunities, and mutual support systems for adults with and without disabilities in far Northern California. In the past year, We Are Up has accomplished a tremendous amount to reach its goals, without the benefit of a single paid staff member.

Cal Poly Humboldt lends its support to this project because there is a clear need in our rural community for housing for adults with disabilities, seniors and students. We Are Up will offer infill housing that is accessible and proximate to services and transit. We Are Up will also offer meaningful job skills training opportunities, employment and classes for adults with autism or other disabilities and seniors. Cal Poly Humboldt looks forward to working closely with We Are Up to build the workforce necessary to appropriately staff and support this project, which is vitally important to our community.

The partnership with HCAOG is especially important. McKinleyville is the fastest growing unincorporated area in Humboldt County and the development patterns have led to a sprawling community that is difficult to navigate without a private vehicle, making it extremely challenging for Cal Poly Humboldt's staff and students to access housing and job opportunities in the area. The REAP grant proposal will help remedy these challenges by piloting a program for on-demand micro-transit that would connect to the intercity bus line.

1 Harpst Street, Arcata, California 95521-8299 humboldt.edu/website

North Coast Tribal Transportation Commission

Bear River Band of Rohmerville Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Elk Valley Rancheria, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karmuk Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyuf Tribe, Yurok Tribe



12/13/2022

Ms. Beth Burks
Executive Director
Humboldt County Association of Governments
611 I Street Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Support Letter for HCAOG Application for Regional Early Action Planning 2.0

Dear Ms. Burks,

The North Coast Tribal Transportation Commission (NCTTC) enthusiastically supports the Humboldt County Association of Governments application for the Regional Early Action Planning 2.0 grant. If awarded, HCAOG will help transform the fast-growing community of McKinleyville by investing in a project that supports future housing development, reduces vehicle miles traveled, increases housing affordability, and advances equity.

The NCTTC's mission is to "promote safe and efficient modes of transportation, and to improve transportation, identify transportation needs and advocate for transportation issues of Tribal communities throughout Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, to collaborate on issues between all of the Native American Tribes and to solve problems concerning transportation issues among Humboldt and Del Norte County Tribes."

McKinleyville is a fast-growing community in unincorporated Humboldt County, and 5.2% of the population is Native American. The REAP grant would support transforming transit choices throughout McKinleyville by establishing a pilot mobility on-demand program operated by Humboldt Transit Authority. The on-demand service would be the first of its kind in Humboldt County with the potential to be continued and replicated within other rural communities with population densities too low to support a fixed-route transit system.

The NCTTC supports HCAOG's aims to improve transportation choices and reduce reliance on private vehicles for those already living in McKinleyville, improve transit options to accommodate growth in the area, facilitate infill housing, and affirmatively further fair housing goals by providing integrated housing opportunities for people with disabilities, seniors, college students, and visiting medical professionals.

The NCTTC strongly supports HCAOG's application for REAP 20 and we look forward to this project being implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacquie Hostler-Carmesin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jacquie Hostler-Carmesin, Trinidad Rancheria
Chairperson, North Coast Tribal Transportation Commission

July 17th, 2022

Humboldt Health Foundation

Community Health Grant

RE: Letter of Support for the **We Are Up Community Greenhouse** Application

There are grant applications that are "nice to's" and then there are grant applications that are vitally important to address a significant need in our community. The We Are Up Community Greenhouse application fits into this latter category.

It is rare to see a project that embraces community engagement as the foundation for meeting health and wellness needs of marginalized populations. This project brings together community partners to address issues of community concern including systemic barriers to health and wellness that, unfortunately, are too prevalent in our area.

As the former Deputy Superintendent of the Humboldt County Office of Education, I saw firsthand the benefits of operating a commercial size greenhouse to address the educational, self-esteem, job skill development and socialization needs of Community School students in Eureka, CA. With support from community partners, we built a 4,000+ sq. ft. commercial greenhouse at Redwood Acres where students work individually and together to grow, manage, produce, harvest and sell/distribute fresh fruit and vegetables. Our project, which is still in operation, was modeled after a very successful sheltered workshop in the Mid-West that served adults with intellectual, physical and social/emotional disabilities.

In addition to learning nutritional and healthy, life-long habits; students learned job skills, how to work together effectively and how to interact with diverse members in our community. Students' self-esteem, self-worth, feelings of belonging and confidence improved. I personally saw students who were initially hesitant and reserved, develop into effective sales people passionate about selling me lettuces, cucumbers and tomatoes. That brought a smile to my face.

Meeting the needs of marginalized populations in Humboldt County, including those with intellectual and social challenges, to assist them in becoming more



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548



Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of a proposal from We Are Up for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services.

As you may know We Are Up was established as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit in Humboldt County in early 2022 with a strategic vision of developing an inclusive, intergenerational community offering secure housing, income opportunities, and mutual support systems for people with and without disabilities.

The six-member Board of Directors brings passion, experience, deep community ties, and fundraising expertise to provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience a full life in the mainstream community. Grant funds will enable We Are Up to hire staff members to identify and implement evidence-based, best, or promising practices in employment supports and innovative strategies for job attainment, retention, and career advancements in competitive integrated employment.

On behalf of tribal families who are a part of the served community I am encouraging you to extend your support as We Are Up builds a foundation from which to leverage multi-sector public and private funding for program sustainability 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 where there is a dearth of helpful support.

Wok-hlew'

Abby Abinanit, Chief Judge Yurok Tribe

August 22, 2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of a proposal from We Are Up for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services that will quickly add capacity for We Are Up to begin serving the community.

I am asked to support community projects from time to time. *We Are Up rises to the top of my list of significant and life-changing projects.*

I am personally connected to families and friends who love, tend and support individuals who cannot live on their own. Their roles are "volunteer" and last their lifetime as care-givers and create worries and stress for the future of those who will outlive their family care. We Are UP will provide housing and safe place for people of all ages who need to live in a supportive environment.

We Are Up already has a centrally located, pristine site and designs for housing and shared community spaces for education, jobs and training, health, indoor and outdoor activities. Because of thoughtful planning and design, residents will live full, healthy and safe lives. The vision is clear and based in experience. Foundational planning has been set and is in place. The community is supportive.

Perhaps most importantly, this project will come to fruition one way or another. Mary Keehn, founder, has experience in business and non-profit leadership, and as a mother and grandmother. I can think of no other individual who can match her qualities and experience.

She has the unparalleled combination of vision and follow-through. One individual cannot complete this complex project without community, deep and broad support. Many have already stepped up. More will be needed.

Please consider We Are Up for any assistance available; they will leverage you support to give support. It will serve individuals and families now and into the future. I can't think of a better investment.

Very sincerely,

Julie Fulkerson

Business Owner, Past Mayor and County Supervisor

2614 L Street

Eureka, CA 95501

August 22, 2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Re: We Are Up

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

On behalf of the College of the Redwoods, I am writing in support of a proposal from We Are Up for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services.

We Are Up was established as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit in Humboldt County in early 2022 with a strategic vision of developing an inclusive, intergenerational community offering secure housing, income opportunities, and mutual support systems for people with and without disabilities.

The six-member Board of Directors brings passion, experience, deep community ties, and fundraising expertise to provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience a full life in the mainstream community. Grant funds will enable We Are Up to hire staff members to identify and implement evidence-based, best, or promising practices in employment supports and innovative strategies for job attainment, retention, and career advancements in competitive integrated employment.

We encourage your support as We Are Up builds a foundation from which to leverage multi-sector public and private funding for program sustainability and expansion. These services will help fill critical gaps in the continuum of care for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in this rural Northern California community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Keith Flamer, PhD
President/Superintendent



Redwood Coast Regional Center

Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

December 19, 2022

California Department of Housing & Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: We Are Up & HCAOG REAP 2.0 Grant Application

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

We are pleased to submit this letter in support of We Are Up and the Humboldt County Association of Governments' (HCAOG) request for a REAP 2.0 grant. Redwood Coast Regional Center is one of 21 locally-based nonprofit private corporations that contract with the State of California Department of Developmental Services to develop and coordinate community resources and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Redwood Coast Regional Center serves Californians who reside in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties.

We Are Up has a strategic vision which addresses multiple unmet needs in McKinleyville, California through the development of an inclusive, intergenerational, mixed income, community offering secure housing, income opportunities, and mutual support systems for people with and without disabilities. We Are Up has already secured 15 acres of land and plans to develop approximately 50 units of community-based housing located in close proximity to medical services, grocery stores, fitness, banking, restaurants, entertainment, and the bus line. The central location of the parcel We Are Up has obtained is of critical importance to residents who may be unable to drive, as is the case for most adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. We are enthusiastic about the partnership with HCAOG to improve transit choices throughout McKinleyville. A micro-transit system in McKinleyville would be a tremendous benefit to clients of Redwood Coast Regional Center.

The leadership of We Are Up has deep roots in Humboldt County and extensive experience in economic development and services/supports to people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. We have seen firsthand the ability, passion and experience the members of We Are Up's Board of Directors has to bring their vision to life. The project proposed by We Are Up is unique and highly innovative as it addresses both the lack of housing choices in Humboldt County as well as the need to improve economic opportunities so that all the residents can experience a full life in our community.

We encourage your support of We Are Up's infill housing and HCAOG's transportation improvement plans in McKinleyville. These services will help fill critical gaps in the housing and service options available to people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Humboldt County.

Please call or email if you have any questions or would like to discuss our support further. I can be reached at 707-445-0893 ext. 315 or by email at KSmalley@redwoodcoastrc.org.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kimberly Smalley, PhD, BCBA-D
Executive Director

✓ 525 2nd Street, Ste. 300 • Eureka, CA 95501 • (707) 445-0893

☐ 1116 Airport Park Blvd. • Ukiah, CA 95482 • (707) 462-3832

☐ 270 Chestnut St., Suite A • Fort Bragg, CA 95437 • (707) 964-6387

☐ 1301 Northcrest Dr. • Crescent City, CA 95531 • (707) 464-7488

☐ 180 3rd St., Lakeport, CA 95453 • (707) 262-0470

From: Lewis Litzky <lewlitzky@gmail.com>
Date: August 14, 2022 at 5:19:10 PM PDT
To: Mary Keehn <marykeehncg@gmail.com>
Subject: Letter of Support

Dear Mary:

This is in support of the We Are Up grant application to the Department of Developmental Services to hire two program managers.

I am thrilled to lend my support to We Are Up as it plans to build a much needed inclusive, inter-generational community that will offer secure housing, income opportunities and mutual support systems for adults with and without disabilities.

In an age of isolation and loneliness community matters. Connection to others and our community supports our mental health, our self-image and enriches our lives. We Are Up supports all of these needs.

I have made a cash donation to the project and will volunteer my services as needed.

Kind regards.

Lew Litzky
Former CPA
Community member
Current Treasurer of Food for People

August 22, 2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of a proposal from We Are Up for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services that will quickly add capacity for We Are Up to begin serving the community.

I am asked to endorse community projects from time to time, and I am happy to write this letter of support on behalf of the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) for the We Are Up project. It has the potential to bring significant and transformative positive change to our community.

I am personally connected to families and friends who love and care for individuals who cannot live on their own. We Are Up will provide housing and safe place for people of all ages who need to live in a supportive environment.

We Are Up already has a centrally located, pristine site and designs for housing and shared community spaces for education, jobs and training, health, indoor and outdoor activities. Because of thoughtful planning and design, residents will live full, healthy and safe lives. The vision is clear and based in experience. Foundational planning has been set and is in place. The community is supportive.

Mary Keehn, founder, has experience in business and non-profit leadership, as well as experience as a mother and grandmother. She is a driven and committed individual who has a track record of moving projects successfully from concept to full implementation; a rare find! One individual cannot complete this complex project without a community's deep and broad support. Many have already stepped up. More will be needed.

Please consider We Are Up for any assistance available; they will leverage your support to give support. We Are Up will serve individuals and families now and into the future. I can't think of a better investment.

Most sincerely,



[Michael Davies-Hughes \(Aug 22, 2022 15:54 PDT\)](#)

Michael Davies-Hughes



December 13, 2022
Beth Burke
Senior Consultant
Humboldt Association of Governments

Re: Letter of Support for Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grant Application by the Humboldt County Association of Governments.

Dear Beth Burke,

Dishgamu Humboldt is the Community Land Trust of the Wiyot Tribe, operating in what is known today as the Humboldt Bay Area of Northern California. We facilitate the return of Wiyot ancestral lands to Wiyot stewardship, putting land in trust for environmental and cultural restoration, regenerative economic development, and affordable housing creation. We call on native and non-native peoples to join us in healing the intergenerational trauma of settler-colonialism and reimagining our region's future in the face of environmental and social change. We support the Humboldt Association of Government's application for the REAP 2.0 grant for transforming transit choices throughout McKinleyville.

Dishgamu Humboldt is looking forward to working alongside the Humboldt County Association of Governments in building a greener more accessible McKinleyville. As a recipient of the Transformative Climate Community grant for planning climate smart affordable housing infill development in McKinleyville, Dishgamu Humboldt believes by working alongside HCAOG we can both increase the speed, resources, and outcomes of our resources.

Creating a micro-transit would offer on-demand in-town trips and connections to the intercity bus. It would be the first of its kind in Humboldt County and would inform how to replicate micro-transit in other areas that have a high potential for infill, yet not the population density for fixed-route transit. An improved transit system in McKinleyville will be highly needed as we work to create infill projects using the TCC grant funds. Dishgamu Humboldt would like to express its vigorous support for HCAOG's REAP 2.0 application to further transit options and create infill development in McKinleyville. For questions, please contact me at morgan@wiyot.us

Morgan March
Department Director
Dishgamu Humboldt Community Land Trust



August 21, 2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

I'm eager to show my support for We Are Up and their request for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services. I really believe in this project! I've known Mary Keehn, the visionary behind We Are Up, for nearly 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 searching for funds to bring her inspiring vision to life. Your grant will be used to hire key employees, employees who will set the tone for the entire endeavor. They will identify and implement evidence-based, best practices in employment supports and innovative strategies for job attainment, retention, and career advancements in competitive integrated employment.

Please throw your support behind We Are Up. Your grant 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

1330 Q STREET ARCATA, CA 95521



CYPRESSGROVECHEESE.COM

JARED HUFFMAN
2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, POWER, AND OCEANS – RANKING MEMBER
FEDERAL LANDS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0502

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1406 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225–5161
FAX: (202) 225–5163
WEBSITE: huffman.house.gov

December 19, 2022

Gustavo Velasquez, Director
California Department of Housing & Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Mr. Valasquez:

I am writing in support of We Are Up and the Humboldt County Association of Governments' (HCAOG) application for Regional Early Action Planning 2.0 (REAP) funds for an innovative housing and transit project in the northern part of my congressional district.

HCAOG and the non-profit We Are Up are working to develop in-fill housing and low-carbon transportation for people with disabilities, seniors, full-time university students, and visiting medical professionals. The partnership looks to take multi-faceted approach to reroute development trends in McKinleyville by implementing on-demand micro-transit that connects to intercity buses.

REAP funding will also help address Humboldt County's complete lack of accessible, supportive housing for adults with disabilities. We Are Up's mission is to build a diverse, inclusive, intergenerational community, offering secure housing, income opportunities and mutual support systems for adults with disabilities, seniors, students, and medical professionals. We Are Up owns a 15 acre property close to grocery, medical services, banking, restaurants, entertainment, fitness services, and the bus line, and is well positioned to make this project a reality and address a critical need for these services.

Please give HCAOG and We Are Up's REAP application your full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my staff John Driscoll at (707)407-3585.

Sincerely



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

SAN RAFAEL
999 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 290
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901
PHONE: (415) 258-9657
FAX: (415) 258-9913

PETALUMA
206 G STREET, #3
PETALUMA, CA 94952
PHONE: (707) 981-8967
FAX: (415) 258-9913

UKIAH
559 LOW GAP ROAD
UKIAH, CA 95482
PHONE & FAX: (707) 671-7449

FORT BRAGG
430 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET
P.O. Box 2208
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437
PHONE: (707) 962-0933
FAX: (707) 962-0905

EUREKA
317 THIRD STREET, SUITE 1
EUREKA, CA 95501
PHONE: (707) 407-3585
FAX: (707) 407-3559



Small Business Lending Center

AEDC provides loans and support to entrepreneurial, innovative business and community endeavors.
707 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501 707.798.6132 707.798.6130 fax www.aedc1.org

8/20/2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of a proposal from We Are Up for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services. This support will quickly add capacity for We Are Up to begin serving the community.

As a Community Development Finance Institution and an economic development lender, we are excited about all the new economic opportunity coming to our region, while at the same time, watching closely that our most vulnerable communities are not harmed as we experience growth. One of the biggest concerns is the rising cost and scarcity of housing. We Are UP is addressing this issue, while also providing the developmental support to help their residents to have a productive and safe community.

The vision of supportive services going beyond simple caregiving and moves into creating a sustainable community where the residents have food security right on site and workforce skills to allow for even more independence.

In our position, we are approached by people regularly with community development plans and projects. Few of those plans are as comprehensive and prepared as those we have seen from We Are UP. Mary Keehn, founder, has experience in business and non-profit leadership, and a personal passion that will assure she sees this through. In addition, she has brought on a team of supporters who have the skills, funding and relationships to help make sure her vision is met.

Please consider We Are Up for any assistance available; they will leverage you support to give support. It will serve individuals and families now and into the future. I can't think of a better investment.

Sincerely,

Ross Welch,
Executive Director





363 Indianola Road, Bayside, CA 95524
info@hafoundation.org
(707) 442-2993

August 23, 2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

The Humboldt Area/Wild Rivers Community Foundation is delighted to submit a letter of support for the We Are Up grant application to the Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services.

We Are Up is working quickly toward realizing a strategic vision of developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community offering secure housing, income opportunities, and mutual support systems for people with disabilities in far Northern California.

The Humboldt Area/Wild Rivers Community Foundation is in support of this project as it is very clearly in alignment with the Foundation's strategic priority areas of just economic development and thriving youth and families. We Are Up will offer meaningful opportunities for job skills training, employment and participation in just economic enterprise for and with adults on the autism spectrum, those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and seniors. There are very few opportunities like this for people with disabilities in our rural communities, which not only contributes to quality of life issues and decreases health outcomes for people with disabilities, but also adds stress to the families of people with disabilities.

We Are Up will help fill part of large social infrastructure gap with support of this grant, which creates a foundation from which to leverage additional multi-sector public and private funding for program sustainability and expansion. These services will help fill critical holes in the continuum of care for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our underserved, rural community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sara Dronkers

Sara Dronkers, Chief of Staff
Humboldt Area/Wild Rivers Community Foundation



Redwood Coast Regional Center

Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

August 18, 2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of a proposal from We Are Up for an Employment Grant from the California Department of Developmental Services.

We Are Up was established as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit in Humboldt County in early 2022 with a strategic vision which addresses multiple unmet needs in our community through the development of an inclusive, intergenerational community offering secure housing, income opportunities, and mutual support systems for people with and without disabilities. Although We Are Up is a new organization, the leadership has deep roots in Humboldt County and extensive experience in economic development and services/supports to people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

The six-member Board of Directors brings passion, experience, deep community ties, and fundraising expertise to provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience a full life in our community. The project proposed by We Are Up is unique and highly innovative. If awarded, these grant funds will enable We Are Up to hire staff members to develop and implement employment supports focused on innovative strategies for job attainment, retention, and career advancements in competitive integrated employment.

We encourage your support as We Are Up builds a foundation from which to leverage multi-sector public and private funding for program sustainability and expansion. These services will help fill critical gaps in the services available to people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Humboldt County.

Please call or email if you have any questions or would like to discuss our support further. I can be reached at 707-445-0893 ext. 348 or by email at sbraggs@redwoodcoastrc.org.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sierra Braggs
CMS Waiver & Employment Specialist Manager

Corporate Offices 525 - 2nd Street, Suite 300, Eureka, CA 95501 707-445-0893

Satellite offices:

□ 1116 Airport Park Blvd., Ukiah, CA 95482 707-462-3832 * □ 270 Chestnut St., Ste A, Ft Bragg, CA 95437 707-964-6387

□ 1301 A Northcrest Dr., Crescent City, CA 95531 707-464-7488 * □ 180 Third Street., Lakeport, CA 95453 707-262-0470

- Administration, Finance,
and Human Resources
1275 Eighth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 826-8633
- Billing
1385 Eighth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 826-8642

Burre Dental Center
Mobile Dental Services
959 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501

Del Norte Community
Health Center
550 East Washington Boulevard
Crescent City, CA 95531

Eureka Community
Health & Wellness Center
2200 Tydd Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Ferndale Community
Health Center
638 Main Street (PO Box 1157)
Ferndale, CA 95536

Fortuna Community
Health Center
3750 Rohnerville Road
Fortuna, CA 95540

Humboldt Open Door Clinic
770 Tenth Street
Arcata, CA 95521

McKinleyville Community
Health Center
1644 Central Avenue
McKinleyville, CA 95519

Mobile Health Services /
Telehealth & Visiting
Specialists Center
2426 Buhne Street
Eureka, CA 95501

NorthCountry Clinic
785 18th Street
Arcata, CA 95521

NorthCountry Prenatal Services
3800 Janes Road, Suite 101
Arcata, CA 95521

Open Door Downtown
622 H Street,
Eureka, CA 95501

Open Door Gynecology Services
3770 Janes Road,
Arcata, CA 95521

Redwood Community
Health Center
2350 Buhne Street, Suites A & C
Eureka, CA 95501

Willow Creek Community
Health Center
38883 Highway 299
Willow Creek, CA 95573

Member Services
550 E Washington Blvd, Suite 100
Crescent City, CA 95531

963 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501

August 16, 2022

Dear Department of Developmental Services,

I am writing this letter in support of the We Are Up organization's application for funding support of our proposed project.

Please allow me to share with you my connection to We Are Up (WAU) and why I decided to contribute my time and expertise to the organization.

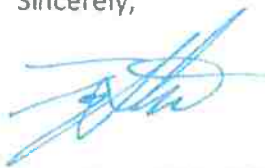
I have recently joined the WAU Board after being introduced to the founder Mary Keehn. Being the President of Open Door Community Health Centers, the largest provider of primary care services in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, I am intimately aware of the challenges of community in promoting and maintaining the health and wellbeing of our citizens. I am also very thoughtful how and where I dedicate my time, knowledge and energy outside of the responsibilities of leading a company with over 700 employees serving more than 60,000 patients and their families a year. After learning of We Are Up's vision of building a sustainable, intergenerational community dedicated to promoting self-sufficiency in persons with autism and other disabilities, I realized that this was a journey that I would enjoy and be worth the commitment of my time.

I have been a nurse for almost 40 years and a leader within the healthcare industry for more than three decades. This experience has provided me with the knowledge of what programs and endeavors are most suited for long term success in serving both individual and community needs. We Are Up meets the criteria for creating a viable, long term solution to a difficult and often vexing problem for families and caregivers of people with autism and other cognitive disabilities. The project has already secured the property, started initial design planning and is ready for the next step in development of the community.

I am sure that when the project is completed and the intergenerational, supportive community is established, we will be grateful and proud as a larger North Coast community of how we're able to accomplish the creation of such a vital alternative to the current state of limited options.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my support and my reasons for being part of such a wonderful organization.

Sincerely,



Tory Starr, MSN, PHN, RN
President/Executive Officer
Open Door Community Health Centers

December 20, 2022

California Department of Housing & Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: We Are Up & HCAOG REAP 2.0 Grant Application

Dear Grant Review Committee Members,

I joined the We Are Up Board after being introduced to the founder Mary Keehn. Being the President of Open Door Community Health Centers, the largest provider of primary care services in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, I am intimately aware of the challenges of community in promoting and maintaining the health and wellbeing of our citizens. I am also very thoughtful about how and where I dedicate my time, knowledge and energy outside of the responsibilities of leading a company with over 700 employees serving more than 60,000 patients and their families a year. After learning of We Are Up's vision of building a sustainable, intergenerational community dedicated to promoting self-sufficiency in persons with autism and other disabilities, I realized that this was a journey that would be worth the commitment of my time.

I have been a nurse for almost 40 years and a leader within the healthcare industry for more than three decades. This experience has provided me with the knowledge of what programs and endeavors are most suited for long term success in serving both individual and community needs. We Are Up meets the criteria for creating a viable, long-term solution to a difficult and often vexing problem for families and caregivers of people with autism and other cognitive disabilities. The project has already secured the property, started initial design planning and would benefit greatly with support in initial infrastructure so that it will be a truly shovel-ready project.

Open Door has done an assessment of our staff, and the lack affordable housing is negatively impacting 65% of our team in one form or another. Our ability to recruit physicians and other clinical staff to our area is being significantly impacted by our housing crisis. We recognize the potential long-term problems we will incur as a community with our able to recruit and retain staff due to the housing shortage.

The REAP grant will also support transforming transit options throughout McKinleyville by piloting a program for on-demand micro transit. McKinleyville is a fast-growing unincorporated community. Our staff must drive to work because presently the public transportation is infrequent and tight schedules are not conducive to the long waits.

The innovation of HCAOG and We Are Up working together to improve housing and transportation is as rare as the universal support we are hearing for both projects. I appreciate the opportunity to share my support and my reasons for being part of such an important collaboration.

Sincerely,



Tory Starr, MSN, PHN, RN
President/Executive Officer
Open Door Community Health Centers

- Administration, Finance, and Human Resources
1275 Eighth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 826-8633
- Billing
1385 Eighth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 826-8642
- Burre Dental Center
Mobile Dental Services
959 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501
- Del Norte Community Health Center
550 East Washington Boulevard
Crescent City, CA 95531
- Eureka Community Health & Wellness Center
2200 Tydd Street
Eureka, CA 95501
- Ferndale Community Health Center
638 Main Street (PO Box 1157)
Ferndale, CA 95536
- Fortuna Community Health Center
3750 Rohnerville Road
Fortuna, CA 95540
- Humboldt Open Door Clinic
770 Tenth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
- McKinleyville Community Health Center
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McKinleyville, CA 95519
- Mobile Health Services / Telehealth & Visiting Specialists Center
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Eureka, CA 95501
- NorthCountry Clinic
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- NorthCountry Prenatal Services
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- Open Door Downtown
622 H Street,
Eureka, CA 95501
- Open Door Gynecology Services
3770 Janes Road,
Arcata, CA 95521
- Redwood Community Health Center
2350 Buhne Street, Suites A & C
Eureka, CA 95501
- Willow Creek Community Health Center
38883 Highway 299
Willow Creek, CA 95573
- Member Services
550 E Washington Blvd, Suite 100
Crescent City, CA 95531
963 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501

August 23, 2022

Grant Review Committee
Employment Grants, CA Department of Developmental Services
P.O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Grant Review Committee members:

I am writing in support of the *We Are Up* grant application.

For the last twelve years I have been a faculty and Leadership Team member of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Cal Poly Humboldt, a national program of 125 institutes across the nation. Thriving locally since 2005, this program is based on the belief that learning should never end.

It is with this focus and experience that I whole heartedly endorse the innovative model *We Are Up* is proposing. It would benefit local OLLI members in so many different and valuable ways. They would have purpose, recreation, and perhaps most important of all, social connection. (Eliminating isolation in this vulnerable population has been recognized as a major public health concern.)

Not only would OLLI members be likely candidates for the housing program of *We Are Up*, but OLLI classes and programs would be welcomed at the planned community center. (Since transportation can be an obstacle for the elderly, OLLI staff is always looking for different locations to better serve their members.) Additionally, having OLLI classes in the community center would also provide a revenue source for *We Are Up*.

In all of the teaching I've done throughout my career, I have found OLLI students to be the most enjoyable. Generally, they are inquisitive and motivated to expand their life experiences and circumstances. A curious group, they often possess an energy for new and innovative experiences. Many of them are also on the look out for opportunities to give back to the community. It is because of these qualities that I believe OLLI and *We Are Up* would be a truly remarkable match for every one involved!

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Tracey Barnes-Priestley, M.A.
Faculty/Leadership Team Member
OLLI, Cal Poly Humboldt



April 24, 2023

Desmond Johnston,
Senior Planner County of Humboldt Planning and
Building Department Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

Please receive and accept the enclosed letters of support that have been written in favor of the project proposed by We Are Up, a 501c3, to be located at 144-146 Weirup in McKinleyville

Rather than ask for duplication of efforts from many, including public officials and other community leaders, those prior letters of support for the project have been attached to the letter of support submitted by Board member, Tory Starr, President/Executive Director of Open Door Community Health Centers.

Additionally, in a separate envelope, there are letters of support written by business leaders and owners, parents and grandparents of individuals with special needs, seniors and some in the community who support for a variety of other reasons.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Keehn, President
We Are Up
Mary@weareup.org
707-362-1111

Letters of Support for We Are Up Submitted to Humboldt County Planning and Building Department



1. Advanced Security
2. Arnot, Emily
3. Bettendorf Enterprises
4. Bice, Jennifer
5. B Plus Ventures
6. Brown, Erin
7. Budwig, Jennifer
8. Christian, Michael and Donvieve
9. Coffman, Teresa, and Kurt
10. Crowell, Jamie, and Paulette
11. Cypress Grove Cheese
12. Daw, Robin
13. Express Personnel
14. Fieldbrook Winery
15. Far Northern Regional Center
16. Garlick Esq., Jason
17. Hankes, Nathan
18. Hunter, Hunter, and Hunt
19. Jordan, Charlie
20. Kanzler, Patrick
21. Keehn, Mary
22. Kind Nerds Inc
23. Kinetic Coffee
24. Konnersman, Jolene
25. Lewisky, Lew
26. Life Plan Humboldt
27. Lima, Claudia
28. Lima, Allyson
29. McCleary, Dianne and Dick

30. McFarland, Carol
31. McLain, Kate
32. M's Properties
33. O & M Industries
34. O'Hern, Michael and Deborah
35. O'Mera, Sharon
36. O'Mera, Steve
37. Parthenon Construction
38. Perrett, Stephanie
39. Quinby, Lucy
40. RCRA Moxon, Kathy
41. Redwood Community Pharmacy
42. Regional center, Larson, Laura
43. Riche, Carole
44. Shannon – Finn, Kathleen
45. State DD Service, Keehn Robin
46. State Farm, Heather Vina
47. Stone, Kathleen
48. Wolf, Len, and Robin





ADVANCED SECURITY SYSTEMS

1336 4th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Phone 707-443-6366 | Fax 707-443-6377 | Toll Free 877-443-6366

www.advancedsecurity.us

April 17, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Advanced Security Systems, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at chuck@advancedsecurity.us or 707-443-6366.

Sincerely,

Chuck Petrusha
President/CEO
Advanced Security Systems

"Delivering Peace of Mind"

Crescent City - Eureka - Santa Rosa

Alarm Lic #ACO2883, CA Cont 527700, OR Cont 144207

A Division of Petrusha Enterprises, Inc.



Emily Arents, CHM, RJE (ret.)
1007 Beverly Way
Arcata, CA 95521

April 10, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project,"
SCM# 202203707 and PSN# 2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of 3 of my grand- and great-grandchildren, all of whom have been born and live in Humboldt County, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 15.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at emily1@weareup.com or 707-825-6711.

Sincerely,



Emily Arents



**BETTENDORF ENTERPRISES, INC.
ARCATA DIVISION**

P.O. Box 4689
Arcata, CA 95518-4689
(707) 822-8271
Fax (707) 822-0522

April 6, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Bettendorf Trucking, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and

CORPORATE ADDRESS: 4545 West End Rd - P.O. Box 4689 - Arcata, CA 95518-4689
Office (707) 822-8271 Fax (707) 822-0522
<http://bettendorfftrucking.com>

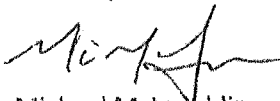
temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at mmclaughlin@bettendorftrucking.com or 707-822-8271.

Sincerely,



Michael McLaughlin
President
Bettendorf Trucking

April 12, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Dept.
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for
"We Are Up Project", SCH #202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am writing this letter in support of the **We Are Up** community project planned for McKinleyville.

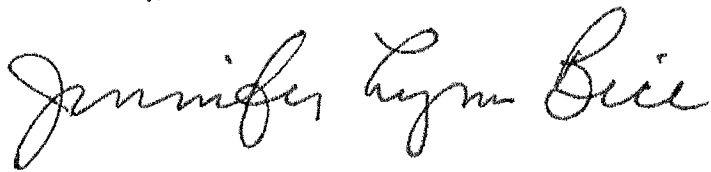
There is a great need for this community project as it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. **We Are Up** would benefit adults with disabilities and seniors by developing an inclusive and intergenerational residential community with economic development. Support for adults on the autism spectrum, those with physical/intellectual/developmental disabilities, seniors or students pursuing studies in related fields, or even temporary or relocating medical staff. This model will integrate people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests to create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the **We Are Up** project includes a range of other benefits such as a community center, greenhouse, community kitchen, gardens and orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. Leaving 2/3 of the land undeveloped allows access to nature and promotes land conservation while allowing space for the continuation of the site's historic agricultural use.

The close proximity to necessary services such as health care, banking, bus line and grocery stores will be beneficial to those living at the We Are Up project.

There is a shortage of projects like **We Are Up** in all communities around the state and I strongly support this project for the diversity and benefits it will provide to some of our most vulnerable citizens. With the support **We Are Up** has garnered, I see this project as a model for an inclusive and intergenerational residential community in Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Lynn Bice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Lynn Bice, Owner
Redwood Hill Farm
707-478-7371
jennifer@redwoodhillfarm.org

4/6/2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. I am a local business consultant and healthcare executive, and a psychologist, and have been closely following the work of We Are Up given its critical mission. We Are Up is a vital project for our community. The We Are Up team has kept our community informed and engaged with their mission and plans, and I have seen a diverse range of local supporters. I strongly support this project and the many benefits it brings to our community.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

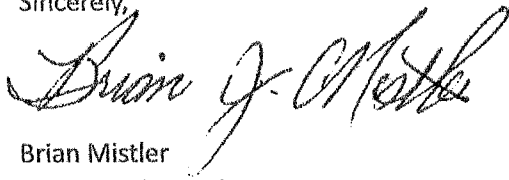
In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

5

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at drmistler@outlook.com or 804.372.7426.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Mistler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Brian Mistler
Owner and Coordinator
BPLUS VENTURES LLC



Erin Brown
Office Manager/Agent

1631 Sutter Rd.
McKinleyville, CA 95519
Bus 707.839.3267 Fax 707.839.1785
erin.brown.tauj@statefarm.com
MySFAgentHeather.com
License # - CA 0H95204

April 8, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of myself as owner of Heather Vina State Farm, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. My office is located in close proximity to the site. I have always been active in my community to support projects that can help our citizens grow and thrive. Not only am I a strong supporter and very involved in the future of this project, but I am excited to have such a valuable addition to your community.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 707-839-3267.

Sincerely,

Erin Brown

Erin Brown

April 10, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. I have been talking with Mary Keehn about this project for several months and am so excited she is bringing a much needed service to this area. We are so fortunate to have someone with her vision, drive, resources and determination to spearhead such an incredible asset to our community.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Jbudwig@rdwo.com or (707) 444-9817.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Budwig

April 7, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Michael Christian and Donvieve Udell, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. As co-founder of American Hydroponics, committed to localizing food production world wide, We Are Up is very much aligned with the same mission.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

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spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at michaelinarcata@gmail.com or 707-834-1991.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Teresa & Kurt Coffman
1698 Bella Vista Rd.
McKinleyville, CA 95519

April 6th, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of my husband Kurt Coffman and myself, I am enthusiastically writing this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. After teaching middle school for 30 years, I have had the pleasure of teaching so many students on the autism spectrum. I celebrate the unique contributions of these students and care for them deeply. I have spoken to families who worry about what will happen to their loved one when they pass away as there is a lack of housing and support for those with a disability. The mission of We Are Up, once realized, will hopefully serve as a model community for other counties in California and beyond. Humboldt County will be leading the way.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

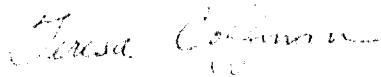
In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and

many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at teresa.coffman@verizon.net or 805-341-0733.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Coffman".

Teresa Coffman
Retired Teacher

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

April 24, 2023

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

This letter is being written in support of the *We Are Up* community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for *We Are Up* in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from *We Are Up* include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

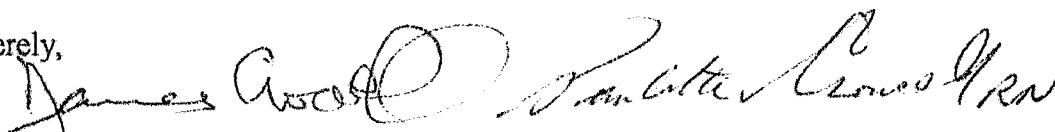
McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). *We Are Up* aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, *We Are Up* will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the *We Are Up* Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as *We Are Up* has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. We see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The *We Are Up* Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact us at jcrowell@reninet.com or 707-839-0958

Sincerely,


James and Paulette Crowell



April 10, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are UpProject"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Cypress Grove, I am pleased to add our support to the We Are Up project. We know the value of community-focused thinking and are proud to employ over 70 employees at our company, providing them with living wages, pride in work and stability for themselves and their families.

Like nearly all organizations in Humboldt, several of our employees have a family member who'd greatly benefit from Mary Keehn's vision for meaningful group living. In fact, once you start paying attention, it seems nearly everyone has someone in their family or extended family with a special need that requires better living options.

As I'm sure you are aware, there is a great need for We Are Up in our community. I'm hopeful that you won't let bureaucratic hurdles or siloed thinking hold you back from throwing your support behind this innovative plan. We must try fresh ideas! This one feels a very good bet. And think of the upside, not just to the individuals who will live here, but to Humboldt and, maybe, to other communities who might then "steal with pride" this novel concept.

I urge you to take the leap of faith to help get this project off the ground. The pandemic showed us that if we want/need to, we can change quickly and pivot to new, untested methods. Let's please keep some of that original thinking and move this project forward. Mary already has a thriving, successful company to her credit. Let's add one more brilliant idea to her string of successes....and help those among us who need us the most.

Sincerely,

Pamela Dressler
President and Managing Director

April 10, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,
Please allow me to share the letter I wrote to Mary at We Are Up:

I can't tell you how happy and excited I am about the We Are Up project. We have an adult son, Jonathan who has autism. He is 25 years old now and we are both 69. When Jon was younger I had a dream that by the time he was an adult we might have a small farm for him to work with us on. He loves being outside and being with animals. Presently he is going to Butler Valley on the weekends to help take care of the animals and work in the green houses and outside in the gardens. I had dreams of having enough room to add 4 or 5 others with disabilities. At any rate, life happened and we were never able to pursue my dream for Jonathan.

I was so amazed when I first heard about We Are Up--it's everything I dreamed about and more. I hadn't thought of the intergenerational community aspect. So excited! Like many aging parents with autistic or disabled adult kids, I worry alot about what will happen with Jonathan if we are not around to care for him. He has older siblings but, you know, they all have busy lives and families. It would mean so much to me to know that Jon was in a place that suited him, gave him meaningful work to do and supported him as a community.

I don't know what the future holds but I do want to support this vision as much as I can financially and I hope to be able to volunteer in some capacity as time goes on. Even if this never worked out for Jonathan, I am still committed for others. I know how deeply a community like this is needed.

Thanks Mary, for carrying the vision forward. You have our support and prayers,
Blessings, Robin Daw

Thank you for supporting this project,

Robin


Robin Daw

April 10, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt
Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Express Employment Professionals, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. I have an interesting perspective. I spent 13 years working in the developmental disabilities field with very vulnerable people who will need lifelong supports for daily living. I'm currently the owner of a staffing agency in the Humboldt County area, I see firsthand the struggles of finding suitable housing and community resources for some of our most vulnerable populations. I believe that the We Are Up project will provide much-needed support for these individuals and create a more inclusive community.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

I am impressed by the scope of the We Are Up project, which aims to develop an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.


In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life

will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. It also minimizes impact to neighbors. I strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

My support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept me informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters. This is just the type of project that is needed to bring our community together!

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. I believe that this project will provide much-needed support to some of our most vulnerable populations, while also creating a more inclusive and diverse community. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at shelley.nilsen@expresspros.com or 707.268.1866.

Sincerely,



Shelley Nilsen, MSW
Owner

April 12, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I was there at my grandson Max's birth and again a few months later. But when I returned at 6 months to visit him, it was obvious this was more than a fussy baby.

Max would not look at me. Smiling was out of the question. He stiffened his entire body when I picked him up. He would not cuddle. He would not let me read him a book on the couch. He became inconsolable when he was agitated or upset. There was only one thing that worked for me and eventually calmed him at 6 months of age at night. Walking around the room, bouncing him and singing the ABCs over and over and over again -- until his crying subsided and he collapsed from exhaustion. There was no other song that worked. As a toddler, we had to physically lock him down in a highchair to feed him. He only ate two things -- an oatmeal gruel with banana and honey blended. No banana lumps allowed. And finally, Stauffer's lasagna for lunch and dinner cut into the tiniest of pieces every day. His parents eventually were able to add items to his diet by age 6 or 8 and his list was up to 12 -- Cheerios, Kraft's Macaroni and Cheese and square Triscuits. Not the triangles. And only McDonald's fries would do. I once was desperate and snuck Burger King fries into a McDonald's red box. He wouldn't touch them.

Today Max is a strapping 6-foot, 15-year-old boy and talks with a very deep, mechanical voice. He now eats like a teenager. When we are out and about, I rarely have to explain to people that Max is autistic. He's very sweet. Kind. He jumps when he's happy and flaps his hands, which is often. He's supersmart. He's a wiz at math and knows all three Japanese alphabets, every country and capital in the world and every flag. He plays a mean Bach on the piano.

Yes. My support for We Are Up is very selfish, I know. The truth is at this point, Max may never live there because his parents have other ideas. But I fully understand the need for adult housing for all the other Maxs in the world.

I will continue to financially support We Are Up in the coming years if not for Max, then for all the other Maxs. I hope you will, too.

Judy Hodgson

Grandmother

LAURA LARSON

3875 Echo Mountain Road
Butte Valley, CA 95965 | llarsons@gmail.com

April 10th, 2023

Desmond Johnson
Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Desmond Johnson:

My name is Laura Larson, I am the retired Executive Director of Far Northern Regional Center, a position I held for 23 years, leaving in 2019. Far Northern, as does Redwood Coast Regional Center, (and 19 other California regional centers) provides lifelong comprehensive supports for people with developmental disabilities. The nine rural counties served by Far Northern are contiguous to Humboldt County, and Del Norte counties.

Regional Centers are responsible for working with the community to develop the supports and services that are needed throughout the lifetime of one of our clients. As our young clients leave school and enter the adult world, housing and employment become the greatest challenge. When appropriate housing cannot be found, young adults continue to live at home with aging parents with no plan in place for a different life. Critical developmental years are lost.

Developing a residential care facility is not difficult, but that type of living is not what most people want. They want a place to live that is not segregated from but integrated with other community members, a place where their gifts can be shared with others. A place of community connection, belonging, respect, and reciprocity given based on each person's strengths and interests.

Such a carefully designed development is what We Are Up seeks approval for. An integrated, designed community for seniors, folks with developmental disabilities and other members of McKinleyville and Humboldt who are attracted to what WE ARE UP will offer in terms of connection, community and living with a daily dose of beauty.

I am retired now, but I am serving on the Board of We Are Up because I know how deeply such a project is needed and I wish to help in any way that I can. Please contact me via my email address llarsons@gmail.com or phone me at 530.966.7804 if you have any questions about how services would be delivered to someone who might need them.

I fully support a place to live that is well planned out, where someone can age in place, be connected and contribute fully to their community. I lend my support to this project.

Sincerely,

Laura Larson
Past Executive Director of
Far Northern Regional Center and
Past Employee of the State Council on
Developmental Disabilities, Ukiah Office

JASON M. GARLICK
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1805 CENTRAL AVENUE
MCKINLEYVILLE, CALIFORNIA, 95519
TEL: (707) 840-0909
FAX: (707) 840-0979
EMAIL: JGARLICK@GARLICKLAW.COM

April 11, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of my legal practice and Shark Hill Properties LLC, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. As an estate planning attorney who works every day with elderly clients, it is clear that there is a desperate need for what We Are Up is looking to bring to our community.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at jgarlick@garlicklaw.com or 707-840-0909.

Sincerely,



Jason Garlick

Attorney At Law

President, Shark Hill Properties LLC

04/12/2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. I own a home not too far from the We Are Up property, so I believe my opinion should be considered in this decision.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population.

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. I strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

I am continually amazed at the ability of the team at We Are Up to reach their goals. The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at nbhankes@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Nathan Hanks

Hunter, Hunter & Hunt, LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Members of the AICPA

2662 Harris Street
Eureka, California 95503

Phone 707-476-0674
Fax 707-476-0675
www.hhl-cpa.com

April 8, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Hunter, Hunter & Hunt, Certified Public Accountants, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Having had the opportunity to work with many local families with disabled family members, I understand the unserved need in our community.

We Are Up addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

I also have had the pleasure of working with Mary Keehn for over 20 years and know she has the ability to assemble the team to make this dream a reality. If ever there has been a project that deserves special handling, this is it. I believe this is an opportunity for Humboldt County to set an example for how other communities can address this all-too-common unserved need.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at scott@hhh-cpa.com or on my direct line 707-267-7379.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott E. Hunt".

Scott E. Hunt, CPA/ABV
Managing Partner

Charlie Jordan
1768 Charles Avenue
Arcata, CA 95521

April 6, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of our family, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. My son, Kevin Ebbert was the local Navy SEAL medic who lost his life in Afghanistan. He was on his way to become a doctor. His vision and desire were to help provide access to medical care to those populations who are underserved in our community. To that end, the family has pledged 100% Kevin's memorial fund (currently at Humboldt Area Foundation), and continued fundraising efforts, to We Are Up. Additionally, my daughter, Samantha, lives with a mental illness. While she functions highly for one inflicted with this disease, she requires support. As I age, my concern is where will she receive this support? We Are Up could be part of the solution.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

Page 2

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and We strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at charlie.jordan1@gmail.com or 707-616-5916.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Jordan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charlie Jordan
She/Her
Mom

04-06-2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Mr. Johnston,

I am a McKinleyville property owner and owner of the locally based business, Solstice Agriculture. I support the project referenced above. The We Are Up Project is highly needed in Humboldt and specifically McKinleyville. This project will help many vulnerable members of our community with housing and support. The specific groups they intend to work with are in desperate need of these resources. The spectrum of assistance this team wants to bring to town is impressive. Anyone would be hard pressed to disagree.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at patrick@solsticeag.com or 707-599-9197

Sincerely,



Patrick Kanzler
Solstice Agriculture

April 18, 2030

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501



RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated
Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of We Are Up and myself, a 75-year-old grandparent and guardian of my 15-year-old granddaughter who has Autism (ASD), I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. I did not expect to find myself in this caregiver position but almost five years ago I stepped into the role and began to embrace all it entails. I began to realize that housing alone would not keep my granddaughter safe or allow her to thrive in all the ways she is capable of. Five years ago, she could not shower alone, put a cup of tea in the microwave, or do many other things many 10-year-olds can often accomplish. With proper supports she has learned to bake, handle all her personal care needs, and even ride a bicycle.

She has learned because, for five years, we have formed a community of care to broaden her life experiences. Working with family and professionals, providing enriching activities, she has blossomed. I began wondering what her fate will be when I am no longer able to coordinate her care and provide the structure that has allowed her to thrive. Housing alone would not provide her with the oversight she needs to thrive. As I searched for options, I found there is no housing with wrap around services available in Humboldt County. Families are forced to solve this problem alone and it is daunting! Many of us have joined forces and dedicated the past two years of our lives to trying to bring We Are Up to life. We are not developers but **families** who are trying to provide care for our loved ones and others in the community who will suffer and become a burden on society without proper supports.

Many are unaware of the difficulty families face when trying to find the needed supportive care for their loved ones with autism and other intellectual disabilities (I/DD). It is isolating and expensive. This infill project, with wrap around services, an intergenerational focus including seniors, students, and medical professionals, will lower costs for two underserved, higher needs populations while providing better outcomes for its future residents. With access to community amenities within walking distance including grocery store, health clinic, pharmacy, bank, movie theater, restaurants, and bus line, our residents who may not be able to drive, will have the opportunity to be part of the community and lead full, meaningful lives. We already see community being built across economic and political divides.

Mail: 4535 Fieldbrook Rd., McKinleyville, CA 95519 • Email: hello@weareup.org • Phone: 707-362-1111

We Are Up supporters have begun to create a community that has put its differences aside to find a wholistic way to care for these underserved groups who are often left out of equity discussions.

The project will not only care for its residents, but invite the greater community to join in activities that will make a difference in how we all can relate to differences. Our plan allows us to create about 50 units of much needed housing, a community center as a uniting, gathering, and educational space for residents and the community at large. We have already begun creating an agricultural component with our orchard that, when fully implemented, will provide healthy food, meaningful activities, and connection for future residents and others. A bond with students in 4 H and FFA will teach our youth how to support difference while continuing the long history agricultural activities on the property. All this is possible while keeping over **80%** of the property as open space as a community benefit.

We see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together. The project has, to date, been 100% managed by volunteers and funded by donations. The We Are Up Project meets critical housing and community needs in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Mary@weareup.org or 707-362-1111.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Keehn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mary Keehn
President, We Are Up
McKinleyville, CA

4/6/23

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Kind Nerds Inc, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

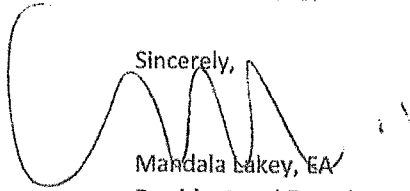
In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing

group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at mlakey.ea@gmail.com or 707-822-2616.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mandala Lakey', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Mandala Lakey, EA
President and Founder
Kind Nerds Inc
109 H St
Arcata, CA 95521



April 6, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Kinetic Koffee I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Kinetic Koffee holds as one of its values, to support local non profits that improve our community and the quality of life.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote

550 South G Street #19 ** Arcata, CA 95521
O = 707-825-9417 ** 877-825-8417
Sales@Kinetic-Koffee.com

Page 2

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division

farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and We strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at charlie@kinetic-koffee.com or 707-616-5916.

Sincerely,



Charlie Jordan
She/Her
Owner/ Managing Partner
Kinetic Koffee Co., Inc.

April 22, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Since late 2021, I have been actively involved as a Board Member and Secretary of We Are Up. In that short amount of time, We Are Up has accomplished a tremendous amount and has garnered strong, nearly universal community support for this innovative project.

We Are Up was established as a nonprofit in September 2021 with a strategic vision of developing a community where residents of all ages, abilities and incomes will support each other with the support of the wider community. The innovative, integrated housing model will include adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, seniors, and full-time students. The site will also offer temporary housing for visiting or relocating medical professionals to help address chronic healthcare workforce shortages often attributed to the lack of housing in our rural community.

By clustering the 50 units of housing in the northwest corner of the property and building on just 2.95 of the 15.44 acres, We Are Up will maintain the natural resources on over 80% of the remaining acreage, including a creek and wetlands where animal and plant species will continue to thrive. Another environmental benefit of the project is the anticipated reduction of vehicle miles driven given the site's close proximity to grocery, pharmacy, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life.

I support this project because of the tremendous need for supportive housing in Humboldt County, where almost none exists. I also support it because of the care and thoughtfulness with which We Are Up has approached the planning and layout of the community so as to minimize disruption to the natural features of the land. It is this balance that makes the We Are Up project so unique – it simultaneously meets the undisputed need to provide housing and support for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations, while preserving open spaces and the status quo on the vast majority of the land.

I also support We Are Up's plan to build a commercial greenhouse, garden space, an orchard and shelters or pens for livestock. These features will have many community benefits, including promoting farm-to-table food production, contributing to the economic development of the surrounding community, and providing employment opportunities for residents. It is also important to remember

that the use of this land for these purposes is nothing new, but rather continues the historic agricultural uses of the site.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support the We Are Up project and urge you to accept it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at jkonnorsman@yahoo.com or 310-463-0393.

Sincerely,



Jolene Konnersman
Board Member and Secretary
We Are Up

April 7, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of myself, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at lewlitzky@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Lew Litzky



Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Life Plan Humboldt, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Life Plan Humboldt is a nonprofit formed to build and operate a senior life plan community. We plan to develop 144 residences in the McKinleyville town center and are looking forward to a cooperative relationship with We Are Up. For example, we are working together with Timber Ridge and Open Door Community Health Centers to improve geriatric health care services in McKinleyville, a mutual concern.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. We Are Up will create an inclusive, intergenerational residential community, supporting job training and employment for adults on the autism spectrum and those with disabilities. We Are Up campus will include a community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen and an orchard, providing access to healthy food and potential source of income. Life Plan Humboldt strongly supports this diverse offering of benefits to the community,

Sincerely,

Ann Lindsay
President, Life Plan Humboldt

April 11, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of our family, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

Our son, Christopher, is 26 years old with Downs Syndrome. Christopher is currently living at home with his parents. One of our largest concerns is where will Christopher go when our time on earth is through. We have looked at facilities out of the area, but his home is in Humboldt County.

The We Are Up project is a dream come true for us. The inclusive community, open space and accessibility to groceries, health care, gym and other needs of daily life is the perfect scenario for any individual with developmental disabilities, and aging seniors. All of which this project will support. The peace of mind knowing this could be happening here in Humboldt, is indescribable.

We are very excited about this project and all the opportunities that it will provide Christopher, and his peers. As the former director of Humboldt County Special Olympics, member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and community member of Cal Poly Humboldt Adaptive PE program, I can assure you that this is a much-needed project and long overdue.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Claudia Lima
535 Cedar Hill Lane
Arcata, CA 95521
707.498.1324
claudiajlima@gmail.com

April 13, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of my nephew, Christopher Lima. I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Christopher was born with Down's Syndrome. Now an adult, he needs access to housing close to home. We Are Up is a dream come true for Christopher and many others. We Are Up is a healthy model for vital services locally and deserves full support.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

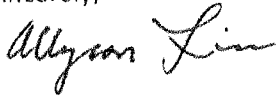
McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at allyson@weareup.org or by phone: 202-740-6852.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allyson Lima".

Allyson Lima

April 11, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

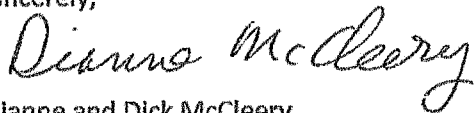
Dear Mr. Johnston,

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Although we don't live in Humboldt County, we have relatives that do, and Dick received his bachelor's from Humboldt State.

There is a great need for such a community like We Are Up because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. Since we have a disabled grandson, we recognize the need for such communities.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need, and we strongly support it. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact us at deemcc101@gmail.com or 209-331-3703 (Dianne) or back40sys@gmail.com or 209-781-3191 (Dick).

Sincerely,



Dianne and Dick McCleery
PO Box 157
Ione, CA 95640

April 6, 2023

TO: Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
Humboldt Co. Planning and Building Department, Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

As the aging parent of a disabled adult child, I learned about Mary Keehn's remarkable We Are Up project several months ago, and breathed a sign of relief knowing that such an opportunity would soon be coming to life here in Humboldt County. Ms. Keehn describes the project as follows:

"There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together."

I agree with Ms. Keehn, that "the We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County," and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at cmfarl@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Carol McFarland
1983 Foster Ave.

April 10, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

As a senior and as a resident of McKinleyville, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up Project planned for our community.

We desperately need WeAreUp in our county. The Project addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from WeAreUp include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

It will be wonderful for WeAreUp to be able to create a diverse and thriving community here in McKinleyville. Right now we have no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). WeAreUp aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. For people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff, the project will integrate people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests.

I would be thrilled to also have WeAreUp benefit our larger community of McKinleyville. Because the site is close proximity to grocery stores, health care resources, banks, public transportation, many of the residents will not need the use of automobiles. In addition, it would be a joy a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens would provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and provides space for a healthy balance of human and non human relationships.

My support for the project has grown as WeAreUp has kept me informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I am experiencing a strong, diverse group of supporters here for WeAreUp and I believe this project is most needed to help develop and bring our McKinleyville community together.

The WeAreUp Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at katemcclain1@gmail.com or 707 496-0865.

Sincerely,

Kate McClain
McKinleyville resident

April 18, 2030

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

We are very much looking forward to having We Are Up as our neighbors. We own the property that borders We Are Up on the southwest corner by their existing apple orchard and proposed greenhouse. I am a current board member of the organization and serve as Treasurer. As the aunt of a teen with special needs, I am very aware of the challenges faced by families. All aspects of a family's life are challenged when there are not the proper safety nets, resources, and supports. We are up will provide many of those and more, all in a welcoming, walkable setting.

The need for the project is evident in the broad cross section of our community that has been supportive. People from differing political and economic backgrounds have come together to support this community building endeavor.

The project has done extensive studies of the land and found a way to add 50 needed units of infill housing while keeping over 80% of the property as open space. The planned wetland mitigation will improve habitat while addressing the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. These are residents who are often left out of equity conversations. Adults under 65 with autism or another I/DD make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population will make up the majority of the We Are Up residents. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

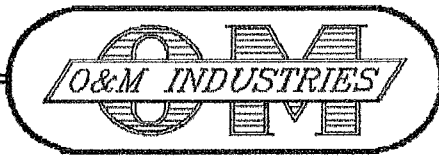
We Are Up have worked to keep the community informed and involved with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. We have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share our mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets critical housing and community needs in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Maloriezoe@gmail.com or 707-601-0690.

Sincerely,

Malorie McCurdy

Malorie McCurdy, Managing Director
M's Properties
1515 Central
McKinleyville, CA



Corporate Office • 5901 Ericson Way • Arcata, California 95521 • 707 / 822-8800
 Colusa CA 530 / 458-8850 • Prineville OR 541 / 772-4606 • Reno NV 775 / 971-3000

April 10, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
 County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
 Planning Division
 3015 H Street
 Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of myself and O&M Industries, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

Industrial Construction • Food Grade & Process Piping • Structural Steel • Millwrighting • Rigging • Blow Pipe
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(PHONE 707 / 822-8800 • FAX 707 / 822-8995 • www.omindustries.com)

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at cmcbeth@omindustries.com or 707-822-8800.

Sincerely,

Chris McBeth
Division Manager/Owner
O&M Industries

Industrial Construction • Food Grade & Process Piping • Structural Steel • Millwrighting • Rigging • Blow Pipe
Fabrication & Installation • Structural & Miscellaneous Metal • Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning • Industrial &
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(PHONE 707 / 822-8800 • FAX 707 / 822-8995 • www.omindustries.com)

Michael and Deborah O'Hern
1992 Ocean Drive
McKinleyville, CA 95519
707-839-2591
ohern@suddenlink.net

April 7, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up"
Project in McKinleyville

Dear Mr. Johnston,

We are writing in support of the We Are Up community project in McKinleyville. There is a need for the type of services planned for this project. This project offers housing and other services for people with disabilities and these services are needed in our community.

The plans that we have seen indicate that this project is a good use of the subject property. Much of the land will be left in open space for residents and neighbors to enjoy. The site is close to shopping, banking, grocery and medical services.

The applicant has provided environmental studies that should allow this project to move forward with a mitigated negative declaration. I support your department in moving this forward to the Planning Commission with a recommendation for approval.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael O'Hern



Deborah O'Hern

April 6, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 707-498-8688

Sincerely,



Sharon O'Meara

April 6, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

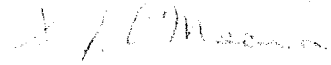
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The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at steveom@kokatat.com or 707-498-8688

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. O'Meara".

Steve O'Meara

April 10, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

As the owner of Parthenon Construction, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. In addition to providing much needed housing and services to the future residents, this project will provide assets to the community at large.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 707-496-5832.

Sincerely,

Pade Roth
Owner
Parthenon Construction

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pade Roth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

]

April 6, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 707 502-8678.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Perrett
community member since 1989

April 8, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner

County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department

Planning Division

3015 H Street

Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of myself, a senior living alone in a wonderful house, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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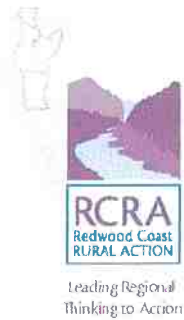
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group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at gata@ta-tutor.com or (707) 443-2828.

Sincerely,

Lucy A. Quinby
Retired Teacher
35 years English and Spanish
Eureka City Schools
Humboldt Arts Council Board
Arts and Education



April 18, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Redwood Coast Rural Action, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Redwood Coast Rural Action is a network of community leaders working together regionally to improve current and future conditions of people and the land. We are currently focused on the housing challenges throughout the region. We believe this project is an outstanding example of community members working together to meet the needs of a vulnerable population which could serve as an inspiration to other communities in the region.

We know there is a need for supportive housing for residents of all ages and understand the value of multigenerational projects. McKinleyville, one of our most populous unincorporated areas, has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. We Are Up has an ambitious vision and plan for the development of this inclusive, intergenerational residential community. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will reduce miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped

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Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project has already brought our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and Redwood Coast Rural Action strongly supports it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at RCRAKathy@gmail.com or call 707-498-9502.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Moxon', written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Moxon, Director
Redwood Coast Rural Action



April 8, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Redwood Community Pharmacy, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Redwood Community Pharmacy takes a special interest in providing excellent health care and support for our local community. We believe that We Are Up's mission directly correlates with our own in caring for people of all backgrounds.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Jenotting@redwoodcommunityrx.com or (707)633-4884.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Otting
Owner/Business Manager
Redwood Community Pharmacy



LAURA LARSON

3875 Echo Mountain Road
Butte Valley, CA 95965 | llarsons@gmail.com

April 10th, 2023


Desmond Johnson
Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Desmond Johnson:

My name is Laura Larson, I am the retired Executive Director of Far Northern Regional Center, a position I held for 23 years, leaving in 2019. Far Northern, as does Redwood Coast Regional Center, (and 19 other California regional centers) provides lifelong comprehensive supports for people with developmental disabilities. The nine rural counties served by Far Northern are contiguous to Humboldt County, and Del Norte counties.

Regional Centers are responsible for working with the community to develop the supports and services that are needed throughout the lifetime of one of our clients. As our young clients leave school and enter the adult world, housing and employment become the greatest challenge. When appropriate housing cannot be found, young adults continue to live at home with aging parents with no plan in place for a different life. Critical developmental years are lost.

Developing a residential care facility is not difficult, but that type of living is not what most people want. They want a place to live that is not segregated from but integrated with other community members, a place where their gifts can be shared with others. A place of community connection, belonging, respect, and reciprocity given based on each person's strengths and interests.



Such a carefully designed development is what We Are Up seeks approval for. An integrated, designed community for seniors, folks with developmental disabilities and other members of McKinleyville and Humboldt who are attracted to what WE ARE UP will offer in terms of connection, community and living with a daily dose of beauty.

I am retired now, but I am serving on the Board of We Are Up because I know how deeply such a project is needed and I wish to help in any way that I can. Please contact me via my email address llarsons@gmail.com or phone me at 530.966.7804 if you have any questions about how services would be delivered to someone who might need them.

I fully support a place to live that is well planned out, where someone can age in place, be connected and contribute fully to their community. I lend my support to this project.

Sincerely,

Laura Larson
Past Executive Director of
Far Northern Regional Center and
Past Employee of the State Council on
Developmental Disabilities, Ukiah Office

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

We are writing this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and need for services and "community" for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, and seniors, who now comprise almost 20% of our population.

The demographic served by this project is important and personal to us. I (Susan) have a special-needs brother, who until two years ago, lived with my parents on Long Island who supported his needs. When my sister and I had to move my parents (who are 96 & 97) into an Assisted Living facility, we had to find a place for my brother to live and find support services to meet his needs, which was very difficult. We care too about our senior population. We both served on the Board of Humboldt Senior Resource Center, and learned first-hand the need for more senior housing, as well as services that allow seniors to stay safely in their homes.

We Are Up aims to build housing and provide critical services by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community at a terrific location in McKinleyville. They plan to provide job skills training and employment for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, as well as for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, and health care studies, or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project will offer other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have

spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Carol Rische and Susan MacConnie in blue ink. The signature of Carol Rische is on the left, and the signature of Susan MacConnie is on the right, with a small plus sign between them.

Carol Rische and Susan MacConnie

1297 Fieldbrook Road
Fieldbrook, CA 95519

April 11, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

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group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at cheesediva@comcast.net

Sincerely,

Kathleen Shannon Finn

Kathleen Shannon Finn

April 10, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am proud to write this letter in support of We Are Up's (WAU) community project planned for McKinleyville, as well as serve on their Board of Directors. WAU is dedicated to creating an inclusive, contributing community for people with and without disabilities.

WAU is being created by people with *real* needs, *big* dreams, and the *proven* expertise. Having worked more than 30 years in Californian's developmental disability (D.D.) service system, I know there is a huge need for housing, especially in our "rural" north state. What a pleasure in retirement to serve on WAU's Board to help this dream become reality!

Housing and support for their loved one, is *the* critical need aging parents of adults with D.D. talk about. These parents all worry about and ask themselves "what will happen to my loved one, when I die." In addition to housing, WAU's other projects such as the green house and community center will provide jobs and be of service to the greater local community. WAU will not only be a relief to the lucky families who's member becomes a resident, but it will also be a model to replicate in Humboldt County and our north state.

Sincerely,



Robin Keehn, Retired
Ex. Dir. State Council on Development Disabilities, Region 2
273 E. 3rd Ave, Chico CA 95926
530/899-7911
Keehn68@gmail.com



Heather Vina, CLU, ChSNC
Agent



1631 Sutter Rd.
McKinleyville, CA 95519
Bus 707.839.3267 Fax 707.839.1785
heather.vina.w8mi@statefarm.com
MySFAgentHeather.com
License # - CA 0L89720

April 8, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of myself as owner of Heather Vina State Farm, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. My office is located in close proximity to the site. I have always been active in my community to support projects that can help our citizens grow and thrive. Not only am I a strong supporter and very involved in the future of this project, but I am excited to have such a valuable addition to your community.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at heather.vina.w8mi@statefarm.com or 707-839-3267.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Vina".

Heather Vina

April 7, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

As a McKinleyville home owner for the past 47 years, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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4/8/2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. We have two adult relatives on the autism spectrum who continue to live at home as they are not able to successfully maintain living independently. We see first hand how our families are struggling to make sure that they are always housed safely. We also see the toll that it takes on the immediate family members. As professionals in this community for many years, Social Worker and Psychotherapist, we have seen first hand the need for supportive housing and the difference not having or having can make in an individuals and families life. We are excited to support this creative solution to a problem that affects many of us personally and professionally.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact us at rwen@sbcgobl.net or riverwolf1951@gmail.com or 707-845-3384 or 707-845-3395.

Sincerely,

Robin and Len Wolff

Robin Wolff

Len Wolff

2395 Ariel Way
Arcata CA 95521



April 13, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "David Marshak".

David Marshak

RECEIVED

By djohnston at 3:34 pm, Apr 24, 2023

[4/13/2023

Desmond Johnston of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

,I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at pdougherty65@gmail.com or 707 839 0560.

Patricia Dougherty
RN

Respectfully yours,
Patricia Dougherty, R.N.

RECEIVED

By djohnston at 3:36 pm, Apr 24, 2023

[4/13/2023

Desmond Johnston of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

,I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at

Respectfully,
Jayce M. Houston MSRD



April 7, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of myself, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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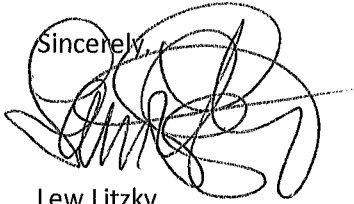
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The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and I strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at lewritzky@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lew Litzky', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Lew Litzky



Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Life Plan Humboldt, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Life Plan Humboldt is a nonprofit formed to build and operate a senior life plan community. We plan to develop 144 residences in the McKinleyville town center and are looking forward to a cooperative relationship with We Are Up. For example, we are working together with Timber Ridge and Open Door Community Health Centers to improve geriatric health care services in McKinleyville, a mutual concern.

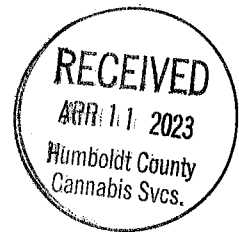
There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. We Are Up will create an inclusive, intergenerational residential community, supporting job training and employment for adults on the autism spectrum and those with disabilities. We Are Up campus will include a community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen and an orchard, providing access to healthy food and potential source of income. Life Plan Humboldt strongly supports this diverse offering of benefits to the community,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Lindsay".

Ann Lindsay
President, Life Plan Humboldt

Michael and Deborah O'Hern
1992 Ocean Drive
McKinleyville, CA 95519
707-839-2591
ohern@suddenlink.net



April 7, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up"
Project in McKinleyville

Dear Mr. Johnston,

We are writing in support of the We Are Up community project in McKinleyville. There is a need for the type of services planned for this project. This project offers housing and other services for people with disabilities and these services are needed in our community.

The plans that we have seen indicate that this project is a good use of the subject property. Much of the land will be left in open space for residents and neighbors to enjoy. The site is close to shopping, banking, grocery and medical services.

The applicant has provided environmental studies that should allow this project to move forward with a mitigated negative declaration. I support your department in moving this forward to the Planning Commission with a recommendation for approval.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael O'Hern in black ink.

Michael O'Hern

Handwritten signature of Deborah O'Hern in black ink.

Deborah O'Hern

April 12, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of ourselves, Corin and Sarah Pilkington, we are pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. As residents of McKinleyville, we wish to directly support building a more integrated and inclusive community. I, Sarah, have worked for years in local non-profits and feel that We Are Up is filling a mission-driven need for our county. In addition, the organization is comprised of incredibly competent and compassionate people and supporters that will help make this organization successful and sustainable. I, Corin, have been on the land of the proposed project and feel like the multi-use plan is both ecologically and economically sound. We have both worked in land conservation and restoration and appreciate that We Are Up will be supporting both people and place.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

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RECEIVED
By Johnston at 3:39 pm, Apr 24, 2023

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The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact us at spilkington721@gmail.com or 707-630-3063.

Sincerely,

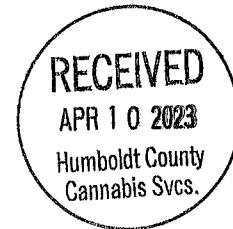


Corin Pilkington
Handyman/Environmental Engineer
McKinleyville Community Member



Sarah Pilkington
Bookkeeper/Non-Profit Consultant
McKinleyville Community Member

April 6, 2023



Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH #202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of myself, Rowetta Miller, a retired special education teacher, an active member of the Fieldbrook Community, and currently have a 91-year old aunt living with me since her house went off its foundation in the December 20th earthquake, I highly recommend approval of this long-needed project that addresses the lack of housing for Humboldt County's most vulnerable population.

WOW!! With Mary Keehn, Founder of "We Are Up," you have an amazing leader to see this project through to completion. She has done her research on the most vulnerable population including adults under 65 with a disability, and Humboldt County's seniors that will be included in We Are Up Project.

For adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff can all be integrated in this project. We Are Up will be an accomplishment and create a diverse and thriving community of which McKinleyville and Humboldt County can be proud.

Other benefits that We Are Up offers are: Community center, commercial greenhouse, community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production providing healthy activity and potential sources of income.

The site is in close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life. I strongly support We Are Up, and ask that you show wisdom and support this worthwhile project as it meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rowetta Miller".

Rowetta Miller, Executive Committee Member
Fieldbrook Community Club (Joined in 1980)
(707) 839-1705

ROBERT W. SUTTER, CPA
LARRY E. WOOD, CPA
BRYAN D. REESER, CPA
BRADLEY S. WILLIAMSON, CPA
WILLIAM F. JACKSON, CPA 1919 - 2006



1680 SUTTER ROAD, MCKINLEYVILLE, CA 95519
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GENE A. EKLUND, CPA (INACTIVE)
JO ANN HUNT, CPA (INACTIVE)
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SOPHIA N. SAUCEDO, CPA
JANELLE M. BUCKLIN, CPA
BETTY J. HUNT, EA
MELODY J. MCKAY, EA
SCOTT D. GORDON, EA

May 16, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated
Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston:

I am writing in support of the We Are Up project planned for Mckinleyville. I am the president and managing partner of Jackson & Eklund Accounting. Our offices are located at the intersection of Sutter Rd. and Weirup Lane in Mckinleyville. It is our understanding that Weirup Lane will be used to access the planned project of We Are Up.

We are excited for this project to move forward on the Weirup property in Mckinleyville. We are not concerned about the anticipated increase in traffic on our access road. I have heard Mary Keehn speak on the planned development and my Rotary Club, Mad River Rotary, featured the We Are Up project as the beneficiary of our 2022 fundraising campaign. I believe that the planned housing and educational opportunities are greatly needed in our community and the location of the development on upland and infill is well designed to care for the land and needs of the future residents.

On a personal note, this property was owned by my great uncle James Weirup for many years and as a child I spent time in the fields and by the creek that flows through the property. I appreciate the thoughtfulness that has been put into this project to maintain and protect the open space and natural beauty of the pastureland. I also have family members who have special needs and would do well in the proposed living and educational environment. The project meets a huge community need while protecting this beautiful space.

In summary, I believe that the We Are Up development is exactly what our community needs.

Sincerely,

Robert Sutter, CPA
Jackson & Eklund

2662 Harris Street
Eureka, California 95503

Hunter, Hunter & Hunt, LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Members of the AICPA

Phone 707-476-0674
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www.hhh-cpa.com

April 8, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project" SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Hunter, Hunter & Hunt, Certified Public Accountants, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Having had the opportunity to work with many local families with disabled family members, I understand the unserved need in our community.

We Are Up addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

In addition to housing, the We Are Up Project offers a range of other benefits including a large community center, a commercial greenhouse, a community kitchen, and an orchard to promote farm-to-table food production. The farm and gardens will provide not only access to food but healthy activity and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

Our support for the project has grown as We Are Up has kept us informed with active social media and email correspondence, newspaper articles, radio ads, community events, and other outreach. They have spoken at various Rotary Clubs, Soroptimists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI), CERC housing group meetings, and other public events to share their mission and plans. I see such a diverse group of supporters and feel this is the type of project that is needed to bring our community together.

I also have had the pleasure of working with Mary Keehn for over 20 years and know she has the ability to assemble the team to make this dream a reality. If ever there has been a project that deserves special handling, this is it. I believe this is an opportunity for Humboldt County to set an example for how other communities can address this all-too-common unserved need.

The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at scott@hhh-cpa.com or on my direct line 707-267-7379.

Sincerely,

Scott E. Hunt, CPA/ABV
Managing Partner

April 22nd, 2023

Desmond Johnston, Senior Planner

County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for "We Are Up Project"
SCH # 202303707 and PLN-2022-18047 CUP/SP

Dear Mr. Johnston,

On behalf of Richard and Hannah Winans of Trillium Realty Group and Richard Winans Construction, we are pleased to write this letter in support of the We Are Up community project planned for McKinleyville. Together we have contributed over 100 volunteer hours for the We Are Up project and are fully on board to volunteer much more time to help see this project succeed. We are residents and business owners in McKinleyville who deal directly with the housing needs of our community and live within one mile of the We Are Up site. We know first-hand how important this project is to our community.

There is a great need for We Are Up in our community because it addresses the lack of housing and the need for community for some of Humboldt County's most vulnerable populations. The groups that would benefit from We Are Up include adults under 65 with a disability, who make up 13.2% of Humboldt County's population, and seniors, comprising 19.2% of our population. These rates are higher than the national averages, which are 8.7% and 16.8%, respectively (Census 2020).

McKinleyville has no supportive housing for adults with disabilities. Humboldt County, with a population density of 38 people per square mile, has few (Census 2020). We Are Up aims to change this by developing an inclusive, intergenerational residential community with economic development and supports (job skills training, employment, and economic enterprise) for adults on the autism spectrum and those with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and for people without disabilities, including seniors, students pursuing social work, environmental, and health care studies, and temporary or relocating medical staff. By integrating people of different abilities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and interests, We Are Up will create a diverse and thriving community.

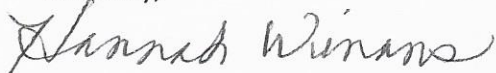
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and potential sources of income. The site's close proximity to grocery, health care, banking, bus line, and many other needs of daily life will lessen miles driven. Leaving two thirds of the land undeveloped allows access to nature, promotes land conservation, and allows space for continuing the historic agricultural uses of the site. We strongly support this diverse offering of benefits to the community.

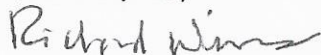
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The We Are Up Project meets a critical housing and community need in Humboldt County, and we strongly support it as proposed. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Hannah at hannah@trilliumrealtygroup.com or (707) 616-3085

Sincerely,



Hannah Winans
Owner- Trillium Realty Group, Inc.
(McKinleyville)



Richard Winans
Owner- Richard Winans Construction (McKinleyville)