



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

October 22, 2019

The Honorable Mike McGuire
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jim Wood
State Capitol Building, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Coordination with Local Governments on Parking

Dear Assemblymember Wood and Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully request that you encourage a few specific state agencies to work more closely with the county on parking issues in Eureka.

Humboldt County in 2015 was awarded \$20 million by the Board of State and Community Corrections to construct a facility that expands the county jail and offers a variety of much-needed re-entry services to inmates while they are incarcerated and upon discharge. As you know, our county jail is located in the heart of Eureka, and the expansion project will eliminate roughly 50 parking spaces in an already-congested area of the city. With more willingness by our state partners to coordinate and find solutions to this issue, the county would be able to maximize the effectiveness of this new facility and minimize the impact on traffic around the city.

Specifically, the Employment Development Department (EDD) maintains a parking lot across the street from the site of the jail expansion project, which is expected to break ground in spring of 2020. The lot has more than 50 spaces and is rarely even half full. The county is willing to lease a portion of the lot, but has not been successful in being able to strike an agreement with EDD. Along with the county, the Judicial Council of California (JCC) is rightfully concerned about the increased demand on parking. The joint occupancy agreement of the courthouse between the county and the JCC requires that the county provide parking for the courts, and to relieve the parking pressure, the county is planning to purchase a nearby lot and demolish 10 residential units, to be replaced in the short-term by a parking lot and later county facilities.

The county partners extensively with local transportation agencies to encourage public transportation, biking, and walking in our community. However, there remains a strong need for parking accommodations for private vehicles, especially in urban centers. The county respectfully requests your assistance to encourage stronger coordination with our state partners in Humboldt County to better serve our residents and stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn, Chair, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

cc: California State Association of Counties
Rural Counties Representatives of California

SYASL Partners