



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET TEAM

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: PHILLIP SMITH-HANES, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2013-14 GRAND JURY REPORT *HUMBOLDT COUNTY ROADS*
DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2014

The 2013-14 Grand Jury has issued report *Humboldt County Roads* and the Board of Supervisors is required to respond to the recommendations. I recommend that the Board respond as follows:

Recommendation R1: *Increase the dollar amount allocated to material purchases.*

This recommendation will be implemented when resources are available.

While the Board of Supervisors agrees that increasing General Fund dollars to purchase road materials would be beneficial to the County's infrastructure, this recommendation will not be implemented unless significant financial resources become available. For fiscal year 2014-15 the Public Works Department did submit an additional General Fund appropriation request for \$1.8 million to chip seal or micro-surface 60 miles of roadway, this request was not approved for funding due to limited General Fund dollars.

Recommendation R5: *The County is encouraged to research and acquire funding for economic development in non-urban areas.*

This recommendation continues to be implemented.

The County has an effective Economic Development Team which is part of the County Administrative Office. The Economic Development Team works to strengthen the economy of Humboldt County. It secures and distributes funding for projects and programs that implement *Prosperity 2012: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* (CEDS). In particular, the CEDS looks to implement solution to address inefficiencies in the transportation of goods and people. The team works to implement the CEDS by:

- Promoting the growth of export and emerging industry clusters, these industry clusters include a non-urban focus such as specialty agriculture and forest products,
- Building local capacity for coordinated economic development initiatives, and
- Obtaining grants and leveraging economic development funds.

Some economic development projects in non-urban areas related to infrastructure improvements include, the Willow Creek Safe Pathway to School Project, funded through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which provides a safe, off highway, pedestrian and bicycle pathway that connects the community of

Willow Creek to the Trinity Valley Elementary School. The 1.4 mile paved pathway features Americans with Disability Act compliant grading, signage and fencing. In addition, the County received a CDBG planning grant to perform technical studies related to accreditation of the Redwood Creek levee system located in the community of Orick. A few other roads related projects in the non-urban areas of the County include: Honeydew bridge replacement; Bald Hills Road paving and drainage; safety striping in Briceland and Alderpoint; Larabee low level bridge replacement; and Red Cap Road shoulder improvements and bridge replacement.