

DRAFT

April 5, 2023

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Mr. Howard Dashiell, Director
Mendocino Department of Transportation
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482

re: Additional road services needed in the Round Valley Area

Members of the Board and Mr. Dashiell:

The Round Valley Area roads are in a state of extensive disrepair, which has been exacerbated by the county's decision to cut manpower resources such that our Covelo crew is only four, and the Laytonville crew is only two. The Covelo crew spends half its time in Laytonville. Covelo has approximately 53 miles of dirt road and 56 miles of paved road. Laytonville has approximately 94 miles of road. For these areas, only six county employees are assigned for maintenance and repair, and there appears to be insufficient money budgeted for materials and equipment. It is obvious from the state of the roads that current funding is grossly inadequate.

Further due to the extremely wet weather this winter that we have received multiple reports that the area roads need more maintenance than what it appears we have. There are failed culverts, numerous potholes and dirt roads that are almost impassable.

Additionally, permits to repair or replace culverts in our area have been held up or denied. We are aware of at least three culverts that have failed or are about to fail. Many others are showing signs of impending failure. Apparently there is a plan to repave East Lane, Fairbanks, Crawford Road, Hill Road and Mina Road with SB1 money, in 2037, but by that time there may be nothing to repair.

According to the county, what few Covelo roads that are slated for work under SB1 (22 miles approximately) will not be touched until Year 19 of that funding, while other areas in the county are earlier and receiving more extensive attention under the DOT's 2019 plan.

The State of California raised our vehicle registration fees and gas tax for road maintenance. Is Round Valley receiving its fair share of this funding? Based on the higher DMV fees and gasoline taxes we are all paying, there should be sufficient funding to be distributed.

Please increase Covelo's budget for road maintenance and repair.

Sincerely,

_____, Board _____