

From: VOTMA, P. O. Box 95, Kenwood, CA 95452

September 21, 2015

Comments Regarding Updates on the SDC Closure:

We would like to thank the California Department of Developmental Services and their staff for recognizing the following:

- 1) Patients will need ongoing specialized care that may extend beyond closure dates.
- 2) Employees will be given a chance to transition to care facilities when and if such specialized facilities or homes are found; you also reference the establishment of a clinic on site.
- 3) Your stated commitment to work with the Transform SDC Coalition, Sonoma County, and other interested parties to identify potential options for the future use of the SDC campus.
- 4) The SDC site and property provide incredible natural resources, water re-charge areas critical to the valley floor, and wild life corridors as well as open space.
- 5) It is not the intention of the State to declare SDC property as surplus, but instead to work with the community to identify how the property can best be utilized.

We will continue to keep the community informed, lobby legislators, and work with community sources to ensure a closure that safeguards the interests of the clients and the community.

We are concerned that no provisions or funding have been targeted by the State of California to provide for the protection of the property or the transition that would provide economic benefit to the community as well as protect the community resources. When urban areas are targeted for re-development, funding is provided. Semi-Rural areas such as the SDC site are often seen as areas for expansion or over-development. Sonoma Valley is at a crisis point regarding over-development, traffic on the one two-lane highway and rural roads, water usage, and affordable housing. It is critical to protect the resources the SDC can provide into the future. We urge the State of California to work with other Federal and State agencies to help Sonoma County transform the Sonoma Developmental Center into a community resource. This will help us to protect the local economy and the land.

Valley of the Moon Alliance

Linda Hale, Secretary