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Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488
www.westportmac.org

November 26, 2008

Supervisor Kendall Smith
Attn: Director of Transportation Department
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Request for Consultation about the Cahto Road Network

Dear Supervisor Smith:

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council has conducted a series of public hearings concerning Cahto Road, a transportation network connecting Westport, Branscomb, and Seaside adopted as a County road system in the 1870s. We would like to meet with you and a representative of the Transportation Department to discuss public concerns and alternatives for addressing them.

The metes and bounds of Cahto Road system are recorded in right of way books maintained by the County Clerk. A case adjudicated by the Superior Court confirmed the road is still public (Case 60508 recorded July 20, 1993). Problems identified by local residents include lack of maintenance and road destruction; locked gates across the public right of way; illegal dumping; and problems with delivery of services such as law enforcement, EMS, and fire protection to people living along the road system.

The WMAC would like to explore options for addressing those concerns. Local people favor reestablishing and maintaining the road as a viable public thoroughfare in part as an alternate access route in a major emergency. We would like to discuss possibilities for securing external funding, as we are aware County resources are limited. Alternatives to full restoration of public use may need to be considered. For example, access might be controlled in a manner similar to Sherwood Road.

We look forward to your response. Please contact me with any questions about this matter at (707) 964-7560 or ThadVanBueren@directv.net.

Sincerely,



Thad M. Van Bueren, Chair
Westport MAC