



Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District

300 South Lincoln Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437 707-964-9446
www.mendococastrec.org

Dear Community Member:

This letter comes to you at a critical time in the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District (MCRPD) history. The District does not have sufficient cash reserves to continue operating beginning in January 2011. Unless the District has six months of operating capital, currently estimated to be \$300,000, available or otherwise committed by December 15, the Board of Directors may suspend, beginning December 16, all program operations in Fort Bragg and Mendocino and temporarily close The C.V. Starr Center and the Mendocino Recreation and Community Center until such funds are available.

Considerable progress has been made by staff and Board Members to reduce District operating expenses and increase revenue and donations. One year ago the District's negative cash flow was \$100,000 per month. Today it averages about \$50,000 per month. Property taxes cover a little more than half of that gap leaving the balance to come from unrestricted donations and SCORE commitments (Starr Center Operating Reserve and Endowment fund). Unfortunately the unrestricted donations and SCORE commitments to date have not been enough to sustain the district. Property tax reserves have been used to cover the negative cash flow between June 2010 and now.

MCRPD currently operates the following programs: KUDOS and ASSETS after school programs in Fort Bragg; Mendocino adult, toddler, after school, and tutoring programs; youth and adult basketball; Men's and Co-ed Softball leagues and Jessie Ales Memorial tournament, and a Co-ed Soccer tournament. Resistance walking and Susan Larkin's College of the Redwoods adaptive PE class, aquatic exercise classes and learn to swim programs, as well as fitness classes like spin and Zumba. All these programs would be affected by a district wide suspension of services. The two youth development swim teams, and masters swim group would not be able to practice or compete in the Tessie Branscomb lap pool. Visitors and community members who have come to celebrate birthdays and holidays at the water slide, lazy river and activity pool would not have that option. These MCRPD activities are a vital part of our communities.

Your help is needed; become one of the 300-500 individual commitments and pledges of \$100 per month for 12 months to cover the operating shortfall through December 2011. If you individually can not make this pledge please consider pooling together as a family, business or approach a service group you may be affiliated with. If you believe that our two Community Centers and the MCRPD programs are of enough value to save, please donate what you can. If you are unable to donate but can contact someone who can, we need your help. Pledge cards and more information are available at the Starr Community Center, at the Mendocino Community Center, and on line at www.mendococastrec.org. Donations will be held in a special account until the six month goal is reached and returned if it is not. Direct general fund donations may be made at Harvest Market and Harvest at Mendosa's by using the code 9100.

We deeply hope suspending district operations and a temporary closure of these vital sites can be avoided; however, we cannot avoid the fact that the MCRPD will be out of money by the end of December.

Jim Hurst

Executive Director