



SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER PLANNING ADVISORY TEAM MISSION STATEMENT, CORE VALUES AND DUTIES

The Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) was one of the oldest state-run developmental centers in California and has served individuals with developmental disabilities since 1891. At one time, SDC was the largest employer in Sonoma County, employing approximately 1,300 nursing, professional and administrative staff. The campus itself was developed over a century and contains an eclectic mix of architectural styles spanning the late 19th century to the modern era, creating a unique and memorable experience for visitors. The location of the site, nestled on the western edge of the Valley of the Moon and continuing upwards and westward into the foothills of the Sonoma Mountains, exemplifies the scenic beauty of Sonoma County: a place where wildlife and community cohabit.

In May 2015, the State of California announced its plan to close all Developmental Centers; the SDC closed in late 2018. The State and Sonoma County have been working towards an alternative approach to the surplus process for this unique facility given its significance and the degree of community interest. Following years of planning and coordination, on April 5, 2019, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted to authorize preparation of a Specific Plan for the SDC, contingent on financial support from the State. On April 19, 2019 the Department of Finance submitted a proposed trailer bill amendment to the budget for funding that includes decommissioning and warm shutdown costs, as well as costs associated with a Sonoma County-led Specific Plan effort.

A Specific Plan is a document that outlines a how defined areas will evolve over time. Sonoma County, led by the Permit Sonoma Department, is preparing a Specific Plan to guide development at the SDC site after its closure. The Specific Plan will define a clear vision for the site, and will balance mixed uses, economic development opportunities, affordable housing, open space and resource conservation, as well as cultural and historical preservation on the property. A successful Specific Plan must identify and respond to the opportunities that exist and the practical challenges that must be addressed. The Plan must also involve considerable community input to build a consensus vision around the site's future.

The Permit Sonoma Department is forming a Planning Advisory Team (PAT) of community members to help guide the planning process. The PAT will:

- **Advise County Staff and Consultants**
- **Review Specific Plan Materials**
- **Serve as Ambassadors to the Public**

The PAT is not a decision-making body—it is intended to hold an advisory role as an extension of the planning team. The PAT will consist of 13 members as follows:

- Two (2) representatives of community organizations active in the Glen Ellen-SDC area, to be selected by the Permit Sonoma Director;





- Three (3) community members with technical expertise relevant to planning for the SDC site
- Eight (8) community members at large, with at least 5 members residing/working within two miles of the SDC site.

The Specific Plan process will last up to three years; the PAT is expected to hold regular monthly meetings with the consultant team and County staff to receive project updates and review materials during through to Plan completion and adoption. Meetings will be arranged in consultation with PAT members and their schedules.

The PAT recruitment will last from Tuesday, September 3rd to Friday, October 4th, 2019. Applicants will be reviewed by Permit Sonoma staff and interviews may be arranged before PAT members are selected. Reference checks will also be conducted as part of the recruitment process. Applications received will be retained and may be used to fill vacancies on the PAT as warranted.

All applications must be received online by the submittal Friday, October 4th deadline.

PAT Mission Statement

The mission of the PAT is to advise County staff, consultants, and the public on the SDC Specific Plan. The PAT will promote a Specific Plan that reflects community needs and goals for the site while recognizing future development opportunities and constraints. The PAT will seek to represent the broad interests of the community, review Specific Plan materials and documents, and serve as ambassadors to the public, sharing information and encouraging participation in the planning process.

Core Values

All PAT members are advised to promote the following values in fulfilling their duties:

- **Collaboration**
- **Equity**
- **Rigor**
- **Productive and Active Engagement**
- **Respect**

Core Duties – PAT Members Will:

- Attend regular monthly meetings.
- Serve for three years and be committed through the entire process.
- Review documents and materials prepared by County staff and the consultant team, and be prepared to discuss at meetings.
- Communicate clearly and respectfully in meetings.
- Embrace creative ideas and support a solutions-oriented approach to the planning process.

