

Howard N. Dashiell
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Road Commissioner
County Engineer, RCE 42001
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FUNCTIONS

Administration & Business Services
Airports
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Land Improvement
Roads and Bridges
Solid Waste & Landfills
Water Agency

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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March 7, 2025

Dear Ms. Waldman,

Please find below responses to the questions and comments from the Mendocino Historical Review Board noted in your letter dated March 4, 2025, regarding application MHRB_2015-0009 requesting "*Minor Alterations to MHRB_2015-0009 request for direction on the proposal to replace the existing forty (40) trash receptacles with a new style of "animal resistant trash" receptacles*".

1. Will recycling bins be included with this request?

After consultation with Redwood Waste Solutions as well as numerous other local jurisdictions, Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) does not recommend addition of recycling receptacles. The unfortunate reality is public recycling receptacles experience very high contamination rates, usually rendering the contents unrecyclable. In the instance of a residential or commercial recycling bin, a single party can be held responsible for contamination. In the instance of public street cans, there is no single responsible party. In many jurisdictions that have both recycling and trash receptacles for public optics, the contents of both receptacles are landfilled due to continual contamination.

2. Where will the existing trash receptacles be taken? Are they available to individual ownership?

The existing receptacles are anticipated to be recycled as they are made of metal and likely have no use to the County. If determined to be of no use to the County, they could be made available to individuals; however, MCDOT would not support installation of the receptacles at other locations in the Town of Mendocino as that would defeat the purpose of replacing them with animal-resistant receptacles. If this request is approved, individuals could contact me if interested in obtaining one or more receptacles.

3. Which agency is responsible for maintaining trash receptacles?

Redwood Waste Solutions services the trash receptacles under a Franchise Agreement administered by MCDOT.

4. What is the size of openings for Option 2 and Option 3?

The manufacturers have provided the following opening dimensions:

Option 2 – BearSaver – 12"W x 6"H

Option 3 – Big Belly – 16.5"W x 5"H

5. Support and encourage for touchless opening (foot operational)?

Noted. MCDOT also prefers a touchless option.

6. Support proposed black in color.

Noted. MCDOT also prefers color black.

7. Option 1 operation was not supported.

Noted. Option 1 can be eliminated. If the Board is so inclined, MCDOT requests approval of both Option 2 and Option 3. Option 3 is the preferred alternative; however, Option 3 requires a custom inner cart while Option 2 is compatible with a standard inner cart. If approved, MCDOT intends to order a sample custom inner cart (for Option 3) to test for compatibility with existing collection equipment. If it deemed compatible, we could proceed with Option 3. If not compatible, it would be prudent to have Option 2 as a backup option.

Sincerely,



Amber Fisette
Deputy Director of Transportation
Solid Waste Division & Water Agency