

Letter: Response to Hendricks column titled ‘Economic Summit’

May 27, 2024



I am writing in response to an opinion article written by Kevin Hendricks about the “Economic Summit” he attended. In his article he made a comment about Del Norte Counties presentation by me to the attendees. In his critique he neglected to include the various actions taken by the county for economic development presented at the summit.

Fiscal Year 2023 & 2024

1. \$3.1 million dollars for Del Norte County Jail rehabilitation.
2. \$550,000 for improvements to Sheriff’s Office Dispatch and Records Management system.
3. \$500.000 dollars for field improvements to Pyke Field

Fiscal Year 2025 Requests

1. \$4 million requested for improvements to South Beach area, Community signage markers for Counties unincorporated communities (e.g. Klamath, Hiouchi, Fork Dock, Smith River, Gasquet).
2. Improvements to the Veterans Memorial Hall.

Measure R Funding

Funding one additional Code Enforcement Officer, additional wages and positions needed at the Sheriff's Office.

Improvements to Veterans Hall and Sheriff's Office Parking lots.

Broadband Expansion

County was awarded Local Agency Technical Assistance grant from the CPUC for network design to bring broadband into disadvantaged communities.

Del Norte County Planning Department developed Accessory Dwelling Unit policy and handouts for helping with our current housing shortage. Allowing small unit development on existing single home lots.

In addition, the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors has adopted a Strategic Plan and one of the four main components is economic development. Missing from my presentation, but well known to Mr. Hendricks is the \$10+ millions of dollars the county is currently in the process of developing a homeless shelter and transitional housing site in order to help combat the homeless crisis and provide Del Norte County the tools to shut down unauthorized homeless camps.

I want the community to know that the Board of Supervisors is committed to economic development from Last Chance Grade to the Hwy 199 improvements, Broadband expansion, and infrastructure improvements we are constantly seeking ways to improve.

Supervisor Dean Wilson 5th District.

Crescent City , CA