

## **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_-2018**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL TO SUBMIT A DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“DOT”) BUILD GRANT FOR THE MENDOCINO RAILWAY TO REPAIR IT’S TUNNEL AND REHABILITATE ITS TRACK.**

**WHEREAS, MENDOCINO RAILWAY (“MR”)** (known in the community as the California Western Railroad (“CWR”) and the “Skunk Train”) has served the Mendocino region since 1885, providing freight, passenger, and mail service to businesses and residents in and around Fort Bragg and Willits, California; and

**WHEREAS,** MR has also long operated a world-renowned tourist train, one of our nation’s top-10, attracting millions of visitors to the region; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2015 one of MR’s tunnels collapsed, cutting the railroad in two and preventing the MR from operating between Fort Bragg and Willits. The tunnel collapse has severely constrained the effectiveness of railroad operations, effectively cutting off all freight and passenger services, except for a very short tourist excursion experience; and

**WHEREAS,** MR needs to replace more than 30,000 chromated copper arsenate railroad ties installed by a prior owner with new strong and environmentally safe railroad ties in order to provide effective commuter passenger and freight services between Fort Bragg and Willits CA; and

**WHEREAS,** the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives; and

**WHEREAS,** At least 30 percent of BUILD funds must be awarded to projects located in rural areas and Fort Bragg and Mendocino County are very rural in nature; and

**WHEREAS,** the tunnel repair will cost an estimated \$5.5 million and an additional \$7.5 million is required to address deferred maintenance and 30,000 failing green ties, and

**WHEREAS,** MR will contribute a 50% match for the project; and

**WHEREAS,** the eligibility requirements of BUILD allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Fort Bragg is an eligible grant sponsor; and

**WHEREAS,** the Project is exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and Title 14, the California Code of Regulations (“CEQA Guidelines”), Section 15301; and

**WHEREAS,** based on all the evidence presented, the City Council finds as follows:

1. The repair of the Mendocino Railway tunnel and tracks would be a significant economic benefit to the Fort Bragg and the surrounding rural economy of Mendocino County;

2. The City is committed to the success of Mendocino Railway and the Skunk Train; and
3. This funding is critical for the repair of the tunnel and the upgrade to the rail lines and the ultimate success of the Skunk Train and our local rural and regional economy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby Authorize the City Manager to submit the BUILD program grant and act as the sponsor and grant administrator for the Mendocino Railway project.

**The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018, by the following vote:**

**AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:  
RECUSED:**

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**LINDY PETERS**  
**Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**June Lemos, CMC**  
**City Clerk**