

Submitted to engage@sdcspecificplan.com

December 10, 2021

Dear SDC Specific Plan staff,

As teens of Sonoma Valley, we want our voices to be heard in the process of deciding the future of Sonoma Developmental Center. Young people have an important stake in the future of SDC and our voices have been underrepresented in the process. We hope our perspectives and advocacy will influence the future of SDC.

In October 2021, 14 teens who live in Sonoma Valley participated in events that included a discussion about what's working and not working for teens in Sonoma Valley, a tour of the SDC campus, and a discussion and questionnaire about future uses and features of SDC. Teen-led outreach around hopes for SDC is continuing.

These events were organized by Sonoma Valley Collaborative in partnership with Teen Services/Boys & Girls Club of Sonoma Valley, Sonoma Valley Education Foundation, Hanna Institute, Sonoma Valley for Healing Justice, ¡DALE!, and the GENup student club at Sonoma Valley High School. These youth-serving organizations endorse the principle of youth voice being factored into all decisions being made about the future of our community.

Below is a summary of teen participants' hopes for SDC:

- Safe, well-lit, well-maintained places for sports, like indoor and outdoor soccer fields and pools, and places for entertainment and recreation that welcomes youth. Live concerts and festivals. A hub for recreation, like the Sonoma Plaza.
- Affordable educational and skills training opportunities for youth and adults, especially monolingual Spanish speaking parents.
- Social services like those provided by La Luz (ESL) and Sonoma Valley Community Health Center.
- Jobs that pay well and provide internship opportunities, especially jobs focused on mitigating the climate crisis.
- Affordable places to eat, live, shop, all in one location.
- Accessible transportation, which is especially important for young people.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our perspectives.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tellez, 12th Grade,
Sonoma Valley High School

Sonoma Valley High School

Yahtziri Lopez, 12th Grade

Lily Gelb, 10th Grade
Sonoma Academy

Solana Staes, 10th Grade
Sonoma Valley High School

Kannitha Hun, 10th Grade
Sonoma Valley High School

Victoria Hernandez-Padilla, 10th Grade
Sonoma Valley High School

Maxwell Savage, 10th Grade
Sonoma Valley High School

Kate Llodra, 10th Grade
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Lexi Oliveros, 10th Grade
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In support of Sonoma Valley Teens,

Caitlin Cornwall
Sonoma Valley Collaborative Program Director

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