



## Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488  
www.westportmac.org

To Whom It May Concern:

The Westport area has suffered the continued indignity of looking like a vehicle disposal site up and down Highway One. Citizens of our County, and, perhaps, from elsewhere, are disposing their abandoned derelict vehicles, RVs and trailers on the sides of State and County Roads in our community, absolving themselves of their private responsibility to properly dispatch their no longer serviceable equipment, and instead making this obvious public nuisance a problem for local and state government to solve.

At the present time, the Westport Municipal Advisory Council understands that the County of Mendocino holds a position of allowing the California Highway Patrol to place a notice on vehicles that are abandoned, full of junk with broken windows, missing engine parts, and/or flat tires. It has been our observation that the vehicle then just sits there with law-enforcement anticipating that the owner will come back, read the notice, and then take the offending junked vehicle home. This process can last for many weeks and even, sometimes, months.

Meanwhile, everyone who drives the beautiful Pacific Coast Highway One in the Westport area is subjected to looking at junk yard monstrosity with gangs or vagrants adding graffiti tags that are offensive to tourists and children because the vehicles are right on the shoulder of the most scenic highway in the State of California. We believe that these public nuisances tend to reduce the value of private property, promotes blight and deterioration, invites plundering, creates fire hazards and constitutes "attractive nuisances" endangering the health and safety of minors by harboring rodents and insects.

For example, a recent incident of this has occurred at the Westport Blues Beach turnoff. A travel trailer that had broken windows and full of junk, spilling out on the access road, was left in an abandoned state several weeks ago. A few days later a Removal/Claim notice was placed on the vehicle by the California Highway Patrol. Then, on Labor Day weekend, with hundreds of people using Blues Beach for recreation, it seems that some people set the abandoned eyesore on fire. This action created a fire hazard as well as a health and safety issue, including possible toxins being released in the soil, water and the air.

In many instances, we believe the issue is one of the current law, law enforcement and timing. Why does state or county government always have to wait so long to move abandoned junk vehicles?

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council understands that the State of California's Highway Patrol is responsible for administering an Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program and that Mendocino County is one of 37 California counties that are members of this Joint Powers Agreement.

We urge the County of Mendocino to aggressively participate in this State of California offered program because it is desperately needed here on the northern Mendocino County Coast if we are to maintain our attractiveness as a place to live and to visit bolstering the businesses of our community.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our plea. We will be most happy to support any efforts to advance this solution to this problem.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Scott MA, Chairperson WMAC

Date 10/28/2021