

**EIFD AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT OUT
For City Council Meeting of February 6, 2024**

The EIFD Ad Hoc was created on December 5, 2023, with Mayor Diana Rich and Vice Mayor Stephen Zollman appointed to it. The Ad Hoc submitted a preliminary report on December 19, 2023 and a full report on January 16, 2024. The direction from the Council on January 16 was (1) to engage in a formal discussion process with the County (Supervisor Hopkins) to move forward with an EIFD, (2) to consider all possible EIFD boundaries within Supervisorial District 5 including but not limited to a possible full West County Sonoma County EIFD, and (3) to accept \$50,000 in County funding (if approved at the January 23 Board of Supervisors meeting).

This is a report on developments between January 16 and January 29, 2024, when the report was finalized.

\$50,000 Funding for Consultant: On January 23, the BOS supported Supervisor Hopkins' \$50,000 funding request to pay for consultant services needed for the initial stages of the EIFD process. In recognition of the City's fiscal crisis, the County has agreed to distribute these funds as one lump sum in advance of services rendered, which is an exception to the County's normal policy of distributing funds after services are completed, on a reimbursement basis.

RFP Process: A primary focus of activities regarding the EIFD project (in the near term) will be on selection of the EIFD consultant. City Attorney Larry McLaughlin will be overseeing this process, and is moving forward with drafting and issuing the RFP.

Coordination with County: As the the RFP process moves forward, the Ad Hoc will continue to be actively engaged with Supervisor Hopkins' office. Two meetings are currently planned, a pre-meeting on Thursday February 20, and an initial working meeting on March 7. The tentative plan is for the Ad Hoc to continue to meet regularly with Supervisor Hopkins and her team.

County EIFD Policy: Sonoma County does not currently have a policy regarding EIFDs. As the Council is aware, the County's contribution toward any EIFD will be voluntary, which makes the development of a County policy of particular interest to Sebastopol (or any other jurisdictions in Sonoma County that might want to pursue an EIFD). The Board of Supervisors has just begun its discussion about a County policy, with an initial agenda item placed on its January 30, 2024 agenda. A summary of the outcome of that discussion is not included here because this report was completed before that meeting was held. The EIFD Ad Hoc will report out verbally on this point at the Council meeting.