



March 27, 2025

California Dept. of Food and Agriculture
Via Email submission to: cafoodhubs@cdfa.ca.gov

Subject: Letter of Support for Mendocino Coast Community Cannery's Application to the Farm to Community Food Hubs Grant Program

Dear CDFA Review Committee,

The Mendocino Coast Health Care District Board of Directors is proud to support the Mendocino Coast Community Cannery's application to the *Farm to Community Food Hubs Grant Program*. Our coastal region faces ongoing challenges related to food insecurity, limited access to healthy local food, and the economic pressures on small farmers and food producers. The Cannery's proposal offers a practical solution to these issues.

By preserving and transforming locally grown produce into shelf-stable products, the Cannery will provide year-round access to nutritious food for schools, healthcare facilities, and food assistance programs. It will also create new income opportunities for farmers and local producers, ensuring they can thrive while contributing to a healthier food system.

This project strengthens both community health and economic resilience, while honoring the region's agricultural and indigenous food traditions. We believe the Cannery's focus on sustainability, education, and collaboration will have lasting benefits for our residents. We encourage you to fund this critical initiative, which will positively impact food security, public health, and the livelihoods of producers in our rural community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Garza Jr.
Chair, Board of Directors