



Southern Humboldt
Community Healthcare District
Clinic, Hospital, & Family Resource Center

March 30, 2018

Dear Blocksburg residents,

You may have heard that in the future, residents of the Blocksburg area may NO LONGER be taxed for services provided by the Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District (SHCHD) at Jerold Phelps Community Hospital.

Last spring, Blocksburg residents came to a town hall meeting in Miranda to tell us they and their neighbors felt it was unfair for us to tax them for services they did not use. They explained that in emergencies, ambulances transported local residents to Fortuna rather than to Garberville to receive emergency treatment. They also make the point that when district lines were created they followed school attendance boundaries rather than traffic patterns for emergencies.

We decided to investigate.

We retained LACO Associates, a rural land use consulting firm, and their review of utilization bore out the assertion that Blocksburg residents' usage is less than that of other areas within the District's boundaries. We contacted the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), which is responsible for approving jurisdictional boundary changes, to confirm which areas surrounding Blocksburg were within our District's sphere of influence. After study and public hearings which a number of Blocksburg residents attended, LAFCo commissioners ruled unanimously that Blocksburg should be removed from the District and therefore not taxed. This process could be finalized in as few as 60 days as final filings and other steps are completed. Watch your mail for information still to come.

The SHCHD Board agrees with the recommendation and is taking steps to make sure you are not taxed. We also want to assure you that we welcome you to use all of the healthcare services we provide, even though the Blocksburg area will no longer be within the District boundaries.

You are our friends and neighbors, and we appreciate the many ways that you contribute to our community. Many of you shop in the towns within our District, your children go to SHUSD schools, you attend churches here, you serve on special district, non-profit, and business improvement organization boards, and you work in and own businesses here.

We urge you to come to us for clinic wellness visits, chronic condition ongoing treatment, long-term care, lab and x-ray services, mammography, emergency care. Greater usage strengthens the District regardless of where our patients live. As a public entity, our meetings are open to the public, and we welcome your input there or via phone calls or letters. As a public healthcare facility, our services are available to people regardless of where they live.

If you would like to continue annual financial support for SHCHD, we will gratefully accept your contributions through the Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare Foundation.

Best Regards,

Corinne Stromstad, President

David Ordonez, Vice President