



## Westport Municipal Advisory Council

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

December 2, 2021

MCBOS  
Mendocino County Counsel  
MC Transportation Dep.

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council's mission is to be the reflection of our community on issues of import to our area, it is in that capacity we express and request the following.

There are only a few ways out of or into our area. Highway 1, the Branscomb Road, and the original road to Westport, the Clay Road. These are all county and state roads. Historically, all these roads have been closed over the years by natural causes and when that happens it concerns everyone here on the coast. Recently the property surrounding Clay Road was purchased by a new owner, Lyme Redwood Timber, after almost 100 years of ownership by the previous owner. The new owner has stated it is their belief the road is a private road and as such has closed it with gates and deep ditches making it unpassable even for emergency 4X4 equipment.

It is the opinion of many of our residences that Clay Road is a county road that has not been abandoned. There is significant evidence supporting that viewpoint.

This Road is vital to our area in the event of another slide on Highway 1 just south of Westport which has proven to occur many times over the years because it is constructed on a large earth slide. Full closure of Highway 1 north of our area, and or the Branscomb Road, have occurred simultaneously in recent history. Additionally, If our area was to be subject to a large tsunami it is very possible Clay Road would be the only road to survive the disaster for the Westport Village.

There is a significant concern for public safety and welfare in the community of Westport in regard to the community being isolated as well as general ingress and egress of emergency responders and homeowners in limited access areas.

Clay Road is a well surveyed county road which used to be under county maintenance and has been use continuously by local citizens for around 100 years. If opened, it is well suited to be a significant component of the Westport community's emergency planning.

The WMAC is not, nor will it be, a party to litigation which is presently in Superior Court SCK-CVG 22-75067 on this matter but would very much appreciate a clarification from Mendocino County regarding the status of the Clay Road from Westport to Branscomb and to Bruhel Point Road to Highway 1 as a county owned road.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert L. Scott".

Robert L. Scott MA, Chairperson WMAC