



**RESOLUTION NO. 11-02**

**August 29, 2011**

**A RESOLUTION OF FIRST 5 MENDOCINO  
SUPPORTING THE YES ON LIBRARIES TAX ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS**, FIRST 5 Mendocino was formed by the voters who enacted the California Children and Families First Act (“Act”) in 1998 to support health, welfare and early education programs for children prenatal to five years of age and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, research over the past three decades shows children’s brains develop most dramatically during their first five years of life than during any other stage; and

**WHEREAS**, FIRST 5 Mendocino holds that all Mendocino County Children be born healthy, thrive in a nurturing environment, enter school eager to learn, and become capable, contributing members of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the research clearly proves that reading at home from the ages of 0-5 increases proficiency in reading by third grade which in turn directly correlates to high school graduation rates;

**WHEREAS**, FIRST 5 Mendocino’s mission is to use its resources to establish, fund, coordinate, evaluate and advocate for programs that promote the health and development of young children in Mendocino County;

**WHEREAS**, at the request of the Mendocino County Library, FIRST 5 Mendocino implemented and invested in Imagination Library, a free book program for young children in Mendocino County, and has forged partnerships with local public libraries in support of this program;

**WHEREAS**, FIRST 5 Mendocino has invested two grants in the Round Valley Public Library to ensure young children ages 0-5 have access to quality and age-appropriate books in this isolated region of the county;

**WHEREAS**, FIRST 5 Mendocino has coordinated over the years with all the Mendocino County branches and with the Children’s Librarian for many children’s events, however due to budget cuts the position was terminated;

**WHEREAS**, FIRST 5 Mendocino holds that Mendocino County children and families must have access to public libraries so that young children have the opportunity to develop and continue a lifelong interest in books and for increased literacy among children entering kindergarten and beyond.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that FIRST 5 Mendocino fully supports the County of Mendocino Library Special Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax Ordinance; because public libraries enrich a community and are a necessary tool for the educational development of young children.

FIRST 5 Mendocino will not spend taxpayer funds on this initiative.

The foregoing was passed and adopted by the following vote of the FIRST 5 Mendocino Commission on August 29, 2011 to wit:

AYES: Commissioner(s): Lucresha Rentería, Dan Hamburg, Paul Tichinin, Diane Pauli, Jim Levine, Rebecca Wilson and Tammy Scott.

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None



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Lucresha Rentería, Chair  
FIRST 5 Mendocino Commission