

## Background of the Inter-Regional Partnership Program

The Inter-Regional Partnership (IRP) program was established by the California Legislature in an effort to address regional imbalances in the relationship between jobs and housing locations throughout the state.

In March 2001, an application submitted by the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) on behalf of Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Lake Counties, was selected as one of eight IRP areas statewide. Funds for the Wine Country IRP have been awarded by the California Housing and Community Development (HCD), and are administered by MCOG.

## Program Goals

HCD identified the following goals for the IRP program:

- Develop strategies and implementation plans to mitigate inter-regional impacts of job/housing imbalances;
- Advance meaningful collaboration between local governments, regional and sub-regional planning agencies, private sector and public interest organizations, and the public;
- Promote integrated regional planning among cities and counties; and
- Develop State and sub-regional geographic inventories of areas with jobs/housing imbalances.

## Wine Country Inter-Regional Partnership Leadership and Team Contacts

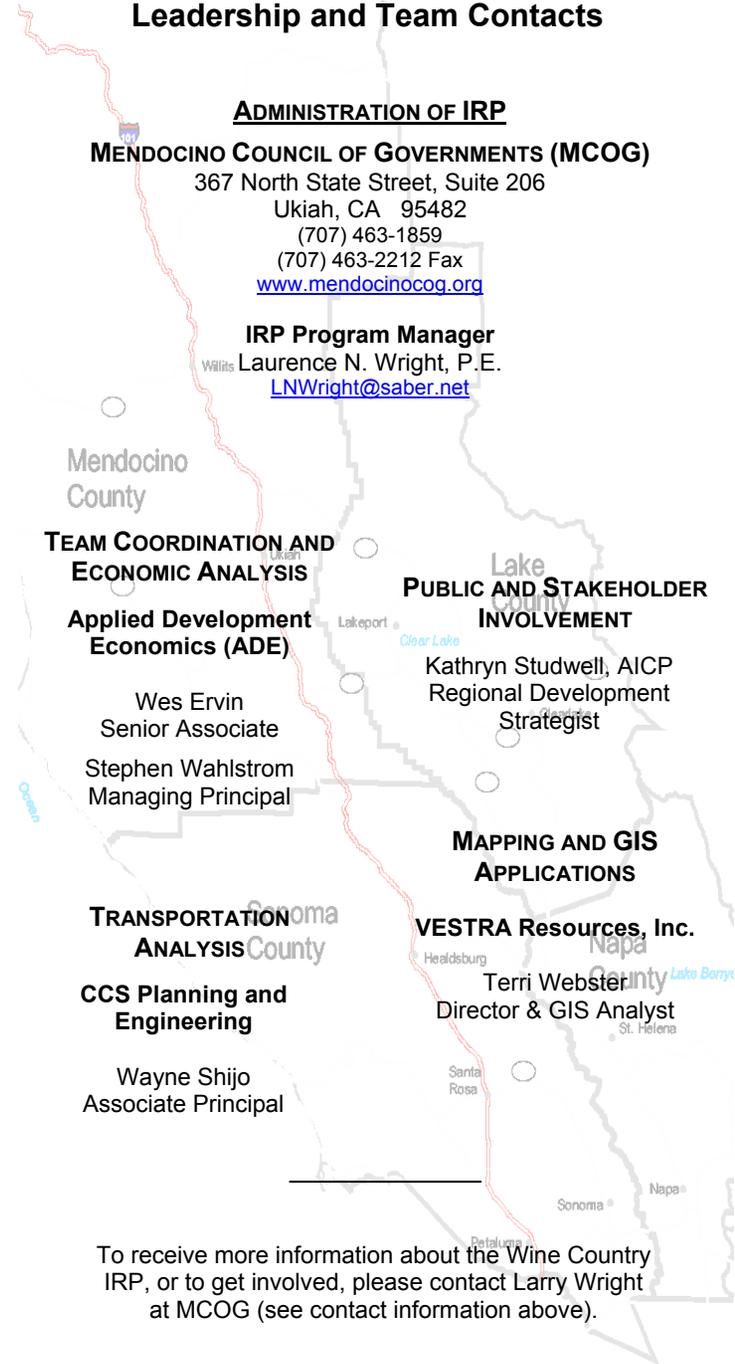
### ADMINISTRATION OF IRP

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Mendocino County

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To receive more information about the Wine Country IRP, or to get involved, please contact Larry Wright at MCOG (see contact information above).



*"The winners in the new economy will be the regions that learn to work together to relieve traffic congestion, build affordable housing, preserve open space, and promote economic development."*

*"If government is going to be effective in this new age, it is going to have to start thinking regionally."*

— Robert Hertzberg  
 Former Speaker of the California Assembly

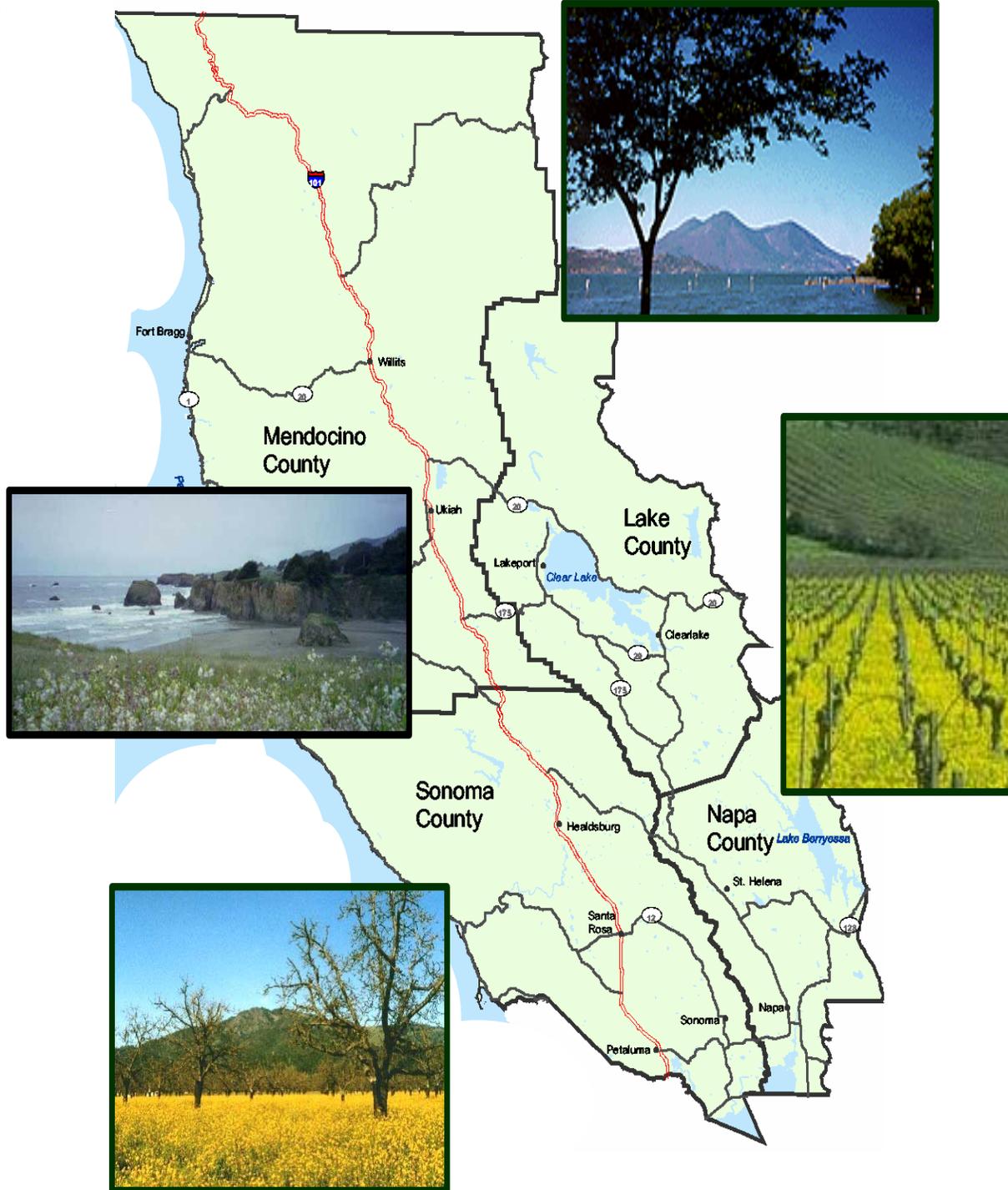
## Emerging Trends in California's Wine Country Region

The region comprised of Sonoma, Napa, Lake, and Mendocino Counties has undergone considerable change in recent decades, resulting primarily from economic expansion and growth in the central Bay Area and Silicon Valley.

As a result of this expansion, the four-county area has experienced a recent influx of residents and employees, as well as associated byproducts of growth such as increases in traffic congestion and commute times and simultaneous reductions in the amount of land available for open space and agricultural uses.

Over the next twenty years, the number of residents and employees in the four-county area is expected to continue growing, which will likely exacerbate the growth-related impacts currently experienced in the region.

Located at the center of viticulture activity in California, the Wine Country Interregional Partnership (IRP) includes the counties of Lake, Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma.



In the face of continued expansion in the four-county area, it will be necessary to develop a comprehensive strategy for accommodating future growth that balances each county's goals for economic advancement, equality of opportunity, environmental preservation, and quality of life.

## A Regional Approach

The IRP program recognizes that both the direct and indirect effects of policy decisions made by individual municipalities frequently cross jurisdictional boundaries.

In light of this interdependence, the regional approach promoted by the IRP program will likely be the most effective way of addressing future growth throughout the Wine Country region without sacrificing the myriad goals of each of the four counties in the coming decades.