



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Heather Hadwick
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 993: Rural Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Reimbursement Program - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Hadwick,

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is writing to express strong support of your bill, AB 993. This bill, if enacted into law, would expand eligibility for CalEPA's Rural CUPA reimbursement program and increases the maximum annual award to account for inflation.

CUPAs are local agencies that oversee consolidated permitting, inspection, and enforcement programs that protect the public and first responders from accidental releases or spills of hazardous materials and wastes. CUPAs oversee hazardous materials business plans, underground storage tanks, aboveground storage tanks, accidental release prevention programs, hazardous waste management, and hazardous waste tiered permitting programs. CUPAs are often the first to assess wildfire debris for the presence of hazardous materials.

The Rural CUPA Reimbursement Program provides small counties with a population under 150,000 residents and whose CUPAs were certified after January 1, 2000, with up to \$60,000 annually to reimburse counties for program implementation costs. Thirteen counties¹ are currently eligible for the Rural CUPA Reimbursement program. Twelve additional counties² meet the population threshold, but had CUPAs certified before January 1, 2000, and so are ineligible for reimbursement.

AB 993 increases the Rural CUPA Reimbursement cap from \$60,000 to \$100,000, which nearly makes up for lost purchasing power due to inflation since the cap was established in 2001. AB 993 also expands program eligibility to those twelve remaining small counties, including Mendocino County. These changes strengthen the ability of rural counties to prevent and respond to local hazardous waste and hazardous materials emergencies, ensure first responders are aware of the dangerous chemicals and substances stored in the buildings throughout the communities they protect, and help prevent

¹ Calaveras, Colusa, Glenn, Inyo, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba Counties.

² Alpine, Amador, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Mono, Napa, Nevada, San Benito, Siskiyou, and Tuolumne Counties.

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underground and aboveground storage tank leaks that may contaminate land and drinking water supplies.

For these reasons, the County of Mendocino supports AB 993, thanks you for authoring this important measure and looks forward to seeing the bill progress into law.

Sincerely,



John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Damon Connolly, Chair, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
The Honorable Mike McGuire, Member of the California State Senate
The Honorable Chris Rogers, Member of the California State Assembly
Josh Tooker, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Office of Policy and Budget