

PROCLAMATION

OF THE

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECOGNIZING MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE TO REDWOOD COMPLEX FIRE SURVIVORS IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Redwood Complex Fire of 2017 destroyed hundreds of homes in Mendocino County, inflicting devastating emotional and financial burdens on numerous people who lacked the financial resources to recover; and

WHEREAS, Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS) is the largest privately operated volunteer disaster recovery organization in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, utilizing materials provided by the fire survivors and M-ROC, MDS made a commitment provide 100% of the labor needed to rebuild the homes of four families who would not otherwise have been able to rebuild; and

WHEREAS, MDS mobilized 233 volunteers from all over the United States and Canada, with a majority coming from Canada and many others from as far away as Wisconsin and Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers were responsible for their personal transportation, with lodging and meals provided through the generosity of MDS and New Life Community Church which served as base camp for the volunteers; and

WHEREAS, fifteen to twenty volunteers arrived each week, overseen by volunteer project managers who served for several weeks each; and

WHEREAS, all homes were completed ahead of schedule and under budget, allowing the volunteers to assist with completion of several other smaller projects; and

WHEREAS, the selfless dedication of the MDS volunteers, assisting those in need whom they had never met nor had any connection to, not merely provided homes to those who would otherwise have none, but in so doing has helped heal the emotional trauma of individual fire survivors and of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby recognizes Mennonite Disaster Services and their volunteer workers and project managers for exceptional community service to Redwood Complex Fire survivors and to the greater community.

Dated: March 10th, 2020

John Haschak, Chair