

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

May 20, 2021

Re: Request for funding from PG&E fire settlement fund

Dear Supervisors:

We would like to suggest that the Board of Supervisors consider allocating some of the \$22M in PG&E settlement funds to assuring that Redwood Valley has access to a reliable, sustainable water source for domestic, commercial, and agricultural uses. A path forward towards accomplishing this goal could be the annexation of Redwood Valley into the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District (RRFCD). The annexation process is fairly straight forward and could be accomplished within a reasonable time frame. After speaking with various knowledgeable individuals, we believe an initial rough estimate of costs to be approximately \$750K. These anticipated costs include surveys of the proposed area for annexation, legal/administrative costs, application fees associated with moving the annexation through LAFCo and payment of back taxes to the Flood Control District.

Benefits of the annexation are that Redwood Valley would no longer be limited to purchasing "surplus" water from the RRFCD as we would have the same opportunity to contract for a secure quantity of water from the RRFCD as do other customers including municipal suppliers that are within the RRFCD boundary. Additionally, annexation would certainly provide the Redwood Valley agricultural community a level of water security that currently does not exist, and can't exist if our community's water options are limited to the purchase of only surplus water from other agencies.

Of course, annexation would also require the willingness of the RRFCD to accept Redwood Valley's request as well as agreement by LAFCo that this annexation is a reasonable path forward for assuring that Redwood Valley secures a reliable, sustainable water source.

Although we feel that the PG&E settlement funds would certainly be a reasonable source for funding this effort, we understand there are additional pots of money available for providing water security in rural, underfunded areas of the State, i.e. the Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency and Mitigation (PRRM) program. If the Board of Supervisors believes other sources of funding would be more appropriate in helping Redwood Valley procure a secure water source, we would certainly be interested in pursuing those options.

Sincerely,



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