

Re: Agenda Item 5.d.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for the work that has gone into the list of expenditures. First, I would like to state that I am in complete agreement with what Adam Gaska has stated in his letter.

I would add the following. Redwood Valley Grange played a vital role in the aftermath of the 2017 Fire. The Grange opened its doors to the public and kept them open for at least 2 weeks afterwards. A free hot meal was served every day. Emergency food and water was donated and distributed, along with needed clothing and household supplies. Wi-fi was donated. Computers were set up for folks to use. Community meetings were held with Fire, MCSO and County Building & Planning Services. Red Cross and the County set up shop there. Childcare, counseling services, free haircuts and massages were given, along with community support networking. The community descended on the Grange and it became a vital hub for all.

When the County was putting together it's Recovery Plan, the Redwood Valley Grange was asked what help it needed. The Grange gave its input, which was then published in the Draft Redwood Complex Fire Draft Recovery Workplan, and then apparently forgotten.

To better serve its community the Redwood Valley Grange needs to update its kitchen and other parts of its 100 year old building. County Environmental Health has stated there is a lack of commercial kitchens in our county. A commercial kitchen located at the Redwood Valley Grange will assist the local economy while continuing to support human services and provide community support and refuge for future disasters.

The Redwood Valley Grange has been an integral part of this community since 1917. The Grange fought to bring electricity to our valley 96 years ago. The Grange helped bring rural postal delivery to our valley. Indeed it was a Granger who first delivered it by horse and buggy for 38 years. In 1931 when the RV School burned down, classes moved to the Grange while the school was being rebuilt. And of course, there are the infamous pancake breakfasts held there for decades.

In short, the RV Grange has been there for its community. The Grange IS the community of Redwood Valley.

The Redwood Valley Grange is housed in a 100 year old hall made of redwood. It needs structural attention and a coat of paint. The 3 HVAC units are 20 years old and need replacing. Just last month the kitchen AC died. Plumbing and paving modifications are needed to satisfy ADA requirements. New flooring is needed. Electrical system needs upgrading. Most importantly, the kitchen which was last remodeled in the 1950's desperately needs an upgrade. The plan is to upgrade to commercial standards so that it might better serve the community.

The building is falling apart faster than our ability to keep it up. The Redwood Valley Grange has been there for its community for the last 100 years. It is time for the community to help the Grange! I urge you to consider using some funds to help our local Grange before you help Building & Planning Services buy new computer monitors, software updates or modify THEIR facilities.

*Marybeth Kelly*

Redwood Valley citizen for 30 years

Redwood Valley Grange member and Secretary

Retired Eagle Peak MS Science & Math teacher