

Board of Supervisors  
County of Mendocino

August 2, 2021

Re: BOS 8/3/21 Agenda Item 5d PG&E Disaster Settlement Funds

Supervisors Gjerde, Haschak, Williams, Mulheren and McGourty:

Although I am a member of the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council, I am speaking only for myself.

I am pleased to see that the list of proposed projects to fund with the one-time PG&E disaster settlement has been pared down, and I largely support the direction that the board is moving with this. I wish to share with you, however, several areas of concern.

First, I am concerned that there are still line items which seem to have nothing to do with the damages caused by the 2017 wildfire or emergency services in our county. "Park Hazards Mitigation" doesn't say which park or which hazards. If it's Mariposa County Park in Redwood Valley, great. That would go a long way to buoy community spirit and relieve the weight of the trauma our community carries. If it's for parks not in Redwood Valley and Potter Valley, I hope you will make sure that funding gets redirected appropriately.

Second, it is ridiculous and inappropriate for the County to claim \$413,000 in reimbursement for permit fees and staff time related to permit fees that were waived at the time. Apparently the only permit fees that were waived were for people parking RVs on their properties while they were rebuilding. The County's tax base has increased on those very same properties. It's grasping at money intended and needed for other projects. Please say no to this item.

Third, I am concerned that there are not enough resources being allocated for removal of dead standing trees not threatening structures. One attendee at a recent Redwood Valley MAC meeting said that she had 70 acres of standing dead trees with no conceivable way to address the problem. Those trees do not threaten her structures, but they threaten everyone in Redwood Valley should a fire come through again. A lot of these trees are on private properties. The Resource Conservation District's program to address these trees only pays 25% of the cost, and they only have enough funding to do a limited number of these projects. They need more funding and the community also needs matching funds to pay the other 75%. That's the only way it will get done.

Lastly, I want to note that there are duplicate line items for fire hydrants and locks for fire hydrants as Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire District and Redwood Valley County Water District both included them. Eliminating this duplication would free up between \$400,000 and \$700,000 which could and should be redirected to dead tree removal, along with the remaining funds of over \$4 million.

Very Sincerely,

Sattie Clark  
Redwood Valley