

October 18, 2017

The Honorable John McCowen Chair, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors 504 Low Gap Road, Room 1010 Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Wildfire Disaster in Mendocino County

Dear Chair McCowen:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to express our concerns and sympathies in light of recent devastating wildfires occurring in Mendocino County.

We are aware the Mendocino Lake Complex Fire (Redwood Incident) has burned over 34,000 acres, and has destroyed numerous residences and structures. Like Mendocino County, there are a number of fires burning in other RCRC-member counties, including Butte, Lake, Napa, Nevada, and Yuba Counties. Despite the large amount of media coverage in Sonoma and Napa Counties, we are mindful of the disaster affecting your County. We recognize the path to recovery after experiencing such a disaster is lengthy, and managing issues such as fairgrounds facilities, solid waste, property tax reassessment, and re-forestation in the areas affected will be ongoing for years to come. RCRC is poised to help on these and other issues.

More directly, stemming from wildfires in RCRC-member counties, the Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) was established by RCRC to help rebuild communities through homeownership and economic development. The Disaster Assistance Program was created to provide resources for interim housing and shelter to individuals and families displaced by natural disasters such as wildfires. This program has been able to provide assistance for residents in RCRC-member counties, such as Calaveras, Lake, and Mariposa Counties when they experienced tragic wildfires. We encourage your staff and Supervisor Brown to contact us regarding this resource.

If you should have any questions or concerns, or need our assistance in these troubling times please do not hesitate to contact me at gnorton@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806. We all at RCRC wish you and your entire community the best.

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Sincerely,

GREG NORTON

President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Carre Brown, Member of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Ms. Carmel Angelo, Chief Executive Officer, Mendocino County