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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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October 27, 2017

Mr. Ken Pimlott  
CAL FIRE Director  
PO 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: CAL FIRE Assistance during the Redwood Complex Fire

Dear Director Pimlott,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, our employees, all local first responders, and the residents of Mendocino County, I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for the very timely and effective response by your department to the explosive fire conditions that erupted in Potter and Redwood Valleys on the night of October 8, 2017. Despite the valiant efforts of our local paid and volunteer fire fighters and other first responders, without significant additional resources, the devastation caused by this fire would have been much worse.

Among the most difficult decisions for fire officials must be those that are made when the demand for resources exceeds what is physically available. Many local officials and residents were initially concerned that only limited additional resources would be made available due to major destructive fires raging out of control throughout the State. Much to our relief, from the earliest stages of this fire, it was apparent that CAL FIRE was taking every reasonable step to provide the resources necessary to achieve containment.

Following the first terrible night of destruction, when lives were lost and the fire raced out of control across miles of landscape, the successful efforts to limit and then stop the further spread of the fire was nothing short of miraculous. As destructive as this fire was locally, I am sure that the vast majority of our residents are grateful for the strong and effective response coordinated by your department.

We also wish to acknowledge the leadership and responsiveness of CAL FIRE Unit Chief George Gonzalez for his tireless efforts to respond to all aspects of the fire emergency. Throughout the fire emergency and after, Chief Gonzalez has interfaced effectively with local community partners, including first responders and elected and appointed officials, while also coordinating an effective public information campaign to get accurate information out to the public as quickly as possible.

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Finally, we wish to acknowledge your personal leadership and commitment to the fire suppression and recovery effort in Mendocino County as evidenced by your presence here on October 16, 2017, for a press conference and briefing of local officials. It speaks volumes that in the midst of many pressing responsibilities you made the time to come to Mendocino County to assist in fully informing local officials, the press and public.

In conclusion, we are extremely grateful for the resources made available by CAL FIRE and the extraordinary effort which resulted in the containment of this very destructive fire. Without the dedication and commitment of the CAL FIRE team this would not have been possible.

With sincere appreciation and gratitude,



John McCowen, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Jerry Brown