



January 9, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mark Ghilarducci
Director, Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schriever Ave.
Mather, CA 95655

VIA EMAIL AND MAIL

RE: State Budget and Policy Requests for Fire Impacted Counties

Dear Governor Brown and Director Ghilarducci,

The Counties of Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma, and Lake, and their incorporated cities, suffered tremendous loss on a scale that continues to be nearly incomprehensible. We appreciate the hard work and dedication you and your offices have shown to our jurisdictions in response to those fire events with your time and support. In particular, we thank you for the Fire Recovery Summit and Roundtable that was convened on December 1st. This letter is a requested follow-up to that meeting.

In Sonoma County, during the depths of a housing crisis, five percent of the housing stock has been lost. Watersheds will be impacted, infrastructure must be rebuilt, and the real fabric of community must be re-sewn. This will put tremendous strain on the County and its cities that will deliver critical, durable, ongoing and unfaltering public assistance to thousands of victims for the near future.

In Napa County, 20% of the acreage damaged by fire and 5.35% of the unincorporated housing stock was lost. Watersheds adjacent to municipal water supplies are severely impacted and will require vigilant oversight and inspection to ensure the safety of the drinking water supply. In addition, critical infrastructure was damaged because of the fire and roadway surfaces are suffering because of fire cleanup and recovery.

In Mendocino County, 36,000 acres were burnt, homes were lost, agricultural land was damaged and watersheds continue to be threatened. However, this does not touch on the loss of lives. The devastation of this event will live on for decades.

In Lake County, with three consecutive seasons of massive wildfires, over five percent of existing housing stock has been lost and more than 22% of the total land mass has burned. Recovery is ongoing and efforts will be long-term while the ability of local government to deliver core services has been severely impacted.

While we recognize your prudence and caution in State expenditures – which has put the State back on stable fiscal footing – we are writing to ask that the adopted 2018-19 State Budget include several

appropriations to assist our counties and constituent cities – as well as other recently fire-ravaged local governments – in the most thoughtful, comprehensive and sustainable way possible.

Our specific requests are attached. We are also attaching public policy changes that we strongly believe merit consideration by you and the Legislature in 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would like to meet with you and your staff soon to discuss ways that state and local government can work together to help our communities not only rebuild but also thrive going forward.

Sincerely,

Lake County Board of Supervisors

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Jim Steele, Chair

Dan Hamburg, Chair

Napa County Board of Supervisors

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Brad Wagenknecht

James Gore, Chair

Attachments

cc: Governor Jerry Brown
Nancy McFadden, Chief of Staff to Governor Brown
Michael Cohen, Director of Finance
Keely Bosler, Cabinet Secretary, Governor's Office
Diane Cummins, Special Advisor, Department of Finance
State Legislative Delegations and Staff
Matt Cate, California State Association of Counties
Paul Smith, Rural County Representatives of California