

Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council
P. O. Box 243
Redwood Valley, Ca. 95470

The Honorable Senator Mike McGuire
1303 10th St., Room 5061
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

February 17, 2018

SUBJECT: Support for SB 833

Dear Senator McGuire:

The Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council (RV MAC) strongly supports SB 833 (Red Alerts: Statewide Emergency Alert Protocols), and urges your continuing efforts to pass this bill.

Our little community of Redwood Valley (population: 1729), situated amid the vineyards and countryside of Mendocino County, suffered an unprecedented disaster in the wildfires of early October, 2017. Nine of our neighbors died, and others endured unspeakable injuries as they were swept up in the fast-moving flames. Over 350 homes and outbuildings were destroyed, innumerable livestock, pets, and wildlife were killed, and over 35,000 acres were incinerated. Local resources, immediately overwhelmed, could not meet the challenge of a wind-driven fire; no amount of firefighting resources, even if mutual aid systems hadn't been depleted, could have stopped the conflagration in time to save those lives and protect the injured because a wind-driven fire can't be stopped. Other means must be found to ensure maximum life safety in the face of what, unfortunately, may be a new sort of normal in Northern California.

SB 833 addresses the most efficient means by which lives may be saved: immediate provision of emergency alerts in the face of an unstoppable threat. Minutes, even seconds, matter. That's why employment of existing technologies under the Wireless Emergency Alert system is a critical step in the right direction. With enhanced emergency alerts, protocols, and education for the public, life safety will be considerably enhanced. This isn't the complete solution to emergency warning and evacuation, but it's a critical step. The RV MAC, on behalf of the surviving residents of Redwood Valley, urges passage and implementation of SB 833.

Respectfully,

Christine Boyd, Chair
Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council

Pc. The Honorable Jim Wood, California Assembly, Second District
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors