



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## Executive Office

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 21, 2020

TO: General Government Standing Committee

FROM: Sarah Dukett, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to the Legislative Platform for Calendar Year 2021

In January 2020, the Board provided direction to staff to develop a streamlined legislative platform with focused priority areas and refined action items. In addition to the streamlined approach, the Board directed breaking out state action vs. federal action. Below are draft legislative priority areas for calendar year 2021 and a proposed format for the sections. A sample Disaster Recovery, Preparedness and Resiliency section with the new format was developed for the committee to review.

Staff is seeking direction from the General Government Standing Committee on the proposed 2021 legislative priorities and input on specific action items of interest moving into calendar year 2021.

#### Draft Priorities

- Disaster Recovery, Preparedness and Resiliency
- COVID-19
- Natural Resources (water, climate, land management, Ag, SRS, PILT)
- Economic & Community Development
- Health and Human Services
- Public Safety
- Cannabis

#### Proposed Format

- Priority Area
- Issue Summary
- State Action Items
- Federal Action Items

## Sample:

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### DISASTER RECOVERY, PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY

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#### ISSUE

During the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire Mendocino County suffered tremendous loss, 36,000 acres were burnt, homes were lost, agricultural land was damaged and watersheds affected. However, this does not touch on the loss of lives. In the midst of disaster recovery, our community continues to be hit hard by disasters including significant fires in 2018 and 2020, public safety power shut offs in 2019 and the COVID-19 public health emergency. The devastation of these events will live on for decades. The support of the State and Federal government in both appropriations and policy changes are vital as we continue to rebuild resilient communities and prepare for the “new normal” of increasingly catastrophic natural disasters.

#### STATE ACTION

- Support efforts to enact legislation, regulations, and executive orders that ease the burden and promote rapid recovery and preparedness for future disasters.
- Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.
- Support additional funding at a local level for disaster preparedness and recovery.
- Advocate for the State to evaluate regulations and requirements for grants, housing projects and mitigation projects for opportunities to streamline processes and provide exemption when necessary.

#### FEDERAL ACTION

- Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.
- Support implementation of new requirements that limit “funding clawbacks” and oppose efforts to withhold disaster recovery payments to Mendocino County.
- Advocate for additional FEMA technical assistance for counties to assist staff in navigating applying for assistance and regulatory requirements for approved disaster projects.