

MATTHEW C. KENDALL

Sheriff-Coroner



Captain Gregory L. Van Patten
Field Services

Captain Tim Pearce
Corrections

County of Mendocino Office Of The Sheriff-Coroner

Date: 03/05/2021

To: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Regarding: PG&E funding allocations

Chair Gjerde and members of the board,

I noticed on the agenda summary for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting to be held on 03/09/2021, the board will be discussing the issue of the PG&E settlement and where to use these funds. For over a year Mendocino County has been in possession of over 20 million dollars from the PG&E settlement stemming from the 2017 wildfires which devastated Mendocino County.

In reviewing the agenda summary, it appears there will be much discussion regarding how the BOS will be allocating these funds for various projects. I realize this is a one-time funding and therefore it should be invested into projects which would save money and continue to support increasing efficiencies in our duties to serve the community. The Sheriff's Office is in need of funding to support projects, and to support public safety, my hope would be that we can have further discussions regarding this allocations.

I saw in the presentation the thoughts regarding hardening the 911 system as well as completion of the Public Safety communications tower and the generator for the Sheriff's Administration building. These are excellent ideas and all of the needs are real, however the addition of the generator to the Sheriff's Admin center is listed under *fiscal stability*. When I think of fiscal stability, I think of strategically investing moneys to save money and using the savings to improve sustainable service to our residents. The generator is simply a facility modification which doesn't create fiscal stability, and should not be so listed.

I believe we will also need to begin looking at several projects which would save money for the county. I previously brought to the BOS the idea of a court room located on the Sheriff's Office Campus adjacent to the jail. This would allow us savings which could be used on personnel. If we invest our capitol in a fashion which would allow efficiencies, we can shift the savings into funding personnel which are extremely needed to serve the public. My sense was we all agreed this was a good idea, however there was no funding for it at the time.

Cannabis enforcement both through Code Enforcement and the Sheriff's Office has been woefully understaffed. With the upcoming changes in the ordinance, we could begin to see improvements in this area however it will take an investment. We could use funds towards up to dated and real time satellite imaging, which would decrease the personnel time, and the use of aircraft needed to make decisions and prioritizations. This would also be an area we could

strategically invest and reap the benefits for future sustainable service. Simply stated we have several areas which could be improved upon.

As I look over the presentation, I would like to see categories added to the worksheet which would include grant funding opportunities as well as projected return on investments. I believe this would help us to set achievable goals for the future.

The Sheriff's Office was the first agency to respond during the 2017 fires which devastated our county. The original fire was discovered by a patrol sergeant while patrolling in the Potter Valley area. He immediately contacted our dispatch center and began response by Deputy Sheriffs and fire personnel which clearly saved lives. This occurred because we had personnel on duty completing their duties.

I believe we are on the right track to addressing several issues which do need to be addressed as we look to the future. I am simply asking we continue with conversations regarding the allocation prioritization and planning in order to serve our communities interest to the highest standards.

If we are truly going to strategically invest portions of this capitol into fiscal stability, this must be a stated goal. The spending must match that goal. My hopes are we can look deeply into strategic investments, the projected return on investments, and be committed to allocate future savings to the correct locations. If we use this one time capitol as "seed money" we could plant several fields which would allow a greater harvest for our county.

Thank you,

Sheriff Matt Kendall

