

Chair Gjerde & Members of the Board,

I am reaching out to you as a resident of Redwood Valley and a survivor of the tragic 2017 wildfire that devastated Redwood Valley and Potter Valley. Although I am a member of the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council, I am speaking only for myself today in compliance with Brown Act. I urge you to vote no on Agenda item 5e, or defer the vote to a future date to allow more time for the citizens of Mendocino County to understand this proposal and give feedback.

I carefully reviewed your document "PG&E Funding Presentation." I was surprised to see that *not one* of the proposed projects would specifically help the communities that directly suffered the loss and damage and trauma of the wildfires. Many of the proposed items have nothing to do with emergency resiliency or wildfire preparedness at all, and those that do have few details and price tags that are hard to comprehend.

- You propose \$55,000 to remove the amphitheater in Low Gap Park in Ukiah, and \$245,000 for mitigations in a park in Gualala.
- You propose \$9,355,000 for "IT Master Plan Investment for Critical/High Priority Projects." What exactly is in this category? Are any of these high priority projects in Redwood Valley or Potter Valley?
- You propose \$2,800,000 for "Alternate Care Site Roof and Related Improvements." What is this project and how does it justify its price tag?
- You propose \$3,600,000 for Project Funding for Hardened Building to Relocate 911 Equipment. "What kind of building is necessary and why would it cost so much?"

Meanwhile, Redwood Valley and Potter Valley—the very communities that suffered the most and continue to struggle to rebuild and recover—don't even get a conversation about how these funds could help their recovery and resiliency to future crises. The fact is we are already experiencing new crises that these PG&E settlement funds could and should help to address...before they get worse, and more expensive.

Here in Redwood Valley, we are experiencing really frightening water insecurity exacerbated by drought, illegal cannabis proliferation, and the strange mini-fiefdom system of agencies and districts that control water in the county. The Redwood Valley County Water District recently issued a notice that agricultural water will almost certainly be turned off this year due to the very low level in Lake Mendocino. That means that many farmers who replanted vineyards that burned in the wildfire are likely to lose those vineyards again. It took my family three years to clear the burned vines and trellises, replace all the irrigation and replant our vineyard. Before the fire, we dry-farmed our grapes and we plan to do so again. But you have to water them in the beginning until they are fully established and our only source of water is the water district.

We got a second notice from the the water district last week. It was a "cease and desist" notice sent to all agricultural water customers to say that those who sell water from their ag accounts will have their service terminated. It is well-known that this has been happening more and more, coinciding with the shocking proliferation of illegal grows in Redwood Valley. There is also flat-out stealing of water. People have seen unmarked water trucks pumping directly out of our fire

hydrants. Some know of grows that are diverting water from natural waterways, or multiple unpermitted wells that affect neighbors' supply. The lack of illegal cannabis compliance enforcement is making our water crisis much worse (not to mention the very disheartening visual blight of lighted plastic hoop houses, opaque fences where there used to be open views, dangerous roads, armed robberies, etc.).

I saw the letter Sheriff Matt Kendall wrote to the BOS on this agenda item and I agree with him that the county should use this settlement to secure the start-up funding for a satellite surveillance program to aid in illegal cannabis compliance enforcement. While it may not immediately seem to have anything to do with emergency resiliency, it has everything to do with water resiliency and water is required to fight fires. If Lake Mendocino is empty this summer and fall and we have fires, we will be wondering how we got our priorities so wrong. The board must also create fines that are high enough to be a deterrent to illegal growers. In Humboldt County, fines can be thousands of dollars a day. Their satellite surveillance program is self-funded through these fines. I have heard their program is so successful that illegal growers are leaving Humboldt County and coming to Mendocino County to do their illegal growing. Do those of us that want effective enforcement of illegal cannabis have to move to Humboldt County?

Very Sincerely,

Sattie Clark
Redwood Valley