



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

April 5, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Via Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org

RE: *Agenda Item 5c) Acceptance of Presentation by Mendocino Fire Safe Council (MCFSC), Coastal Valley Emergency Medical Services, Planning and Building Services, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and the Mendocino County Department of Transportation Regarding Projects for Strategically Investing One-Time Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Disaster Settlement Funds*

Dear Chair Gjerde and Board Members,

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB would like to submit the following comments for agenda item 5C.

The wildfires of 2017 were devastating to the communities of Redwood Valley and Potter Valley. The PG&E settlement funds should prioritize the needs connected to providing additional infrastructure improvements for future emergency preparedness in these communities. Water supply, communication equipment, power generation, etc. are all weaknesses that were highlighted in 2017. Mendocino County does not need to hire consultants to help decide how to spend these funds. MCFB encourages an honest dialogue with the communities of Redwood Valley and Potter Valley to determine what percentage of these settlement dollars should be used for emergency infrastructure needs. At least 25% of the settlement funds should be reserved for this purpose, if not more.

Mendocino County has the unfortunate history of having had the #1 and #2 largest wildfires in California. This is not a title to brag about and it is not a question of if, but when, the next wildfire will occur. The county should learn from this experience and not let history repeat itself. Let us hope that these funds are used wisely to improve upon disaster preparedness and not on frivolous wish lists that will not provide any benefit the next time a community is faced with a situation like 2017.

MCFB encourages the consideration of these comments as the distribution of the PG&E settlement funds are considered. If there are any questions related to these comments, please feel free to contact the Mendocino County Farm Bureau office.

Sincerely,

George Hollister
President