

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO Cultural Services Agency Library - Museum - Parks

DEBORAH FADER SAMSON Cultural Services Agency Director

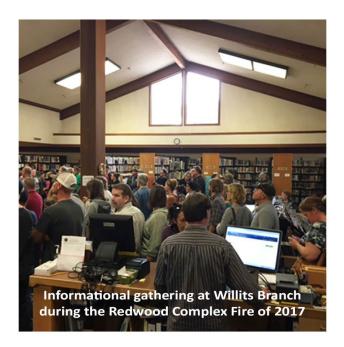
Itural Services Agency Director County Librarian

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Board of Supervisors 501 Low Gap Rd. Ukiah, CA 95482

Esteemed Members of the Board,

I would like to request that \$580,000 of the \$22,000,000 PG&E settlement be spent to purchase and install permanent generators for the Coast Community, Fort Bragg, Laytonville, Ukiah, and Willits Branches of the Mendocino County Library.



Historically, our Library branches have served as cooling centers in the stifling summers, warming centers in the bitter winters, and a source of calm and information for the residents of our County in times of disaster and hardship. We have provided N-95 masks during local fires, bottled water when functioning as a cooling center, and Wi-Fi, allowing residents to have access to needed information during outages in surrounding areas.

Due to the scattered location of the branches throughout the County, they make ideal locations for communities to gather in the event of more Public Safety Power Shutoffs, earthquakes, storms, etc. It is vital in such dire times for residents to be able to charge their devices, access emergency information, and stay in contact with relatives near and far.

The Board of Supervisors recommended in 2019 that all branches have generators, but our

meager budget does not allow for such purchases. Each Library branch could remain functioning for their communities with the addition of an on-sight generator. Funding generators for the Library branches would be an investment towards a more disaster-resilient community, and benefit our residents.

Sincerely,

Deborah Lada Samson

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