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To: glennmcgourty@gmail.com, bos@mendocinocounty.org, themoyouknow@gmail.com, danakelly62@gmail.com, fitzgera@sonic.net

Subject: PG&E Settlement Funds

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

Re: PG&E Settlement Funds

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of United Disaster Relief of Northern California (formerly MendoLake Complex Fire Relief) I am respectfully requesting the Disaster Resource Center to be considered when deciding on how PG&E funds should be disbursed.

**UNITED DISASTER RELIEF OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - DISASTER RESOUCCE CENTER -
BACKGROUND**

Established in October of 2017 a week after the devastating northbay wildfires. Our Disaster Resource Center & Distribution Center is Non-Profit & Volunteer Run. Our center & volunteers have assisted with over 14 wildfires, individual structure fires, floods, PSPS events, snow storms, and Covid-19 supplies. We are based in Mendocino County and serve all of Northern California region. Most of our clients receive services at our center after they have experienced a disaster. We also provide supplies to help community members prepare for a disaster, such as N95 masks, sleeping bags/warm blankets, and batteries. We assist families and individuals evacuated and unable to return home that need basic items such as clothing, shoes, backpack/luggage, new socks, undergarments and hygiene. We work with many partners including local and national non-profits, local businesses, and community members to provide the best possible services and material goods we can to each client.

Our Disaster Resource Center is ready to serve those that have been impacted by a disaster. Registered clients have full access to a store with shelves & racks stocked with new and lightly used items for free. All items are donated by non-profits, businesses and community members. Volunteers provide one-on-one services to each client, helping them navigate through the various resources and grants. Short term recovery is estimated to take 1 – 3 years after a disaster, while long term recovery can take 5 – 10 years. This is key to why our center offers services and assistance longer than other programs available to individuals and families impacted by a disaster.

After each wildfire our center is one of the first to distribute N95 masks in Mendocino County.

During Covid-19 medical staff, hospitals, first responders, dentists, businesses, CTTB, county employees, essential workers, seniors, high risk individuals and other community members came to our center to get supplies that were not available anywhere else. From the beginning of the pandemic to current we have free N95 masks, 3-ply masks, sanitizer, goggles, protective clothing, wipes and gloves. We supplied PPE to medical professionals and other essential workers that would otherwise not been able to go to work or open their business doors. We immediately shipped out hundreds of N95 masks to Covelo and thousands of masks to the coast. This was at a time when they were not available in stores. We made personal boxes for seniors with sanitizers, masks, cleaner, hygiene and food during the most unpredictable times.

When the snow storm hit and power was out for several days, our center supplied free batteries, blankets and sleeping bags to keep people warm.

I can go on and on about how amazing our volunteers are, i.e. Bill has volunteered over 2,000 hours and Dana has volunteered over 1,000 hours. They are both essential members of our team, dedicated to helping others.

Our center works with partners that send large semis full of new items to disburse to our clients and community at no cost to us.

We know our center can be even better with the county's support. Below is a short list of financial needs for our center:

1. Rent - \$24,000

This is our main cost. \$2,000 a month covers accounting and rent. The rental space is for a large warehouse, storefront and offices.

\$24,000 would provide one years rent.

2. Forklift - \$10,000

Sponsors associated with our partners pay for the semi's delivery costs. Semis come from all over the U.S. The semi is full of approximately 24 pallets of new items. With each load we have to ask a business neighbor to assist us with unloading the semi. At our new location there is no business within miles. Each time to rent a forklift would cost at minimum \$350.00 a day. Having a forklift on-sight allows us to be more sufficient. Additionally, it would be less strain on our volunteers that currently have to move pallets by using a non-electric pallet jack or by hand. \$10,000 would allow us to purchase a good quality used forklift that could be used with other non-profits or volunteer run programs.

In summary, our center has been present and active during each disaster in Mendocino County since 2017. We assist before, during and after a disaster. We make sure each client knows about what resources are available to them and if needed, help them fill out paperwork to apply for grants, FEMA, replacement of vital records, etc. We assisted with fires that have impacted our county such as Ranch/River Fire, Camp Fire, Tubbs Fire and Kincade Fire. All our staff are volunteers and we are non-profit. Both the County and Red Cross do not usually have the ability to take on material donations during a disaster, however we are trained to handle all material donations and understand the process fully. The community trusts that we will make sure all donations get into the right hands.

Please consider United Disaster Relief of Northern California when your board and the County of Mendocino make the final decision on how to distribute the PG&E settlement funds.

With much respect,

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