

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

RE: PGE Settlement funds; Redwood Valley Grange support.

Date: August 15, 2021

From: Cherilyn Evans

Greetings BOS members,

I write today to bring to your attention the absence of any mention of a portion of the PGE settlement going to support the Redwood Valley Grange, an organization and place that took such good care of so many of us during the 2017 fire and the weeks following. Surely you have been made aware, through other letters or your own experience, of the services provided by the Grange during that crucial time, and the dedication of the Grange members and volunteers who joined together and gave many hours, days, and weeks to support our traumatized friends and neighbors.

Our 100 year old grange building needs major repairs and upgrades so we can continue to provide support and services to our small, rural community, hardest hit by the fires. When I read that \$800,000 is proposed for "facilities modifications" at Planning and Building Services, I wonder what exactly that agency did to help people after the fires? And aren't Planning and Building already currently housed in the relatively new county building on Bush Street and Low Gap? I'm sure their facilities are much nicer than what we are faced with at our sweet little Grange Hall. Please re-think this decision! Even if half that \$800,000 went to support our Grange, we would be able to restore and retain this vital service agency for Redwood Valley.

In the reviews of your meeting on this subject, I read that Supervisor Maureen Mulheren said she'd like to see the funds go to the recovery of communities directly affected by the 2017 fires, before the money goes to large projects. This certainly makes sense to me!

To quote Ms Mulheren: "The communities of [Russian] River Valley and Potter Valley have needs that are still apparent from the fires that happened in 2017," she said. "I don't want to lose sight of that. This funding was because of that fire and it is important that we meet the needs of those communities first before moving forward with the larger pictures."

Another urgent need that comes to my mind, and I hope is included in your funding, is a vital and necessary upgrade to the fire alarm system at the Redwood Valley Fire Department. We have heard the fire alarm go off every Friday at noon for a generation, and when it was needed in the fire emergency, no one heard

any alarm sounding. Most RV residents never could understand why that happened as it did. Please consider allocating funds for this project, if you haven't already.

A Town Hall meeting would also be an excellent idea to actually get more input from the people who vote you folks into office. Please do not disappoint!

Sincerely,

Cherilyn Evans

Redwood Valley resident 39 years

Ukiah educator

RV Grange member