

Potter Valley Community Unified School District
P.O. Box 219
Potter Valley, CA 95469
(707) 743-2101

August 23, 2021

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

The Potter Valley Community Unified School District contains the sole public source of potable water in Potter Valley. In a letter dated May 7, 2021, we asked that you consider allocating PG&E settlement funds to install a generator that would support our water system in the event of a power outage. We were disappointed to see that our request was not granted.

Over the past 4 years, beginning with the Redwood Complex fire, our campus has experienced numerous long term power outages either due to active fires or Public Safety Power Outages. Currently, our water supply is cut off during any disruptions to power. Without water, we cannot hold school due to sanitation reasons, causing significant disruption to our students who have already been affected so much by fire danger.

In September 2020, CalFire used our campus as a training area during the August Complex fires, in part because we had available indoor space with showers. In the event of an emergency, our site contains buildings with significant defensible space that could be used to shelter our students and other members of the community, or to support first responders. Without power, however, the utility of the site for these uses is significantly limited. Since October 2017, our community has had multiple experiences with nearby fires and power outages occurring simultaneously. It is time to prepare for this as an expected event.

The estimate we received to support this project is approximately \$120,000. This is a large expense for a district of our size. The value to the entire community and potentially to first responders is significant in increasing resilience in our valley. Any assistance in helping us to fund this project would be appreciated. If you would like any further information about this proposed project, please contact our Superintendent, Dr. Nicole Odell, at our district office at 707-743-2101.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elaine Lindelef
President, PVCUSD Board of Trustees