

It's incredulous to me that the board is considering using close to 1 million dollars of the PG&E settlement money to basically give away water to the coast with no plan of oversight or cost recovery.

I have been looking into the water delivery systems over on the coast and it is obvious that they are lacking which is a large part of the problem. Even with what little system cohesion exists, there is no water rationing as far as I can tell, only suggestions for conservation. In stark contrast, Redwood Valley water has been on rationing basically since April when agricultural users were cut off and domestic users were told that rationing for them was imminent. Even before it became mandatory, most residents voluntarily started conserving water.

Where is this water going? Is it going to residences or to for profit businesses? Will there be mandatory rationing? Will there be cost recovery?

I understand we are in a drought. I understand things are still going to get worse before they get better.

What upsets me is that we are looking at funding expensive band aids without looking to fund long term solutions to problems that have been known about for years. We are looking to spend money that is only available because of the tragedy that Redwood Valley suffered. If Redwood Valley hadn't burned, we would still be facing a record setting drought. We would still be in the situation that we are in. What would we be doing then?

The coast contributes a lot of money in the form of bed taxes. Visit Mendocino/Mendocino County Tourism Commission has money in reserves. There are other organizations that should be funding this. This shouldn't be coming out of the money that is due to Redwood Valley.

Of course we would all like free money and free water considering the position we are all in but this money came at a cost. For 9 people, it cost them their lives. For many of us it cost us our homes. For all of us, it has cost us our sense of safety, security, and well being.

To give this money away, no strings attached and without oversight, is a misappropriation of funds. It's a travesty of justice. It's an insult to those of us that are still traumatized years later.

For the supervisors that vote to approve this, it really begs the question if they are fit to serve on the board.

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Adam Gaska