

To the Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on item 4a of the September 27, 2021 BOS meeting. I am Eric Hillesland. My wife Elaine Wing Hillesland and I are 23 year residents of Mendocino and we own and operate the Alegria Oceanfront Inn and Cottages in town. I want to thank you for the work you did to alleviate the extreme hardship of the water shortage on the coast. The emergency transportation of water from Ukiah to the coast has allowed us to continue fully operating our business. Now discussion is turning to the need for a more permanent solution to the water crisis. It appears from the text of agenda item 4a that the recommendation may be for the County to not take the lead, but merely support the local water districts in their independent work to solve the problem. These local districts do not have the staff or resources to take this on. The County must take the lead here. We need the power and the voice of the County to effectively push for funding, get access to technology, and to advocate to State and Federal agencies for assistance. Please vote to allocate resources and staff to take the lead in this issue. Thank you.