

Friends of Faulkner Park

November 8, 2021

Dan Gjerde, Chair
Members of the Board
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Strongly Oppose Cutting Any Old Growth Redwoods at Faulkner Park

Dear Chair Gjerde and Members of the Board:

We are a group of residents in Mendocino County who are very concerned that contractors for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) are planning to cut down old growth redwoods that form the heart of Faulkner County Park, and **we ask you to take a strong stand against this plan.**

Faulkner County Park, a 40-acre park two miles west of Boonville, was donated to Mendocino County in 1930 for public use. **Thirty-eight old growth redwoods between 60" DBH and 144" DBH are marked X to cut, along with an additional 14 old growth redwoods 52-60" DBH.** Other trees are also marked for cut. We have been told that another contractor would review the mark and reduce the number of trees marked for cut, but as of today the mark appears to be what it has been. We have confirmed with the contractors that the X mark means they plan to cut the tree.

Cutting any of the old growth redwoods in the park is not reasonable, appropriate, or necessary because feasible alternatives to avoid this exist. All of these old growth redwoods are critical for the maintenance and integrity of the 30-acre old growth redwood grove that is encompassed within the 40-acre park.

There are **two feasible alternatives** that would result in power line safety and do not include cutting these old growth redwoods:

1. Replacing the power lines with extra-strong, insulated lines; or
2. Undergrounding the line through the park

We strongly favor the Undergrounding option.

Additional Factors that Support the Use of a Feasible Alternative include:

- The power line in question is relatively low power, 12 KV. It feeds a number of households that are accessed from the county road, known as Mountain View Road or the Manchester-Boonville Road; it is not a long-distance transmission line.
- The power line runs along Mountain View Road; it does not transit cross-country.
- The stretch of road in question is only approximately ¼ mile long so the need for an alternative is relatively restricted in scope
- Trenching on this stretch of Mountain View Road for a fiber-optic cable approximately 15 years ago did not result in any apparent harm to the old growth redwoods in the grove.

Supervisor Ted Williams, the Supervisor for the 5th District where the park is located, has notified appropriate County agencies regarding the situation. However, **we want the full Board to understand the huge threat this project poses for Faulkner Park.**

We urge you to officially be on record at the earliest possible time that no old growth redwoods at Faulkner Park should be cut. We are strongly in favor of fire safety, and believe that in this situation undergrounding the electric line provides the most fail-safe fire safety while maintaining the integrity of the old growth grove and Faulkner Park.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bailey

Kathy Bailey
On Behalf of Friends of Faulkner Park

Cc: Assembly Member Jim Wood
Senator Mike McGuire
Representative Jared Huffman