



# Mendocino County

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-0869, **Version:** 1

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Supervisor Williams

**Meeting Date:** October 1, 2019

**Department Contact:** Supervisor Williams

**Phone:** 463-4441

**Item Type:** Regular Agenda

**Time Allocated for Item:** 10 Min

**Agenda Title:**

Discussion and Possible Action Including Adoption of What3words Geocoding System for Emergencies and Recommend Same for Local Fire and Law Enforcement  
(Sponsor: Supervisor Williams)

**Recommended Action/Motion:**

Adopt What3words geocoding system for emergencies and recommend same for local fire and law enforcement.

**Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:**

None.

**Summary of Request:**

What3words is a geocoding system for the communication of locations with a resolution of three meters. What3words encodes geographic coordinates into three dictionary words. The encoding is permanently fixed. For example, "expose.chase.tanks" describes the location of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Chambers. What3words uses a grid of the world made up of 57 trillion squares of 3 meters by 3 meters. Each square has been given an address composed of three words. Identifying precisely where help is needed in an emergency is critical. Communicating GPS coordinates is error prone, especially for the lay person. Training our Office of Emergency Services in What3words will enable persons in need to quickly and accurately convey precise location.

**Alternative Action/Motion:**

No action.

**Supervisory District:** All

**vote requirement:** Majority

**Supplemental Information Available Online At:** N/A

**Fiscal Details:**

**source of funding:** N/A

**budgeted in current f/y:** N/A

**current f/y cost:** N/A  
**annual recurring cost:** N/A

**if no, please describe:**  
**revenue agreement:** N/A

**budget clarification:** N/A

**Agreement/Resolution/Ordinance Approved by County Counsel:** N/A

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**CEO Liaison:** Janelle Rau, Deputy CEO

**CEO Review:** Yes

**CEO Comments:**

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**Executed By:** Lindsey Dunham, Deputy Clerk I

**Date:** October 7, 2019

**Final Status:** **Direction Given to Staff**

