

Sheryl
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August 26, 2020

SEP 01 2020

**SONOMA COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR**



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*Director of Public Works and
Community Services*

Mary Grace Pawson
*Director of
Development Services*

Victoria Perrault
Human Resources Director

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive
Suite 104 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: Request for Input on Use of PG&E Settlement Funds

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for providing the public an opportunity to provide input on the use of the \$149 million you received from PG&E as a settlement from the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires. We represent nearly 10% of Sonoma County residents and want to contribute toward developing a plan for the funds. First and foremost, we acknowledge that emergencies and disasters are our new normal. So we must become more resilient and more prepared to protect and serve our Sonoma County community. It is with that in mind that we make these suggestions.

Wildland Fire Equipment \$3 million

It is increasingly apparent that wildfire events occur in regional complexes of fires – Sonoma Complex Fires in 2017 accompanied by multiple Napa fires simultaneously. The wind driven fires in 2018 and 2019 as well. The Lightning Complex Fires of Napa and Sonoma this year. In these instances, Sonoma County finds itself largely on its own for initial defense. It takes several days—days when fires may be expanding rapidly if not quickly addressed—for mutual aid to arrive from other regions of the state. We have improved our responsiveness by staffing up for Red Flag Warnings. But we can and should do more.

Fund the purchase of seven Type 3 Wildland Fire Engines. Station four of them at the four largest fire agencies—Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park and Sonoma County Fire. These large agencies are most likely to be able to assemble crews to staff the engines. Station the other three geographically where fire danger is greatest—west, north, and east (e.g. Guerneville/Forestville, Geyserville/Cloverdale, Sonoma/Glen Ellen). These engines would be dedicated to Sonoma County and not sent off to fires outside our county—the risk here is simply too high. This type of engine is designed for use on steep, narrow, dirt roads common in the Sonoma County back country where conventional Type 1 Engines are not appropriate. These engines would last us twenty years and require no additional funding from the County.

Road Damage and Evacuation Routes \$50 million

The County maintains one of the most extensive road systems in California. Many of these roads were severely impacted by debris removal operations resulting in premature failure and excessive wear and tear. They should be repaired.

Furthermore, many rural roads are too narrow and in such poor condition to compromise evacuation and simultaneous firefighting efforts. They should be repaired and where possible widened.

Due to budget impacts of COVID-19, some road maintenance revenues are down significantly, potentially undermining the current road paving planned by Transportation and Public Works. These funds should be backfilled to keep the full scope of scheduled projects on track.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Lessen Future Fires \$10 million

Climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions is implicated in the growing severity and frequency of wildfires in our County. These funds are an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gasses in our county. The highest emissions are from transportation, primarily single occupant vehicles. The County could implement measures to reduce emissions such as improved non-motorized transportation infrastructure (e.g. bicycle and pedestrian facilities). One candidate project is to provide a safe alternative to motor vehicle commuting by completing portions of the bicycle and pedestrian path along the railroad tracks; Santa Rosa to Windsor, Rohnert Park to Penngrove/Petaluma.

Permanent Supportive Housing \$50 million

One of the most resource intensive efforts in recent emergencies surrounds managing the safety, movement, and sheltering of people experiencing homelessness. While less than 1% of our population, this group requires a large amount of Emergency Operations Center attention. This affects our County's responsiveness and attention for the remaining 99% of our population. The County recently began exploring buying struggling motels and converting them to permanent supportive housing. The biggest impediment to solving homelessness is the lack of permanent supportive housing. We need about 1,000 more beds in our county. We estimate the cost of that as approximately \$100 million. Spending \$50 million would get us half way to ending homelessness in Sonoma County and improving our responsiveness during future disasters and emergencies. Sonoma County declared a homeless emergency—let's address the emergency. Operating these facilities will cost much less per person than facilities such as Los Guillicos or Sam Jones Hall.

Relocation and Expansion of Emergency Operations Center \$20 million

The current County Emergency Operations Center is undersized, inefficient, and antiquated. Take a page from Marin County's success example and buy or lease an empty office building; remodel it to provide a modern, adequately sized, technologically advanced Emergency Operations Center.

During the last few years there is one place in Sonoma County that stands out as a safe haven—Rohnert Park. It is centrally located, away from high fire hazard areas, has available space, and has three high speed internet-over-fiber

providers. The Sonoma County Library recently located their headquarters to our State Farm Drive area. The Sonoma County Public Safety Consortium is relocating its emergency back-up servers for computer aided dispatch and records management system to the same area.

Improve Emergency Operations Amongst Agencies \$1 Million

Purchase common equipment and emergency operations software for the County departments, all nine cities, SSU, SRJC, SCOE, and tribal governments. A common operating platform will facilitate communication. The County is responsible for emergency management and resource request and fulfillment through CalOES. We need to be able to better communicate resource requests and fulfillment than our current email and telephone system.

Expand Fire Camera System \$3 Million

The fire camera system is a tremendous value for detecting, locating, and monitoring fires. However, there are numerous gaps in the system. For example the west slopes of Taylor Mountain and Sonoma Mountain are not monitored from any camera. This is just one example of the gaps. Deploy additional cameras to observe areas upslope from high population centers.

Disaster Reserve \$12 Million

What's next?! We seem to go from disaster to disaster and lately we've even worked through multiple disasters at once. We suggest the County keep some of the funds in reserve for cash flow in the next disaster which is just around the corner. We've never regretted having healthy reserves on hand.

Thank you for your excellent ongoing leadership during these trying times. Please take this once in a life time opportunity to improve our community resiliency and invest in our future safety.

Sincerely,



Joseph T. Callinan
Mayor
City of Rohnert Park

cc: County Administrator
Mayors of Sonoma County

September 1, 2020

Chairwoman Susan Gorin and Members
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
bos@sonoma-county.org
575 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, California 95403

Re: Public comment on investment of one-time funds from PG&E and CARES Act

Dear Chairwoman Gorin and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We write today as a coalition of strategically aligned philanthropic and community partners committed to advancing racial equity and just recovery for all who call Sonoma County home. Our purpose in writing is to address your request for community input about how to invest substantial one-time funding from the PG&E settlement and the CARES Act.

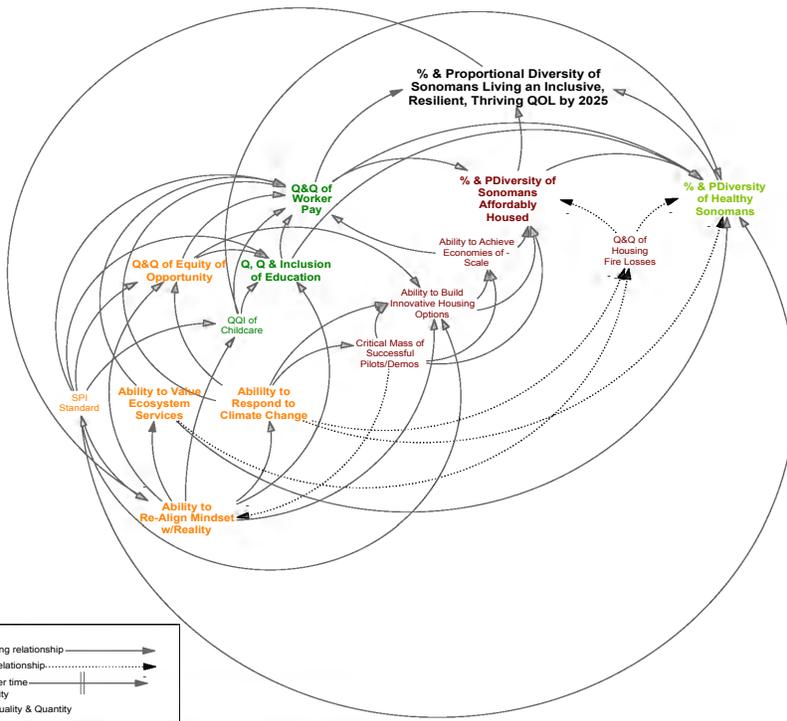
Together our organizations serve, invest in, and advocate for the majority of Sonoma County's residents: single parents and working families, infants, children and youth, seniors on fixed incomes, and people with medical conditions, mental health issues and physical and intellectual disabilities. Regardless of their immigration status, the languages they speak, their race, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation, our organizations help to form the safety net that cradles the most vulnerable in our community, especially in times of emergency, and stewards them to the resources they need to support themselves and their families. Since October 2017, we have been working directly with the residents who have been most impacted by the wildfires and the other successive disasters that our community has experienced. Our clients are largely renters, low-wage earners, essential workers, and small business owners, many raising school-age children and desperately struggling to make ends meet. These are, of course, the community members who are suffering disproportionately from COVID-19.

We understand from recent board hearings and public comments that your Board is strongly considering using the 2018 County Recovery Framework to guide your expenditures of the PG&E and Cares Act funds. We understand further that you intend to make your investment decisions in early October, based on public input received by your offices less than one week from today. We believe this approach to fostering community engagement and gathering public input will fail to draw in the diversity of voices, interests and perspectives that are needed to make equity-based, well-informed investment decisions. The arbitrary deadline and hasty comment procedures privilege those with knowledge of these parameters and how to navigate them. Merely checking "the outreach box" but failing to authentically and competently gather understanding about how "the Saturday problems" persist and have grown more vexing over the past three years, especially in light of the COVID-19 effect on essential workers, communities of color and their families, will lead to false solutions that further compromise our already strained yet interconnected eco-system. Use of the two-year-old Framework and adherence to the narrow timing of the comment period raise grave concerns that the resulting investments of these public

assets will actually widen the disparities that have been increasingly revealed over these past three years. We urge you to reconsider.

The 2018 Framework – while laudable in many respects - is focused on County functions only and its traditional role, and it fails to recognize that *community* resilience built through investment in resources that support working people, families, and small businesses ensures inclusion, belonging and long-term family and community stability and sustainability. We find, in particular, that the housing and human service-related actions noted in the Framework are insufficient to meet the current realities of overwhelming financial stress, housing instability, and health and mental health vulnerability. Nor do they address the underlying the racial inequities inherent in the existing safety net systems.

While we understand the instinct to identify an investment plan quickly, doing so without meaningful engagement risks deepening the structural inequities. We do not believe that low-income Latinx, Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color had sufficient if any input into the 2018 Recovery framework. But even if they did, the realities on the ground have shifted substantially in the last two years and deserve to be revisited. The significance of this moment – a major infusion of completely flexible resources, at a moment when the pandemic has laid bare the depth of structural racism and threatened the stability of tens of thousands of our families – demands a new approach. Recent reports of the ways in which our most recent wildfires will further impact our



MAP OneSonoma Eco-System

economy, and the jobs of agricultural workers in particular, only underscores the peril of relying on existing plans to produce lasting family and community resilience.

Our coalition asks the County to make some immediate investments that help families remain in their housing, and to set aside a substantial sum that would be subject to a more holistic, community-driven process. Using the learnings we have gained through projects, investments, and the elevation of collaboratives that accelerate **community resilience, inclusion, and long-term community sustainability**, our organizations are prepared to work with you and your professional staff to genuinely engage our community members to bring the board concrete ideas and community-based criteria by which decisions can be made. Our communities are desperate for interventions that both ease

UnitedWeRise

#UnitedWeRise
#UnidosAscendemos

immediate suffering and develop permanent housing and other community assets that can set our county on a new, shared, and resilient path. We are ready to use MAP OneSonoma's holistic, systems-change approach and community-identified levers to ensure that recommended criteria are those that can best address family financial stress and health vulnerabilities – both immediately and over the long-term.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you all.

Respectfully submitted,



President/CEO
United Way of the Wine Country

Herman J. Hernandez



Juan Hernandez 999



LETICIA ROMERO VALENTIN



Alma Bowen



Deborah Howell



Christy Pichel

CHRISTY PICHEL,

PHILANTHROPY ADVISOR

Cathryn Couch, CEO



Nancy Jucha



Christi Camba, AM



Caitlin Cornwall



Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt
& Del Norte Counties

UnitedWeRise

#UnitedWeRise
#InidosAscendemos

Matthew Henry, CEO



Margaret Flores McCabe



Jason Carter



Christy Lubin



Mimi Ewright
Community Member

Susan Cooper



Adam Peacocke



Alicia Sanchez



Gillian Haley

Pam Chanter
Community Member

Daniel Weinzueg
Community Member

Herman G. Hernandez
Community Member



Guadalupe Navarro



Len Marabella



Yoon Chung Gill



Ezequiel Guzman



14 September 2020

Keep Our Sonoma County Neighbors Housed

Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,

The current COVID19 crisis has united us in asking you to seize this moment to help stabilize our community by allocating at least \$40M from the combined PG&E settlement funds, CARES Act funds, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds to create a new Sonoma County Rental Assistance Fund. This will stabilize our most vulnerable neighbors, distributed through existing service providers.

The PG&E settlement received by the County of Sonoma is almost \$150M. The CARES Act represents \$8M. The CDC already has about \$6.5M in ESG funds. Therefore, the signers to this letter advocate for the County to support renter households and rental housing providers, by investing in a rental assistance program of \$40 million to support households and providers for at least next 6 months.

Many jurisdictions have already successfully implemented such programs. We urge you to invest these funds boldly, to improve housing equity and security for Sonoma County residents by **establishing an emergency rental assistance program to protect those most at risk of losing their housing** based on COVID-19 impact that is administered with equity at the center and for which all Sonoma County residents are eligible to apply, specifically including our undocumented families. The specific administration mechanism, and body of oversight should be determined collaboratively with County staff and representatives of the most impacted stakeholders, including the undersigned, based on best practices and values of equity. This coalition also recommends that this effort be afforded the leadership of a singly-tasked County employee or department, or contracted out to an existing non-profit that can provide dedicated leadership.

For our community to remain healthy during these unprecedented challenges, we need to keep our most vulnerable neighbors in their homes and preserve our rental housing stock. We appreciate your service, the difficulty in balancing compelling and competing needs and priorities, and the challenge in prioritizing these funds. And we urge you to invest in a rental assistance fund, which will have an immediate, significant, and generational impact.

Sincerely,

Burbank Housing
California Apartment Association - North Bay
DeDe's Rentals & Property Management
Generation Housing
Legal Aid of Sonoma County
Northbay Labor Council
North Bay Association of REALTORS®
North Bay Jobs with Justice
North Bay Organizing Project
Sonoma County Tenants Union
Sonoma Intersections Coalition
Sonoma Valley Housing Group
Sustainable Sonoma



1350 Bennett Valley Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
p: (707) 545-4200
f: (707) 573-9342
sonomacountyfair.com

September 21, 2020

Sheryl Bratton
County Administrative Officer
575 Administration Drive STE 104A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Sheryl,

As the Sonoma County Fairgrounds has on three occasions in the past four years been requested to open its doors during wildfires for human and animal evacuees and one time for evacuees from a flood, I am hoping that you would consider using some of the PG& E settlement funds for evacuation associated improvements to certain buildings on the property.

Several buildings on the Fairgrounds are highly used during these evacuations including the Grace Pavilion, Finley Hall, Garden building and the Hall of Flowers. Grace and the Hall of Flowers have no cooling systems with the Finley Hall having very old swamp coolers that are inefficient. This was particularly an issue during the most recent Walbridge fire which occurred during the hottest time of the year in August and September. As the Finley Hall has been used as an evacuation location for humans with small pets, the lack of effective air cooling and exhaust system became a challenging situation.

The Garden building has no cooling or heating system and was set up during the Walbridge Fire for use as an isolation center for evacuees suspected of having been exposed to Covid -19.

An additional challenge created by the power shut-offs by PG&E is that none of the Fairgrounds buildings are set-up with transfer switches for generators nor do the Fairgrounds own any generators.

The County of Sonoma and its residents have an incredible asset in its Fairgrounds not only as the location for the largest Fair in the region, a robust and active event center but as an invaluable evacuation center for humans, animals and Cal Fire who are here fighting our much to frequent wild fires. Unfortunately, as we all know these fires have become our new normal and to continue to serve as a reliable and effective evacuation site, replacements of old swamp coolers, installation of new cooling systems and upgrades to buildings with transfer switches and generators are sorely needed.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this request on the list of uses for the PG&E settlement funds. The fires caused by PG&E resulted in evacuations to the Fairgrounds and these halls that serve in this capacity should be made more comfortable to the individuals seeking refuge from these devastating events.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bartling
Chief Executive Officer
Sonoma County Fair and Exposition Inc.

CC: Caroline Judy, Director County of Sonoma General Services
Christopher Godley, Director County of Sonoma Emergency Management

At the Fairgrounds:

Golf Course

RV Park

Jockey Club

Wine Country Racing

Fair Foundation



August 19, 2020

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors,

Sustainable Sonoma urges you to invest a substantial portion of the PG&E settlement to increase housing security for Sonoma County residents.

When Community Foundation Sonoma County conducted over 60 interviews with a diversity of leaders after the 2017 fires, they concluded that, after the short term response effort had concluded, the greatest gap in achieving long-term community-wide resilience in Sonoma County had to do with housing security. Every crisis that has hit us since then reinforces the same need. Until Sonoma County residents and workers are able to live here while maintaining a decent standard of living, our County will not reach a stable triple bottom line. Our economy cannot be stable until employees and small business owners can afford to live near their work. Our environment cannot be stable until we reduce commuting. And our social network cannot be stable until lower income households, which include most households with parents or elders, can afford to live here.

Too much has changed, since the 2017 fires, to use the Office of Recovery and Resiliency Framework alone, when deciding how to spend this money. Sustainable Sonoma generally concurs with the requests in the letters from Generation Housing and MapOne Sonoma. Specifically, we ask that you invest a substantial amount of the PG&E settlement to:

- Establish a county-wide need-based rental assistance fund that includes help for undocumented households. To make the funding go farther, it should be used--at least in part--strategically to help renters and landlords negotiate terms and understand their rights and resources.
- Invest in a housing model, such as that advanced by the Housing Land Trust of Sonoma County, that uses subsidy retention to preserve the public investment, that keeps the home affordable in perpetuity, and provides stewardship to the resident families and the land.

Sustainable Sonoma is

Sustainable Sonoma is currently working across boundaries to increase, improve, and preserve housing that is affordable, for people who live or work in the Valley, within already developed areas, to create diverse, safe, complete neighborhoods.

Thank you sincerely for your unflinching service in these extraordinarily challenging times,

Caitlin Cornwall, Project Director
Sustainable Sonoma
www.sustainablesonoma.net
(707) 322-1400



Sonoma Valley Housing Declaration

Sonoma Valley suffers from a severe housing affordability crisis that affects every aspect of our community. The future of our community is at stake.

We, the undersigned, pledge to work together, across boundaries, to increase, improve and preserve housing that is affordable, for people who live or work in the Valley, within already developed areas, to create diverse safe, complete neighborhoods.





August 9, 2020

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Santa Rosa City Council

To: Members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Rosa City Council

Subject: Proposal for Partial Allocation of PG&E Settlement Funds

Disasters, no matter the cause, exacerbate inequality and force us to address underlying policies that increase suffering. The \$245 million PG&E settlement funds represent an unprecedented opportunity to be innovative and transformative in investing in solutions for a just and resilient future.

Our County, like many throughout California, is struggling to respond to the economic impacts and health disparities resulting from COVID-19. Recent research conducted by PolicyLink, the Bay Area Equity Atlas, and the North Bay Organizing Project (attached) shows that 10,800 households including 4,400 children face a dire reality of evictions at no fault of their own. This is especially true for our Latinx community who represent 30% of tenants, face disproportionately high COVID-19 transmission rates and are at critical risk of evictions and displacement. Now, more than ever, housing uncertainty for thousands of county residents calls for local government to act resolutely in the face of inequity.

We implore our governing bodies to invest in visionary housing stabilization programs including an accessible rental assistance program for all residents and a fund for local community land trusts to affirmatively prioritize housing justice. Our greatest hope is that these programs are a course correction from the speculative housing market conditions that led us here in the first place. We have an opportunity and an obligation to do better.

While we support proposed rental assistance programs that address the next 6 months of rent payments as a necessary response to immediately prevent tenants from mass evictions, **any rental assistance program should include debt assistance to relieve tenants and small landlords who have accrued debt as a result of missed payments** since the Public Shelter-In-Place Health Order was first adopted on March 17, 2020. A letter from the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (attached) sent to the Board of Supervisors at the request of the North Bay Organizing Project indicates that a median income household cannot reasonably pay back missed rent payments in less than twelve months. Imagine the impossibility of repayment for families earning low and very low incomes who are already cost burdened. Moreover,

roughly 37,000 undocumented individuals and many other residents in Sonoma County have not received unemployment benefits or traditional forms of financial assistance. ***We are in strong support of a direct-to-tenant rental assistance and debt relief program including a partnership between the County/ City and local service providers to administer funds appropriately.***

Allocation of the PG&E settlement funds will define who we are as a community. We can address the pitfalls of predatory development patterns in a changed world and advance the Recovery and Resiliency Framework priorities or entrench ourselves further in policies that work for only a few. Fires resulting from PG&E mismanagement destroyed over 5,000 homes exacerbating a constricted housing market with historically low vacancy rates which incentivized significant rent increases. During this pandemic, increased market speculation is compounding displacement in communities of color, reinforcing the rent burden of low-income earners and working against public health priorities. We need to address the source of housing inequality and community land trusts are a proven solution.

To address housing as a public health priority and proactively close the racial wealth gap, we urge you to create a fund open to all local community land trusts (CLT) to build organizational capacity, partner with government in creating an acquisition program for small sites, and support public education. Many municipalities across the country have already seeded CLTs as a mechanism to preserve and create permanently affordable housing and demonstrated their effectiveness. In fact, CLTs were born in the rural south in similar conditions of economic distress, racial segregation and civil unrest. While we must meet our regional housing needs allocation, the methods we choose speak to our values.

We acknowledge the competing interests impacting the allocation of the PG&E settlement funds and urge you to make choices that allow our community to look toward a vision of an audaciously resilient future where housing stability is not dictated by a person's race or income. As the pandemic continues to unveil the socioeconomic suffering of particular communities in Sonoma County, please consider the aforementioned program proposals as a step towards a more just and resilient future.

Sincerely,

Leticia Romero Valentin, President
North Bay Organizing Project



September 14, 2020

To: Members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and County Staff
Subject: Proposal for Partial Allocation of PG&E Settlement Funds

Disasters, no matter the cause, exacerbate inequality and force us to address underlying policies that increase suffering. The \$245 million PG&E settlement funds represent an unprecedented opportunity to be innovative and transformative in investing in solutions for a just and resilient future.

Our County, like many throughout California, is struggling to respond to the economic impacts and health disparities resulting from COVID-19. Recent research conducted by PolicyLink, the Bay Area Equity Atlas, and the North Bay Organizing Project (attached) shows 10,800 households face the dire reality of evictions at no fault of their own. This is especially true for our Latinx community who represent 30% of tenants, face disproportionately high COVID-19 transmission rates and are at critical risk of evictions and displacement. Now, more than ever, housing uncertainty for thousands of county residents calls for local government to act resolutely in the face of inequity.

We implore our governing bodies to invest in visionary housing stabilization programs, specifically a rental assistance program for our most vulnerable residents including our undocumented brothers and sisters and a fund for local community land trusts to affirmatively prioritize housing justice. An equitable approach to distributing funds to the most vulnerable tenants in our community means reckoning with the unjust and racist housing policies that have been in place over generations. Equitable rental assistance and community investment requires prioritizing and centering the needs of those who have been most impacted by redlining, subprime lending, discriminatory housing practices, and in this current moment, who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, wildfires, loss of income, and lack of federal assistance. Our greatest hope is that these programs are a course correction from the speculative housing market conditions that led us here in the first place. We have an opportunity and an obligation to do better.

While we support proposed rental assistance programs (specifically that of Legal Aid of Sonoma County's) that address the next 6 months of rent payments as a necessary response to

immediately prevent tenants from mass evictions, **any rental assistance program should include debt assistance to relieve tenants and small landlords who have accrued debt as a result of missed payments** since the Public Shelter-In-Place Health Order was first adopted on March 17, 2020. A letter from the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (attached) sent to the Board of Supervisors at the request of the North Bay Organizing Project indicates that a median income household cannot reasonably pay back missed rent payments in less than twelve months. Imagine the impossibility of repayment for families earning low and very low incomes who are already cost burdened. Moreover, roughly 37,000 undocumented individuals and many other residents in Sonoma County have not received unemployment benefits or traditional forms of financial assistance. **We are in strong support of a direct-to-tenant rental assistance and debt relief program including a partnership between the County and local service providers to administer funds appropriately.**

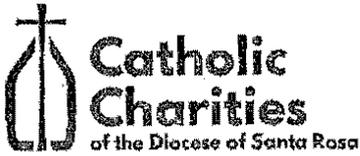
Allocation of the PG&E settlement funds will define who we are as a community. We can address the pitfalls of predatory development patterns in a changed world and advance the Recovery and Resiliency Framework priorities or entrench ourselves further in policies that work for only a few. Fires resulting from PG&E mismanagement destroyed over 5,000 homes exacerbating a constricted housing market with historically low vacancy rates which incentivized significant rent increases. During this pandemic, increased market speculation is compounding displacement in communities of color, reinforcing the rent burden of low-income earners and working against public health priorities. We need to address the source of housing inequality and community land trusts are a proven solution.

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We acknowledge the competing interests impacting the allocation of the PG&E settlement funds and urge you to make choices that allow our community to look toward a vision of an audaciously resilient future where housing stability is not dictated by a person's race or income. As the pandemic continues to unveil the socioeconomic suffering of particular communities in Sonoma County, please consider the aforementioned program proposals as a step towards a more equitable future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Casmith, Interim President, North Bay Organizing Project



September 7, 2020

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PO Box 4900
Santa Rosa CA 95402
707.528.8712

Supervisor Susan Gorin
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive, Room 100 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: Caritas Center request – investment in ending Sonoma County homelessness

Dear Supervisor Gorin,

As you determine Sonoma County funding priorities for FY 2020-21, I request on behalf of Catholic Charities' Board of Directors, that you consider a one-time allocation of \$2M to help construct Caritas Center, a shovel-ready project that is the largest investment ever made in ending Sonoma County homelessness.

With its housing-focused service center, emergency family shelter, children's programs, medical respite shelter, and a dedicated health clinic, the 46,937 square foot Caritas Center aims to double the number of people moving from homelessness to permanent housing each year. Caritas Center represents a historic opportunity for the County of Sonoma to meet its Strategic Plan and Recovery and Resiliency goals related to housing and ending homelessness. It is ready to begin construction but needs a total of \$4M from public funds to enable project financing.

Project Cost and Funding: A \$2M commitment from the County of would help leverage over \$44M in other funding. Catholic Charities intends to pursue a similar request with the City of Santa Rosa with the goal of closing the remaining funding gap by the end of 2020.

| Costs | Funding |
|---|---------------------------------|
| \$32.6M – Construction | \$29M – Capital Campaign |
| \$7.9M – Predevelopment Costs | \$540K – So.Co. CDC loans |
| \$2.7M – Land Acquisition | \$7.5M – New Market Tax Credits |
| \$1.2M – Building and Impact Fees | \$5M – Developer Fees, other |
| \$1.5M – Operational Reserve | \$4M – Other Public Funds |
| \$46M – TOTAL (2015 thru completion) | \$46M - TOTAL |



Catholic Charities is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, which recognizes non-profits which adhere to a high level of performance standards and deliver the highest quality services to all of its stakeholders.

Meeting Sonoma County Strategic Goals: Caritas Center's integrated program and facility designs close critical gaps in Sonoma County's homeless system of care and provide the solutions our community needs to meet priority goals outlined in Sonoma County's 5 Year Strategic Plan draft and the Board of Directors' 2018 Recovery and Resiliency Framework.

While strengthening our community's safety net services and addressing our housing and homelessness crisis was already an important priority for the County of Sonoma, the impact of successive years of major natural disasters and economic consequences of COVID-19 make building Caritas Center more critical than ever before.

To meet the current and future needs of Sonoma County and its residents, Caritas Center will be the necessary bridge from homelessness to housing, and will replace deteriorating, substandard facilities that are over 100 years old. Caritas Center will:

- **Expand emergency shelter by 15 beds, and centralize medical respite shelter and increase capacity by 15 beds.**
- **Create new urgent and primary health clinic** for people experiencing homelessness;
- **Create new licensed preschool and after school care** for children experiencing homelessness; and
- **Expand outreach and dignity services for adults experiencing chronic homelessness.**
- **All focused on increasing placement into permanent supportive housing.**

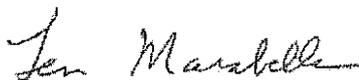
A distinct but equally critical component of the campus is Caritas Homes, 128 affordable housing units that will be funded, built, and managed by our partner Burbank Housing. Funding for the first phase of Caritas Homes to build 64 units is nearly complete, thanks in part to the County's partnership in securing No Place Like Home and CDBG funding.

Project Readiness: A County of Sonoma investment in the construction of Caritas Center will go to work immediately. Caritas Center is slated to begin construction in late 2020 and to open in mid-2022. Recent milestone achievements included the City of Santa Rosa Certification of Environmental Clearance and award of all discretionary approvals, and construction contract execution. Demolition and sitework will begin within 60 days, and we expect to complete building foundations in March 2021. Critical funding from New Market Tax Credits is linked with successful completion of our capital campaign and securing necessary public funding commitments by March 2021.

Catholic Charities has only been able to accomplish its long history of serving as one of the lead organizations in our community's fight to end homelessness because of the support we receive from you and your colleagues in the County of Sonoma. As we work toward our ultimate shared goal that no one in Sonoma County experiences homelessness for more than 30 days, I thank you on behalf of the board, staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities for considering this important request for funding construction of Caritas Center.

I have attached a deck of architectural renderings of the project as well as a list of our existing project investors so you can see the widespread support for this project among local philanthropic leaders. Please contact me at (707) 217-1356 or Imarabella@srcharities.org if you have any questions or need additional information regarding Caritas Center and its role in our community's future.

Sincerely,



Len Marabella, Chief Executive Officer

cc: Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Supervisor Shirlee Zane, Supervisor James Gore, Supervisor David Rabbitt

Inez Almaras

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 9:21 AM
To: PGCommunityInput
Subject: 2017 Fire

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Green Category

EXTERNAL

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for sending out this letter and seeking input. We filled out the survey but it lacked an opportunity to say what matters most to us.

Sky Farm Hermitage is a 60 acre non-profit near the end of Norrbom Rd that has been offering sanctuary movement for wildlife and silence and peace for people since 1975.

While we lost Only 1 building that housed equipment and paint etc., this doesn't begin to show the true loss and the extra costs to an already struggling non-profit to cut back brush, trees and so do our part to slow another fire should this happen again.

Besides loss of income, being evacuated for over 3 weeks, we spent well upwards of \$10,000 on repairs after the fire. It's unlikely that will be returned, but as you mentioned caring for nature—help with fallen trees remains a need and cause of ongoing concern.

Even if no help reaches us personally, we are grateful for your efforts to help the many people who lost homes, lives and are still struggling. Sonoma is wonderful because of its "soul", it's personality, it's ethic of rural work, in a word the families who have lived here for generations. The young people of Sonoma need housing they can afford to keep them living here.

All the wealth and money in the world won't make Sonoma healthy, sustainable and attractive, it's the locals of all varieties!!! The next generation of locals is key...help them especially please and preserve the natural beauty and wildlife. Loss of these is worse than fire.

May God bless your work,

Sr Michaela
Sky Farm Hermitage
www.skyfarm.org

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Inez Almaras

From: Larkfield Resilience <larkfieldfund@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 5:46 PM
To: PGCommunityInput
Cc: David Rabbitt; Susan Gorin; Shirlee Zane; district4; district5; Jenny Chamberlain
Subject: PG&E Funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Green Category

EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:

The Larkfield Resilience Fund looks forward to collaborating with you on how to best utilize the PG&E settlement funds from the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires. Our non-profit was created by our neighborhood, over 166 homes which were destroyed by the Tubbs Fire. As fire survivors, we know how important it is to rebuild our homes as fire safe. We now hope the County will help make our community fire safe by investing the settlement funds into long-term fire prevention/vegetation management programs. As we look up into the hills from our rebuilt homes to where the Tubbs fire started, we see little to no actionable fire prevention efforts that have been undertaken by the County or any other government agency. Private property owners are left with a few chippers to reduce vegetation growth but no fire breaks or innovative fire suppression programs have been implemented in our local Tubbs fire zone. The settlement funds could be used to fund these types of programs that will help reduce the spread of our next wildfire. We can't sustain our economy, keep businesses open or protect our children's future if we don't act now to invest in fire prevention and make our community truly fire safe. We are a bold County with great leadership and we thank you for all you have done to rebuild our community since the Tubbs. But let's not let that go to vain by investing and acting now. Sincerely,

Larkfield Resilience Fund Board of Directors

Shawn Ratliff - President
Brad Sherwood - Vice President
Christine Ratliff - Secretary/Treasurer
Haley Skerrett - Director
Stan Goodell - Director
Lisa Newman - Director
Katrina Lassen - Director

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Taking Action for Living Systems

September 3, 2020

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive, Suite 104A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
publicaffairs@sonomacounty.org

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors,

The County can step out in front of spiraling climate change impacts to our community by investing 40% of the PGandE Fire settlement funds in forest and watershed health, climate resiliency, and wildfire risk reduction. Taking Action for Living Systems (TALS) can provide the County with the high level coordination, science based analysis, and innovation needed to meet County and ORR wildfire risk reduction goals.

The TALS approach can rapidly scale-up planning, permitting, funding, and implementing forest management and wildfire risk reduction measures across the diverse landscapes of the County. This comprehensive, community-based approach addresses the following essential elements:

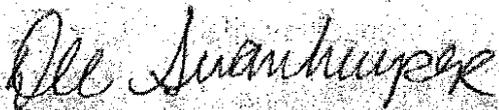
- Organizes landowners into large geographical units with common wildfire threats and needed treatments that can attract permanent funding streams and support local rural economic stability. We call these "Natural Enterprise Complexes (NECs)
- Focuses on the largest wildfire risk areas with the greatest avoided cost, carbon sequestration and other co-benefits. TALS has been working for the past two years to develop partnerships to form three NECs--Lake Sonoma, Mayacamas Mark West to Diamond Mountain, and North Coastal Forest.
- NECs develop the strategic action plans that articulate shared community priorities, develop first order matrices of vegetation management treatments, and integrate fuel breaks and other modifications recommended by fire specialists. They structure landowner and stakeholder participation and provide a governance system to implement the needed work across property lines from grazing to prescribed fire, to invasive species removal, shady fuel break construction and maintenance.
- Developing enterprise payment streams--from beneficiaries to benefit sources to provide long term stable funding to sustain forest health and rural communities. These streams include: carbon sequestration (Carbon Forestry), cost avoidance, and sustainable forest products.

Here in the county, Fire Safe Sonoma, Fire Safe Councils, the Resource Conservation Districts, the Sonoma Ecology Center, Pepperwood Preserve, the Forest Conservation Working Group, Taking Action for Living Systems, and many others have been working urgently to solve these problems. The County took a large step forward in developing a county wide CWPP, the Sonoma County Recovery and Resiliency Framework, and the County five-year Strategic Plan Priorities. Taking Action works to bring these many efforts and organizations together into partnerships that identify the benefits of larger collaborations to address these problems at the landscape and regional scale.

TALS believes the PGandE settlement provides a unique opportunity to catalyze forming regional NECS. We recommend that the County direct a minimum of 40% of the Settlement Funds toward funding the organizational development, project planning, permit assessment and economic modeling for NEC partnerships to attract public benefit funding streams for carbon sequestration, cost avoidance including air quality and public health impact avoidance. In this way the County will reduce the competition for grant funds between all the needed Fire Safe Council CWPP actions, and increase regional collaboration and innovation to meet the challenge of bringing our forests and woodlands into a well managed state. Investing now will allow the community to realize the benefits of this work rather than suffering through repeated wildfire events that sap community vitality, increase income inequality, and reduce our ability to adapt to climate change.

Please review our attached project documents. Additionally, please let us know what the next steps are in your process for making final decisions. Send to: Dee Swan-huyser, Taking Action for Living Systems (TALS) — pdswan@comcast.net or 707-823-3236.

Sincerely,



Taking Action for Living Systems, Inc. (501c3)

In support of this request letter: Sonoma Ecology Center

Inez Almaras

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 4:01 PM
To: PGCommunityInput
Subject: Funding Allocation Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Green Category

EXTERNAL

The agriculture community demands that at least 50% of these funds be used toward resource management on public and privately owned lands. Potential programs include:

- Development of an advocacy plan that encourages state and federal agencies to grant us regulatory relief to allow land management programs to happen.
- Funding of personnel and equipment resources needed to implement an aggressive prescribed burn program in all of Sonoma County, including privately owned properties.
- Funding of a countywide prescribed grazing program that supports training programs, infrastructure acquisition, and grant funds to enhance the successful grazing program already established in Sonoma County.
- Establishment of a logging and timber management task force to discuss best management practices, to develop an advocacy plan needed to change current regulations that prevent forest management, and to provide resources needed to further enhance forest management.
- The purchase of easements or land to allow for permanent firebreaks around our most at-risk communities or properties.
- Establishment of a program in cooperation with Cal Fire to allow for immediate utilization of large equipment and general land management knowledge from our local farming and ranching community in an emergency.

Samantha Plehoff | *Executive Assistant & Office Manager*

Sonoma County Farm Bureau

3589 Westwind Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Office: (707) 544-5575 | **Fax:** (707) 544-7452

samantha@sonomafb.org | www.sonomafb.org

Promoting and Protecting Agriculture for the Farmer in Everyone

THIS EMAIL ORIGINATED OUTSIDE OF THE SONOMA COUNTY EMAIL SYSTEM.



Educating homeowners about wildfire preparedness activities and working with local fire agencies on projects that increase the wildfire survivability of our watershed community.

Upper Mark West FSC
6985 Saint Helena Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
umwfsc@markwestwatershed.org
Tel: 707-538-5307
www.markwestwatershed.org

Dear Supervisor:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Upper Mark West FireSafe Council. We are a working committee of the Friends of the Mark West Watershed. The Upper Mark West Watershed (UMWW) is about 12,000 acres of mostly steep terrain and is the home of about 700 Sonoma County residents. Most of the properties are under private ownership. The Upper Mark West FireSafe Council is composed of residents who have been working over the past 5 years to develop an exemplary Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) thinking about watershed scale mitigation. The Northern boundary of the CWPP is Porter Creek; the Western boundary is Alpine Road, the Southern Boundary is Plum Ranch Road; and the Eastern Boundary is the Napa/Sonoma County line at St. Helena Road. St. Helena Road and Calistoga Road are the major arteries in and out of the watershed.

We are aware that PG&E has awarded Sonoma County \$149.3 million for settlement funds for the Tubbs/Nuns Fire. We would like to ask you to please focus these PG&E funds on improved safety and wildfire resilience for the areas of our county that were severely impacted by the Tubbs and Nuns Fires.

We should strategically use the PG&E resources to increase public safety for future fire emergencies. We know that the Calistoga Road corridor is a fire pathway with historical significance, and that fire will blast through this corridor again sometime in the future. St. Helena Road is also an essential egress road between Santa Rosa and Napa Valley. In addition, CalFire has identified St. Helena Road as an important location for a shaded-fuel break, to protect Santa Rosa from wind-driven fires.

Prior to the Tubbs fire, many landowners in this area were already working diligently with FireSafe Sonoma, CalFire and Santa Rosa Fire officials to create our CWPP. It was a multiyear project, involving many stakeholders. The plan was completed and filed with the county on November 1, 2018. It is not surprising that the threat assessment in the CWPP identified this



Educating homeowners about wildfire preparedness activities and working with local fire agencies on projects that increase the wildfire survivability of our watershed community.

Upper Mark West FSC
6985 Saint Helena Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
umwisc@markwestwatershed.org
Tel: 707-538-5307
www.markwestwatershed.org

area as an extremely high fire threat. Road safety was identified as a top priority. These priorities also align with the goals in the County's Recovery and Resiliency Framework.

We have been working diligently with our neighbors in the UMWW to increase fire safety on our private parcels. We are doing what we can to minimize vegetation along private roads, but the condition of the county roads is beyond our capability as local citizens.

We need our local government to step in and make our roads safer for access and egress during emergencies. There are over 700 people up in these mountains that need safe egress away from fire danger when these events are upon us.

Making these roads safer means:

- a. Vegetation management and vegetation removal along roadsides, including limbing and thinning. In the UMWW this would include Calistoga Rd. and St. Helena Rd.
- b. Creation of roadside pullouts along major evacuation routes to allow for safe and simultaneous resident-evacuation and emergency vehicle access. Again, in the UMWW this would include Calistoga Rd. and St. Helena Rd.
- c. Creation of firebreaks along the historic path of wildfires, especially in the area east of Porter Creek Rd. and Calistoga Rd. and west of the cities of Calistoga and St. Helena.
- d. Expansion of equipment and manpower for the county chipper program to more effectively support the many property owners who are doing fuel reduction on their parcels.



Educating homeowners about wildfire preparedness activities and working with local fire agencies on projects that increase the wildfire survivability of our watershed community.

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umwfsc@markwestwatershed.org
Tel: 707-538-5307
www.markwestwatershed.org

- e. Improvement of critical internet and satellite coverage, especially in communication "blind spots" along the roads and in neighborhoods where there is no cell reception.

This last item is of utmost urgency. To evacuate from our homes requires that we navigate 10 to 12 miles of windy, forest-lined, 2-lane roads. Many of those miles are in steep canyons where there is no cell signal. That means we have no way of communicating about downed trees or other dangers that could impede evacuation. If someone got into trouble in these areas, we would have no way to know about it for some time. Again, this is an infrastructure issue that is beyond our ability to remedy as private citizens.

We strongly encourage you to apply incoming PG&E funds to help us to mitigate the danger of this fire corridor. We know this is a historic path for fire in the past and will only continue to be a threat for our area in the future. In fact, all the climate modeling for our area shows an increased risk of dangerous, wind-driven fire events in this watershed region.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our feedback to this discussion and will be anxious to learn of your decisions.

Please feel free to contact us if we can help to clarify any issues.

Sincerely,

Amy Sather
UMW FSC Committee
amysather@ymail.com



A non-profit social benefit club celebrating community and promoting the common interests for friends and neighbors living in the Alpine Valley area east of Santa Rosa, California.

Alpine Club
8570 Saint Helena Rd
Santa Rosa CA 95404
alpineclub@williamcblake.com
<https://sites.google.com/site/alpineclubsite/>

Dear Supervisor:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Alpine Club. The Alpine Club is a non-profit, local social benefit club dating back to the 1940's. It includes friends and neighbors living in the Alpine Valley area east of Santa Rosa, California. The Alpine Valley area includes the following roads: Calistoga, St. Helena, Plum Ranch, Erland, Tarwater, Wappo, Gates, Chalfant and Alpine. The Alpine Club works to promote the common interests of the neighborhood, as well as celebrating community with Club Gatherings. The Alpine Club collaborates with the Friends of the Mark West Watershed and the Upper Mark West FireSafe Council in several areas including safety, fire preparedness, and communication. The Alpine Club maintains an email list that is a great way to keep up to date on neighborhood news and things like road closures, evacuations, downed trees, and criminal activity.

The Alpine Club also supports the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) which is a joint effort with the Friends of the Mark West Watershed. The EPC works to create a communication structure for the community (e.g., automated phone "broadcasting", phone trees), for emergencies (e.g., wildfires, earthquakes, landslides). The EPC also works to improve communications between the community and emergency responders. In addition, the EPC may explore ways to help community members better prepare for emergencies (e.g., how to prepare "safe space" for fire protection, how to prepare for long periods of time without electricity). The EPC also manages the Phone Alert System (PAS) which is a phone communication system activated during crisis situations. The PAS has been in operation since 2009 and calls resident's phone(s) when there is a local emergency that could impact the safety of residents or their property. This system was successfully used during the 2017 Tubbs fire, when the community was negatively impacted with power outages and internet connectivity issues.

We are aware that PG&E has awarded Sonoma County \$149.3 million that is intended to mitigate losses from the 2017 Tubbs/Nunns Fire. We would like to ask you to please focus these PG&E funds directly on improved safety and wildfire resilience for communities that were severely impacted by the Tubbs and Nuns Fires.



A non-profit social benefit club celebrating community and promoting the common interests for friends and neighbors living in the Alpine Valley area east of Santa Rosa, California.

Alpine Club
8570 Saint Helena Rd
Santa Rosa CA 95404
alpineclub@williamcblake.com
<https://sites.google.com/site/alpineclubsite/>

We should strategically use the PG&E funds to increase public safety for future fire emergencies in communities that have already suffered losses in the Tubbs/Nunns fires. Calistoga and St Helena Roads have proven to be critical evacuation routes within our community. We need the support of the county supervisors to make our roads safer during emergencies.

Making these roads safer means:

- a. Vegetation management and vegetation removal along roadsides, including limbing and thinning. For the Alpine Club, the key evacuation routes would include Calistoga Rd. and St. Helena Rd.
- b. Creation of roadside pullouts along major evacuation routes to allow for safe and simultaneous resident-evacuation and emergency vehicle access. Again, for the Alpine Club, this would include Calistoga Rd. and St. Helena Rd.
- c. Creation of firebreaks along the historic path of wildfires, especially in the area east of Porter Creek Rd. and Calistoga Rd. and west of the cities of Calistoga and St. Helena.
- d. Expansion of equipment and manpower for the county chipper program to more effectively support the many property owners who are already doing fuel reduction on their parcels.
- e. Improvement of critical internet and satellite coverage, especially in communication "blind spots" along the roads and in neighborhoods where there is no cell reception.



A non-profit social benefit club
celebrating community and promoting
the common interests for friends and
neighbors living in the Alpine Valley
area east of Santa Rosa, California.

Alpine Club
8570 Saint Helena Rd
Santa Rosa CA 95404
alpineclub@williamcblake.com
<https://sites.google.com/site/alpineclubsite/>

We know you will be dealing with significant budget shortfalls this year in Sonoma County. Unfortunately, even more of the Districts in Sonoma County are now facing additional losses due to fires since 2017. We hope that you can successfully collaborate with your Supervisor colleagues to ensure that the current \$149.3 million that has recently been awarded by PG&E be used specifically in those fire-affected areas were severely damaged in 2017 by the Tubbs and Nunns fires.

Please feel free to contact us if we can help to clarify any issues.

Sincerely,
Alpine Club

Karen Passafaro

Karen Passafaro
President
Alpine Club
kpassafaro@gmail.com

Chris Schaefer

Chris Schaefer
Vice President
Alpine Club
chrischris@1reality.org



VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

PGCommunityInput@sonoma-county.org

September 4, 2020

Sonoma Water Board of Directors
575 Administration, Room 100A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: PG&E Settlement Funds

Sonoma Water Board of Directors:

I am writing on behalf of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the retail water agencies (aka Water Contractors) in support of Sonoma Water's request for \$4.75 million of PG&E's damages owed to Sonoma County for the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires.

Sonoma Water incurred costs for emergency response activities to safeguard public health and the environment by stabilizing hazardous conditions, and protecting essential drinking water infrastructure from fire damage to ensure uninterrupted service to the community and firefighters. The 2017 Fires, the 2019 Kincadee Fire, and the 2020 Walbridge LNU Complex Fires made clear that additional investment is needed to protect Lake Sonoma, the primary drinking water supply for more than 600,000 residents and businesses in Sonoma and Marin counties, which is under severe risk of catastrophic wildfire that could impact water supply and water quality and reduce Sonoma Water's ability to supply safe, clean drinking water.

The TAC appreciates the successful collaboration with Sonoma Water and its efforts to advance water supply resiliency, increase operational flexibility, address SCADA vulnerabilities, and improve watershed and natural resource management for the Water Contractors, fisheries, and community.

Since the 2017 Fires, Sonoma Water has launched new response actions and initiatives including:

- Participation in the Watershed Emergency Response Team to conduct rapid assessment of post-fire geologic and hydrologic hazards to life-safety and property
- Evaluation of potential impacts from post-wildfire burn areas including the impacts of wildfires on watershed hydrology and water chemistry
- Installation of flood warning network to detect flooding conditions coupled with progress on placing Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System radars
- Implementation of FireSmart Lake Sonoma to increase community engagement, watershed resiliency, and wildfire hazard reduction
- Initiation of a comprehensive climate adaptation plan to identify strategies to address climate risks and vulnerabilities and water supply reliability impacts
- Facilitating the installation of high-definition cameras to provide early fire detection and situational awareness throughout the region

- Establishment of an emergency training and coordination program with the Water Contractors and the County of Sonoma to enhance and refine interoperability and emergency response and recovery capabilities.

The TAC supports Sonoma Water's funding request of \$4.75 million for the following projects and programs that are consistent with goals and actions in the Sonoma County Recovery & Resiliency Framework and will further protect and enhance our water supply and natural resources.

Redundant Mobile Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) \$500,000: Sonoma Water does not have a redundant SCADA system to allow continued operations of water and sewer services during an emergency which represents a significant vulnerability. A redundant mobile SCADA system with built in GIS capability for developing real-time, incident specific mapping, radio system interoperability with county public safety radio, and monitoring of security systems to maintain communications and essential services during an emergency and facilitate Sonoma Water's ability to quickly restore services is a critical need.

Climate Adaptation Plan \$850,000: Sonoma Water is developing a Climate Adaptation Plan to assess and identify threats to its water supply, flood control, and wastewater infrastructure, and develop adaptation strategies to reduce vulnerabilities created by climate change and ensure the long-term health and resilience of our infrastructure. Preliminary findings indicate that some of the greatest climate impacts to Sonoma Water's infrastructure and operations are the intensity of precipitation events, wildfire and urban fire hazards, and the duration of droughts. The Plan would be enhanced if Sonoma Water completes additional focused modeling of flood impacts, fire hazards to infrastructure, water quality impacts from fire debris runoff, and severe drought impacts on water use and water availability.

Water Quality and Ash Impacts from Post-Fire Burned Watersheds \$900,000: Following the 2017, 2018, and 2019 wildfires, Sonoma Water developed, adapted, and expanded a post-fire sampling and assessment program with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to study the impacts of wildfires on watershed hydrology and water chemistry. The program includes surface water, riverbed sediment and ash sampling at strategic locations to evaluate areas downstream of burned watersheds. There is a critical need to understand watershed resiliency to periodic wildfire in terms of water quality, microbial controls on watershed biogeochemistry, and how changes in water quality in the fire impacted areas of the watershed impact drinking water production at Sonoma Water's Wohler and Mirabel facilities in Forestville as well as other water supply systems.

Fire Mitigation Decision Support Tool and Project Implementation (Lake Sonoma) \$750,000: Funding is needed to develop a science-based fuels treatment prioritization plan, develop pilot projects for fuel reduction in the Lake Sonoma Watershed, seek funding to provide direct landowner support for priority projects, and document a replicable process for other watersheds. The Fire Mitigation Decision Support Tool and implementation of wildfire hazard reduction projects in the Lake Sonoma Watershed will provide long term benefits to water supply and water quality.

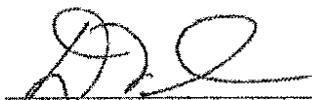
Sonoma One Rain Early Warning System \$750,000: After the 2017 Fires, Sonoma Water installed and operated the Sonoma One Rain System, a network of rain gages, stream

stage gages and soil moisture probes to monitor critical burned watershed areas and provide real time data to a decision support system used by the National Weather Service, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services, Sonoma Water, and the public to inform rapid response during atmospheric river events. This system is widely used and has had over 2.5 million visits in its first two years of operation. An expanded Sonoma One Rain network throughout the county with enhancements -- "fire weather" monitoring devices, measurement of rainfall shifts from infiltration to run off as surface flow, advanced data transmission, and integration with Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System radars -- will greatly improve the ability of emergency and water managers to assess public safety risks in real time, especially in burned areas.

Central Sonoma Watershed Protection: Wildfire Risk Reduction & Climate Resiliency
\$1,000,000: The Project consists of a series of flood detention reservoirs and conveyance facilities providing primary and critical flood protection in the upper Russian River watershed, Santa Rosa, and downstream communities. These facilities and the communities they serve are at significant risk to catastrophic wildfire and associated downstream risks of flooding, landslides and debris flows. Sonoma Water is developing a Watershed Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Program to address facility vulnerabilities, identify and implement a series of wildfire risk reduction actions, and heighten public awareness on opportunities to improve wildfire resiliency.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Sonoma Water's \$4.75 million request for funding to build on its successes in advancing water supply resiliency and improving watershed and natural resource management for the Water Contractors, fisheries, and the community.

Respectfully submitted,



Drew McIntyre,
Chair
Technical Advisory Committee



Dear Chair Gorin and Members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,

The Sonoma County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) would like to extend an offer of partnership to the Board of Supervisors as you deliberate on the allocation of the CARES Act and PG&E funding. COAD is a collaborative network that builds on the capacity and coordination of local community-based organizations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters in Sonoma County. Membership in COAD provides opportunities in effective planning, response, and recovery through networking and sharing of best practices; improved coordination and communication; and access to timely and accurate information through our seat in the Emergency Operations Center.

Through this offer of partnership, COAD seeks to inform the Board of Supervisors on the areas of greatest need that can benefit from the CARES Act and PG&E funding. COAD relationships and learned experiences from each organization's respective community and industry provide insight in each funding section the Board is seeking to finance, specifically homelessness, the Latinx community, and rental/financial assistance.

- **Rental and Financial Assistance:** The Sonoma County COAD recommends funds be directed to provide rental assistance through a case management supported framework. Our partnership has a proven practice in case management combined with rental and financial assistance provided by COAD members such as Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County, Catholic Charities, and Corazón Healdsburg. Our members are supporting indigenous populations, veterans, seniors, farmworkers, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and mental illness as well as other vulnerable communities through the case management process, since the 2017 Tubbs Fire through the most recent Public Safety Power Shutoff events.
- **Data Sharing for Effective Resource Allocation:** The Sonoma County COAD recommends funding to help fully develop 2-1-1 Sonoma (*Resiliency and Recovery Framework SN 3.5*). Accurate, real time information is vital in responding to disasters. Likewise, communication among service providers strengthens the community safety-net, foundational to effective response to disasters. Data-sharing and collaboration across our network through data sharing agreements will ensure the most efficient and effective use of funds during and post-disaster. This effort includes supporting the United Way of the Wine Country's effort to fully develop 2-1-1 Sonoma.
- **The Latinx Community:** The Sonoma County COAD supports direct funding to the Latinx Task Force for subsequent dispersion to Latinx-facing organizations. The evident health impact of COVID-19, coupled with the impact of systemic inequity on Latinx communities in Sonoma County have had a disproportionately severe impact on this community. The Sonoma County COAD additionally has active relationships with organizations serving the Latinx community.



- **Resiliency through Food:** The Sonoma County COAD specifically recommends investing funds in preparing sustainable food system solutions. We are investing in mitigation efforts critical to preparing for future disasters as vulnerable communities continue to feel the ongoing impact post-flood, fires, and pandemic. Our COAD Food Committee is working with the UC Cooperative Extension and local partners such as Petaluma Bounty, towards supporting a sustainable source of funding with food service providers (*Resiliency and Recovery Framework SN 1.3*) and developing a comprehensive inventory and mapping of local food resources available to meet ongoing community food needs (*Resiliency and Recovery Framework SN 1.4*).
- Finally, we offer a suggestion to direct funding to areas identified in the Resilience and Recovery Framework, to build on and update to the present day, as it was informed by the community we all seek to serve, support, and include in the work towards resiliency and recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in determining how the CARES Act and PG&E funds will be invested. COAD looks forward to our collaboration with the Board and County departments.

Signed,

Sonoma County COAD
Executive Committee

Jennifer O'Donnell, **Chair**

Cynthia King, **Vice Chair**

Lily Rego, **Treasurer**

Karin Demarest, **Secretary**

Gabriela Orantes, **Access and Functional Needs Chair**

Michael Humphrey, **Access and Functional Needs County Liaison**

Susan Cooper, **Communications Co-Chair**

Alma Bowen, **Communications Co-Chair**

Cynthia Calmenson, **Emotional and Spiritual Committee Chair**

Mimi Enright, **Food Work Group Committee Chair**

Suzi Grady, **Food Work Group - Incoming Chair**

Adam Peacocke, **Long Term Recovery Committee Chair**

Amy Holter, **Preparedness Committee Co-Chair**

Nathan Gilfenbaum, **Preparedness Committee Co-Chair**

Jessica Grace-Gallagher, **Volunteer and Donations Committee Chair**

Nancy Brown, **County Liaison**

John Kessel, **County Liaison**

Richard Goldfarb, **Red Cross Shelter Liaison**

Rocio Rodriguez, **Director**



CRADLE TO CAREER MEMBERS

Ananda Sweet
Santa Rosa Metro Chamber

Angie Dillon-Shore
First 5 Sonoma County

Dr. Anna Guzman
Santa Rosa City Schools

Dan Blake
Sonoma County Office of Education

Erin Hawkins
Hanna Institute

Guadalupe Navarro
Latino Service Providers

Jason Carter
City of Santa Rosa

Jason Weiss
Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin

Jeremy Decker
Windsor Unified School District

Karin Demarest
Community Foundation of Sonoma County

Kathy Goodacre
CTE Foundation

Katrin Ciaffa
10,000 Degrees

Lisa Carreño
United Way of Wine Country

Lisa Wittke Schaffner
John Jordan Foundation

Dr. Lori Rhodes
Sonoma State University

Susan Gilmore
North Bay Children's Center

Maleese Warner
Santa Rosa Junior College

Troy Niday
Sonoma Media Investments

August 10, 2020

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive Room 100 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Chair Gorin and the Members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Cradle to Career Operations Team, we request that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors ensure that the needs of children and youth are prioritized as the County's PG&E settlement funds are allocated. As you know, the wildfires of 2017 and recurring disasters, PSPS events and mass evacuations had a devastating impact on our community's child care sector, have caused significant disruptions in the continuity of early care and K-12 education and repeatedly displaced thousands of families from their homes. Over the last few years, the impacts of trauma on social-emotional development have contributed to increased stress and anxiety for many children and youth, as well as a decline in the countywide school readiness scores. Now, due to the COVID-19 crisis, children and students are again experiencing disruption in their learning and as well as the critical nutrition, counseling and other supports that many students normally receive at school.

Cradle to Career, as you know, is a broad-based coalition of community organizations and individuals focused on kindergarten readiness, supporting students to succeed, both in and out of the classroom, as well as college and career readiness. As a committee of Health Action, we support the education pillar in the Health Action framework and greatly appreciate the County's ongoing and vital backbone support for our work.

We urge the Board to look to the Sonoma County's Recovery & Resiliency Framework as a key guidepost for determining priorities. Based on the extensive community process led by the County in 2018, the Framework calls out several priorities that benefit Sonoma County's youngest citizens, including:

- **Create a plan that addresses the integration of trauma-informed care in the community throughout various institutions, including schools, behavioral health services, and case management.**
- **Understand and address social inequities to advance opportunities for all.**
- **Expand broadband infrastructure across the county.**
- **Develop a plan to set up emergency childcare facilities to allow emergency responders and community members to continue critical work needs.**

HEALTHACTION
CRADLE TO CAREER
SONOMA COUNTY

CRADLE TO CAREER MEMBERS

Ananda Sweet

Santa Rosa Metro Chamber

Angie Dillon-Shore

First 5 Sonoma County

Dr. Anna Guzman

Santa Rosa City Schools

Dan Blake

Sonoma County Office of Education

Erin Hawkins

Hanna Institute

Guadalupe Navarro

Latino Service Providers

Jason Carter

City of Santa Rosa

Jason Weiss

Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin

Jeremy Decker

Windsor Unified School District

Karin Demarest

Community Foundation of Sonoma County

Kathy Goodacre

CTE Foundation

Katrin Ciaffa

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Lisa Carreño

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Lisa Wittke Schaffner

John Jordan Foundation

Dr. Lori Rhodes

Sonoma State University

Susan Gilmore

North Bay Children's Center

Maleese Warner

Santa Rosa Junior College

Troy Niday

Sonoma Media Investments

The Board has the opportunity to further the recovery and enhance the resiliency of children and youth by allocating settlement resources and leveraging the existing efforts and investments of community partners:

- Join the emerging public-private partnership with the City of Santa Rosa, First 5 Sonoma County and Community Foundation of Sonoma County to establish a Child Care Business Relief Fund to prevent the potential loss of thousands of child care slots due to a combined loss of 500+ slots in the 2017 wildfires and escalated costs to operate due to the COVID-19 crisis. Estimate one-time cost: \$1,000,000
- Restore funding for school-based counseling and crisis intervention, Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) 0-5 services. Estimated onetime cost: \$300,000 • Support the Sonoma County Resilience Collaborative to continue the work to engage teachers and early learning providers in trauma-informed methods for supporting young children and school-age youth. Estimated one-time cost: \$300,000
- Leverage funds with SCOE, Community Foundation Sonoma County and other local entities to ensure that all students, preschool through 12th grade, have adequate technology tools (hotspots) to access distance learning opportunities at home. *Estimated one-time cost: \$300,000*

We offer our collective expertise, ideas and time to partner with you to create a bold vision for the children and youth of Sonoma County with a portion of the PG&E settlement dollars. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like any more information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Angie Dillon-Shore
Advocacy Committee Chair
Cradle to Career Operations Team



Sonoma Valley, California

The Springs Municipal Advisory Council represents the people of the Springs in Sonoma Valley as the voice of the community to elected representatives. SMAC is committed to engage with all community members in meaningful and inclusive ways to promote the health and wellbeing of the Springs.

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive
Room 100 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

August 31, 2020

Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for considering our request for financial support for the purchasing of supplies for emergency preparedness in the Sonoma Springs area of Sonoma Valley. As you are aware, in October of 2017, our region experienced a massive fire disaster that forever changed our lives and our landscape. We are currently in a similar situation in our county with the LNU Complex fire.

The Springs Municipal Advisory Council (SMAC) has been operational for the 18 months. The SMAC identified early on the urgent need for emergency preparedness particularly in the unincorporated area of Sonoma Valley (aka the Springs). The Ad Hoc committee has been busying educating ourselves and working collaboratively with City and County officials and departments to develop a plan for the Springs. Our focus includes fire safety as well as other emergency situations.

We have collaborated with the Supervisor Gorin, Karina Garcia, County Human Services, Emergency Management, SoCo Emergency and DEM, Red Cross, Sonoma Valley Unified School District, Rebuild Northbay, Sonoma City Council, Fire Safe Council, Community Emergency Response Team, LISTOS and Map Your Neighborhood (MYN). As a result of our efforts we are preparing plans for the establishment of a Fire Safe Council for the Springs Area. In addition, SMAC members will be CERT trained and community members have been participating in LISTOS training. MYN work is beginning to take shape by prioritizing some of the higher need areas in the Springs.

The two areas of greatest need to date is the establishment of potential shelter locations and the supplies needed to support a shelter. During the fires, of 2017 local volunteers and organizations provided meals, donations, information, and a safe harbor for hundreds of residents in need. We cannot rely on the kindness of our neighbors for catastrophic events. We as community leaders need to be prepared. As always, the Sonoma Community will be ready to serve in any capacity necessary. However, everyone will rest a little easier know there is a plan in place.

The Springs population is close to 10,000 with 49% being Latinx. The median income is under 25,000 and 25% live below the poverty line. Being prepared for an emergency requires resources that our families do not have in the Springs. As a community we need to have the resources available to support the most vulnerable.

As we approach the third anniversary, we are requesting support from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to create emergency supplies to be stored by SVUSD in the event of another natural disaster. The following itemized list will be stored in a mobile trailer for deployment to the identified shelter.

8.31.2020

Page 2

General Population Supplies

| Item | Cost | Total |
|---|--|------------------|
| N95 Masks Adults: 2400 (Link) | \$84.99 for a pack of 20 | \$10,220.00 |
| N95 Child: 500 (Link) | \$34.99 for a pack of 10 | \$1,749.50 |
| Water Bottles (Reusable): 500 (Link) | \$19.99 for 6 bottles | \$2,000.00 |
| LED Crank Flashlights: 300 (Link) | \$10.99 for 4 flashlights | 825.00 |
| Hygiene Kits: 960 (Link) Includes comb, travel toothbrush, Freshmint toothpaste, deodorant soap, shampoo, Purell anti-bacterial wipes, and 5 flex fit bandages. Packaged in reusable zippered case with carry handle and carabineer. | \$138.99 for 96 kits | \$1,400.00 |
| Tampons/Pads (500 tampons Link and 250 pads Link) | \$54.92 for 500 tampons & \$59.44 for 250 pads | \$114.00 |
| Diapers (high need item): Multiple sizes: 100 boxes | Average \$20.00 per box | \$2,000.00 |
| Surgical gloves: 20 boxes (Link) | \$24.99 per box of 100 | \$500.00 |
| Fleece Blankets: 200 (Link) | \$63.99 for a pack of 12 | \$1,040.00 |
| Emergency Survival Blanket: 500 (Link) | \$9.95 for a pack of 6 | \$830.00 |
| Total | | 20,678.50 |

Block Captains

| Item | Cost | Total |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Walkie-Talkies: 10 sets of 2 The Midland GXT1000VP4 is one of Midland's top all-purpose 2-way radios. This 2-way radio has a range of up to 36 miles (can be 2 miles or less in urban settings). The GXT1000VP4 receives NOAA all hazard broadcasts and NOAA weather alerts. This 2-way radio alerts you during severe weather conditions, or during a natural or civil disaster. The Midland GXT1000VP4 supports 50 channels. Each standard channel supports 142 privacy codes. This package includes two Midland GXT1000VP4 radios, two headsets with boom microphone, two NiMH rechargeable batteries, a desktop charger, vehicle charger, and two belt clips. (Link) | Set of 2 for \$69.99 | \$699.90 |
| Emergency Kit: 20 (Link) For Earthquake, Tornado, and or Natural Disaster Preparedness Kit. From treating cuts, to burns, splinters, eye irritants, cold, low blood sugar, and stings. Perfect for any office, job site, household and in the trunk, this kit has everything needed to address first aid emergencies. | \$79.99 | \$1,599.80 |
| Emergency NOAA Radio: 5 (Link) The Voyager Pro 600L (Now with 2,500 mAh Lithium Ion Battery) is the ultimate multi-function flashlight/radio. This Emergency Radio measures 6"H x 10"W x 2"D. | \$89.99 | \$449.95 |
| Yellow Safety Vest: 50 (Link) | Pack of 10 x 5 at \$24.99 | \$124.95 |
| Total | | \$2,874.60 |

The total for the requested items is \$23,553.10 Thank you again for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Maite Iturri, Chair
 Ray Willett, Vice Chair
 Iris Lombard, Council Member
 Springs Municipal Advisory Council (SMAC)
 Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc



THE SPRINGS

A *Portrait of Sonoma County* identifies as a priority area the Springs in Sonoma Valley (Fetters Springs/Agua Caliente West tract), which has the lowest human development index score outside Southwest Santa Rosa. This comparatively compact area lies amid census tracts with much higher scores. Although life expectancy in this community is higher than the county average, forty-five percent of its adults lack high school diplomas and its median personal earnings are third from last among Sonoma's ninety-nine tracts. The relatively small population (just over 5,000); the fact that this community is not adjacent to other high-poverty, low-human development areas; and the strong positive community role played by the area's schools give a place-based approach to the area a high likelihood of success.

Total Population

9,177

Race/Ethnicity



Life Expectancy (Yrs)

81.8

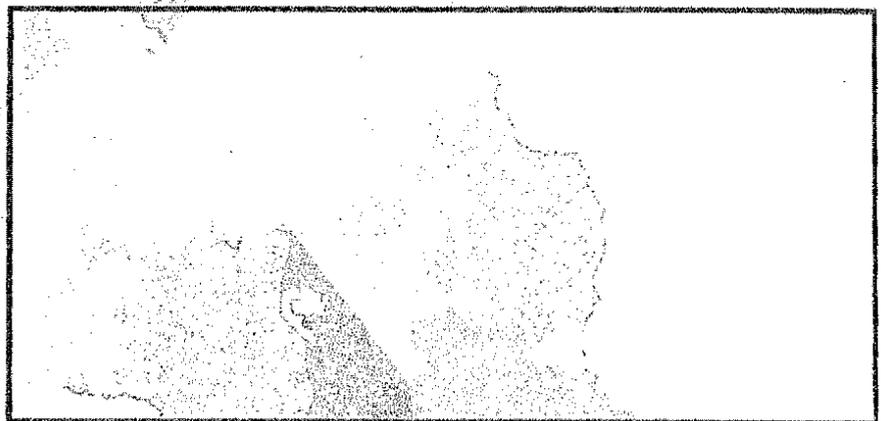
California 81.2
Sonoma County 81



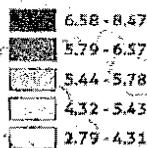
Median Personal Earnings

\$19,444

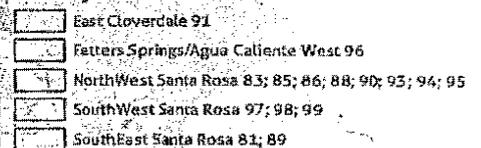
California \$30,502
Sonoma County \$30,214



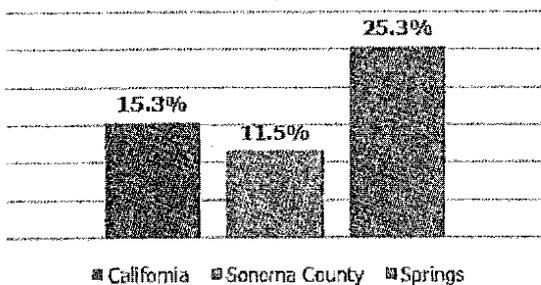
Human Development Index



Priority PlacesSM



INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL
(PERCENT)

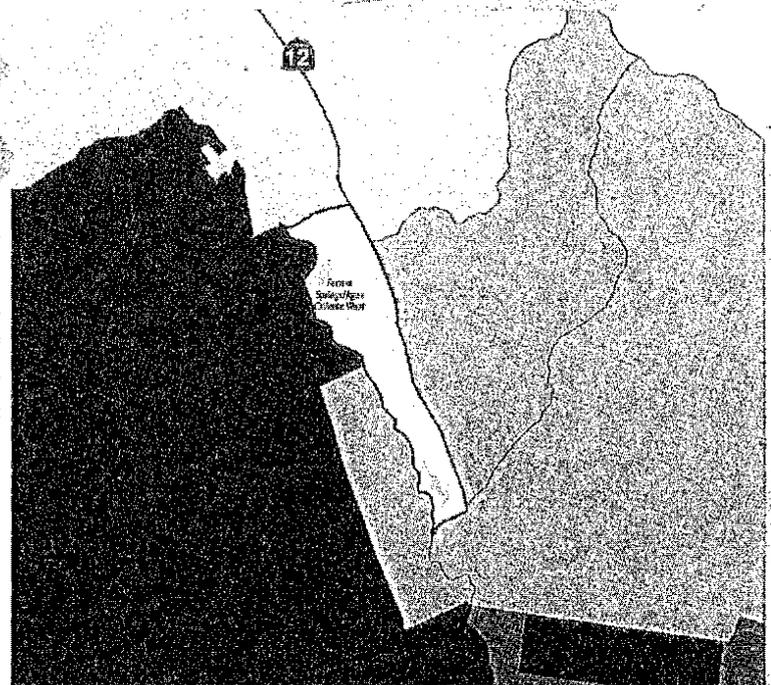


Percent Enrolled in School (Preschool through College)

67.8% 78.5% California
77.9% Sonoma County

Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher

17.1% 30.9% California
31.8% Sonoma County



** See Pg. 204 of *Portrait of Sonoma County* for numbered and named Census Tract list.

Executive Director
Jennifer Gray Thompson,
MPA

Board of Directors:

Board President: Judy Coffey
RN, Senior Consultant, Leap
Solutions; Former Senior VP,
Kaiser Permanente

Michael Mondavi (Exec.
Board)
Founder & Coach,
Hollo Fine Wine Partners

Larry Florin (Exec. Board)
CEO & President,
Burbank Housing

Henry Hansel (Exec. Board)
President,
Hansel Auto Group

Brian Bottari
Government Affairs Director
– North Bay, Internet
Essentials, Comcast

Jack Buckhorn
Executive Director,
North Bay Labor Council

Lisa Carreno
Executive Director,
United Way Wine Country

Sonu Chandi,
Founder & President,
Chandi Hospitality Group

Robert Eyles, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Extended &
International Education,
Sonoma State University

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Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

Jesse Katz
Founder/Winemaker,
Devil Proof Vineyards

Jake Kleberdanz
CEO & Founder, ONEHOPE

Lisa Micheli, Ph.D.
President & CEO,
Pepperwood Preserve

Cynthia Murray,
President & CEO,
North Bay Leadership Council

Michele Rahmn
Community Member

Tara Sharp
Marketing Officer,
Google



REBUILD NORTHBAY FOUNDATION

September 1, 2020

Hon. Susan Gorin, Chair
Hon. David Rabbitt, Supervisor
Hon. Shirlee Zane, Supervisor

Hon. James Gore, Supervisor
Hon. Lynda Hopkins, Supervisor, Vice Chair

RE: Allocation of \$149M PG&E 2017 Wildfire Settlement Funding

Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:

We appreciate the competing requests for allocation of the \$149M from the settlement with PG&E specifically related to their culpability in the wildfire disaster of October of 2017. We are writing to respectfully request the county invest these funds in long term fire prevention and resiliency projects to mitigate and even prevent future wide scale disasters. Specifically, we are requesting the county direct the funds towards practical long neglected projects that not only mitigate risk, but also prepare the community. We believe all sectors (public, private, nonprofit, health, and education) have a role and responsibility in preparing and responding to disasters, but lack of funding remains a severe constraint in our collective ability to rise to meet the moment.

We submit this is your moment to rise to meet the immediate need to build resilience into our county. This process must be well funded, and it will take years. The past few weeks have served as a stark reminder of our collective vulnerability, the scale of grief and destruction from wildfires, and the urgent opportunity to invest in the future. If not now, then when? There is no road to later. Never again will Sonoma County have an infusion of funding of this scale to make a difference that can and will make us safer a year from now, a decade from today, and 20 years into our future. Imagine if our supervisors 20 years ago could have foreseen the scale of destruction, trauma, and grief headed our way in 2017 through 2020? What would they have done differently if given the opportunity to invest significantly in fuel mitigation and disaster preparedness? We have a view into our future now. We know now what they did not know then. This is your legacy opportunity.

Rebuild NorthBay Foundation was founded in the midst of the fires on October 11, 2017 to assist in the long-term rebuilding of our region. In fact, our \$2M in seed funding came from PG&E. We are acutely aware of how careful allocation of resources has enabled us to make a marked difference for the past nearly three years. We have remained in this space with dogged determination and, to our horror, watched as the list of fire survivors has grown with each disaster. We have not forgotten our fire survivors, the needs of our public sector, or our responsibility to assist other disaster areas across the state and the nation. We stand with the block captains. We stand with uninsured, the unemployed, the rebuilders, and those who resettled in other homes, or in other places. We stand with you, our public sector elected officials, and ask you to please allocate these funds to make us safer, stronger, greener, and better. We submit this was and is the intention of funds.

Specifically, we support these fire survivor requests:



REBUILD NORTH BAY
FOUNDATION

1. The fire-affected areas were severely damaged and have not been restored. Residents in these communities are still struggling and need support.
2. Roads were badly damaged by the fires and the equipment that was needed to put out those fires. We know FEMA may provide funding, but that will take years and is not guaranteed.
3. Prepare and empower our most vulnerable communities, especially senior populations and Latinx, with funding to create robust fire resilient councils and ensure they are culturally relevant. We should begin with a matrix of vulnerable communities and begin there with training, supplies, coordination, MOUs for food services, etc.
4. The 2017 fire-damaged communities are still the source of fire hazards that affect all of us, and funding should be targeted for projects including the following:
 - o Vegetation management is needed, especially along critical evacuation routes.
 - o Road pull outs are needed along major evacuation routes to allow for the safe evacuation of residents simultaneously with emergency vehicles entering the area.
 - o Fire breaks are needed in the historic path of wildfires, such as in the area east of Porter Creek and Calistoga Roads and west of the City of Calistoga, in order to protect the cities and communities below.
 - o Similarly, the Springs area of Sonoma Valley has burned down three times in recorded memory. There is a ton of fuel in the eastern hills of this heavily populated area in statistically the most vulnerable community in unincorporated Sonoma County.
 - o We can learn from the LNU Complex Fires how to ensure western and northern Sonoma County become more resilient. We have more information now than ever before.
 - o Equipment and manpower for the county chipper program is needed to support the property-owners who are doing their own fuel-reduction efforts.

Disasters, as you know, do not care if a house is big or small, if the occupants are rich or poor. However, recovery is dramatically uneven and those most affected too often forgotten. We recognize the need to invest in social equity and housing, but we submit the primary focus of these funds should be mitigation, resiliency, and unfunded projects from 2017. Every year we experience a disaster, it sets our community into crisis mode and the numbers of displaced and affected victims swell. Our most vulnerable are asked yet again to absorb the impact disproportionately. Our business community has suffered repeatedly, never more so than now with our economic co-morbidity of COVID-19. Our mental health is stretched. We simply cannot continue to sustain disasters annually, especially when we have an opportunity now to make an actual difference.

We know each of you cares deeply for this vibrant, beautiful and verdant county. We respectfully submit that that our bucolic viewsheds extract an obligation to care for them responsibly. In doing so, you are protecting the 500,000 people who depend upon your judgement and compassion. We are asking you to invest in our safety, resiliency, and our tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gray Thompson
Executive Director

DocuSigned by:

88380212AEB24C1...

Judy Coffey
President, Board of Directors

Rebuild North Bay Foundation is a registered 501c3 committed to rebuilding the North Bay region of Napa, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties better, safer, greener, faster. For more information, please visit www.rebuildnorthbay.org



SONOMA VALLEY
**COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER**

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive
Room 100 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

August 31, 2020

Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,

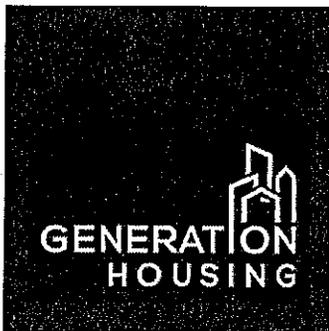
It is our pleasure write a letter in support of the emergency preparedness proposal being submitted by the Springs Municipal Advisory Council (SMAC) to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

The SMAC Ad Hoc Team is working in collaboration with city, county and nonprofit leaders to ensure that the Springs Community is prepared for the next emergency. Recent advancements have been made in the area of planning and preparation by focusing on establishing the following: Map Your Neighborhood (Block Captains), Fire Safe Council and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). All of these programs help provide the training and structure needed to prepare our community. We are committed to supporting these efforts by providing space and storage for emergency items, technical assistance and volunteers.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the SMAC Emergency Preparedness Team as they seek funding to support a program designed to keep our community safe. Any programs that can help keep our families will benefit our community and county. Sonoma Valley is isolated from the majority of Sonoma County and perhaps will need to be self-sufficient for a period of time depending on the emergency. The importance and urgency of this work, as you know all too well, will make us stronger and resilient as a county and community.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gray-Thompson, Rebuild Northbay
Logan Harvey, Mayor Sonoma City
Juan Hernandez, La Luz Center
Valerie Pistole, Sonoma Valley Rotary
MariCarmen Reyes, Sonoma Valley Community Health Center
Socorro Shiels, Sonoma Valley Unified School District



420 E St Suite 105
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

(707) 900-4364
info@generationhousing.org

4 September 2020

Santa Rosa City Council
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Via Email

Open Letter to the Esteemed Members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Rosa City Council,

We, the undersigned, respectfully yet strongly recommend that you seize a once in a generation opportunity to accelerate the pace of housing production across the affordability spectrum by allocating a portion of PG&E settlement funds to fully seed the Renewal Enterprise District's Housing Fund.

The pandemic has laid bare that housing is inextricably linked with education, with the local economy, and our community's well-being. **Housing is Health.**

As you triage resources to address the order and magnitude of our community's most critical needs, we urge you to keep housing top of mind. We also urge that this year's priorities, consistent with your priorities over the last several years, emphasize investment in infill and affordable housing, specifically as decisions are made regarding the award of PG&E settlement dollars, reported at \$95 Million for the City and \$149 Million for the County, with a combined total exceeding \$240 Million.

The City's housing priorities have been consistent with the County's strategic priorities, as well as the broad community input that informed the Recovery & Resiliency Framework's priorities. The majority of you endorsed Measure N, support rooted in a commitment to advance housing for all community members. Unfortunately, the Measure failed to secure this critical local funding, and the need persists.

Even our young people are concerned about our housing challenges. Recent data gathered by the robust YouthTruth survey of Sonoma County schools revealed that more than 90 percent of surveyed Sonoma County students, families, and staff rank "affordable housing" as the number one community concern with respect to ongoing fire recovery. In the same survey, 85% of families and staff responded that they had seriously considered moving out of the county in the past year due to the cost of living – 60% of them specifically citing housing concerns.

In determining how to allocate settlement money, you, our leaders, have a one-time opportunity to do something bold and make real progress in solving our housing crisis. **You are fortunate to finally have resources available to walk the pro-housing talk.** You have an opportunity to respond to the communities' concerns, fears, and values in a measurable way that will pay dividends for generations to come.

The allocation of the PG&E settlement money no doubt weighs heavily, and you could easily spend it five times over on compelling projects. As you prioritize categories for spending and specific investments, we urge you to allocate PG&E settlement money in a way that leverages those funds, transforming this one-time money into something greater with longer, more significant impact. Investment in the production of more infill and affordable housing does just that. **Homebuilding is a powerful economic engine and job creator; we can catalyze our local economy through investment in housing.**

We ask respectfully that you, the City and County collaboratively, in alignment with our shared priorities and values, invest in fully seeding the Renewal Enterprise District's housing fund.

The City and County rightfully earned statewide accolades for their innovation and collaboration in forming the Renewal Enterprise District. Now both entities have an opportunity to put their bold initiative to real work.

In response to the well-documented, unmet need for affordable and market-rate infill housing in urban areas of Sonoma County, the RED is currently facilitating the creation of a new housing fund focused on accelerating housing development. With this new fund, housing developers will have access to a source of gap-filling capital that can move projects forward, helping to create more housing near transit, jobs, services, and other amenities that contribute to healthy and inclusive communities. The RED Housing Fund is not a grant fund but a revolving loan fund.

An initial seed capital of \$20 million will empower the fund to offer financing to multiple developers in need of critical gap financing that could unlock capital from traditional debt and equity sources, pushing projects across the funding finish line. By both providing a mechanism for investors to support housing development, as well as distributing its capital in a way that activates additional funding from other financing sources, the fund can quickly and effectively help to change the development landscape in Santa Rosa to create more dense and vibrant communities.

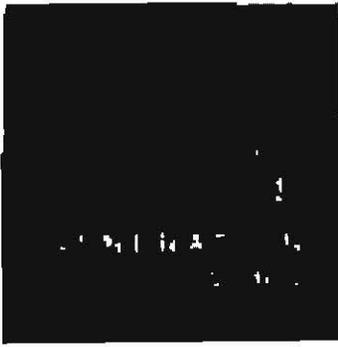
Fully seeding the RED Housing Fund is a powerful way to almost instantly leverage and grow one-time money – **it can immediately move existing projects forward, getting shovels and sticks in the ground, injecting cash into local economy and creating jobs, and attracting additional funding to attract and accelerate more projects.**

In Closing and With Gratitude

We appreciate your service, the difficulty in balancing compelling and competing needs and priorities, and the challenge in prioritizing money when you do not have enough for everything. **We encourage you to rise to meet the opportunity of this moment by prioritizing and investing in housing and doing so boldly in a way that ensures this money has significant, lasting, and generational impact.**

Respectfully,


Jen Klose,
Executive Director, Generation Housing



420 E St Suite 105
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

(707) 900-4364
info@generationhousing.org

4 September 2020

Santa Rosa City Council
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Via Email

Dear Esteemed Members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
and the Santa Rosa City Council,

The pandemic has laid bare that housing is inextricably linked with education, the local economy, and our community's well-being. **Housing is Health.**

We write today as each of your bodies begins discussing how to allocate the collective \$245 million you have received from your settlement with PG&E. The allocation of settlement funds no doubt weighs heavily on each of you, and you could easily spend it five times over on compelling projects. **We urge you to specifically prioritize and invest in keeping families in their homes for as long as feasible during this pandemic by establishing a City/County Rent Assistance Fund.**

That we are speeding toward a significant rent shortfall and economic cliff is not a surprise. But the research done by Generation Housing in partnership with New York University's Furman Center (provided in both its complete form and a one-page summary), shows the magnitude of this shortfall, and how it may be impacted by changes in governmental assistance and return to work. Based on this report, **Generation Housing and the signers to this letter advocate for the City and County to support renter households *and* rental housing providers, by investing in a rental assistance program of \$28 million to support households and providers for the next 6 months.**

The federal CARES Act has offered relief to those who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 by offering enhanced benefits for the past few months. Despite many still being unable or ineligible to receive benefits, the enhanced benefits have been a lifeline allowing many to pay their bills. The benefits expired at the end of July, leaving local renters and rental housing providers facing uncertainty and significant need.

The \$28 million figure covers six months of rent. The enhanced federal benefits were critical and, if reapproved, can continue to make a significant impact on people's lives. Economic forecasts for California suggest a positive fourth quarter and it

appears thus far that we are headed in that direction. Together, that could lighten the burden for many households, but we must also act locally to support and uplift our neighbors in this time of need.

We believe this is necessary to avoid hundreds, if not thousands, being thrust into housing insecurity or homelessness. Doing so means taking care of your constituents' physical, mental, and economic well-being, while also recognizing that it can be a critical driver of our community's economic recovery. We can protect our neighbors' health, housing, and economic security *and* inject money into and catalyze the recovery of our local economy by leveraging this money through an *upstream* investment in rent assistance.

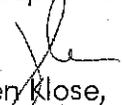
We also advocate for equitable distribution of funds, including that any local rental assistance funds specifically include and protect household members who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 but may have been unable or ineligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits. The estimated amount for the fund includes this rent shortfall. Using PG&E settlement money rather than CARES Act funds allows you to protect all of our community members.

This rental assistance program could prove to be deeply impactful for the health and well-being of local residents having to endure job loss due to the pandemic, protect rental housing providers, and continue the flow of money through our local economy — helping us pivot toward recovery.

In Closing, With Gratitude

We appreciate your service, the difficulty in balancing compelling and competing needs and priorities, and the challenge in prioritizing money when you do not have enough for everything. We encourage you to rise to meet the opportunity of this moment by prioritizing and investing in housing and keeping people housed, and to do so boldly in a way that ensures this money has significant and lasting impact.

Respectfully,


Jen Klose,
Executive Director, Generation Housing

Joining signers on following page