



Dixie Fire Collaborative

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From: Patrick H. Joseph, Coordinator for Long-term Recovery and Rebuild

To: Plumas County Board of Supervisors

SUBJ: PG&E Settlement Funding Discussion

“Resilient and prosperous recovered communities with supportive infrastructure systems, inclusive and affordable housing types, prioritized public health and social well-being, environmental and cultural stewardship, and an active next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders with opportunities for business innovation” - Plumas County, Summary Report, April 2023 Community Meetings and Post-Meeting Input Data Results, June 17, 2023

This is a quote from the report cited above. It is the vision statement that received the most community support through the community engagement and feedback sessions in the Spring of 2023 that contributed to the Plumas County 2021 Wildfire long-term recovery plan. Analyzing this simple and concise statement, one can read and contextualize the basic need and support for the County's recovery effort. It is with this vision statement in mind, that we the Dixie Fire Collaborative are asking for continued discussion and resolution on the County's 7.8 million dollar PG&E Settlement.

On November 7, 2023, CAO Lucero presented information to the Board of Supervisors for consideration on the issue of the PG&E Settlement money including insurance claims and money that was processed because of the Dixie Fire. The purpose of the discussion was to “establish a policy regarding the use of the PG&E Settlement Fund.” The presentation also included a policy proposal stating the following, “The Dixie Fire caused immeasurable damage to Plumas County and its residents. To begin addressing these impacts and working to mitigate the risks of future disasters, PG&E Settlement Funds should be used for County stability, hazard mitigation, and recovery. Recognizing that there are more worthy projects and uses of the PG&E Settlement Fund that are funds available, projects that address direct impacts from the Dixie Fire, leverage outside funds, and/or have a high level of urgency will be given priority.” The DFC concurs with this policy proposal and recommends moving forward with a detailed discussion on how the Settlement Fund can be allocated toward this objective.

Last fall, Plumas County along with the Indian Valley Community Services District (IVCSD) applied for a planning grant to the California Strategic Growth Council for construction planning on a Community Resilience Center. Unfortunately, that grant was not awarded. However, the vision and goal to plan and construct a multi-functional community center remain. By multi-functional, this building could house the Greenville Branch of the Plumas County Library and provide a town hall equivalent space comparable to that of the old county-owned space on Crescent Street. While currently simple concepts, having a more detailed discussion around funding opportunities and county contributions can turn some of these concepts into a realistic plan for community development and recovery. This is but one example for a way forward.

The detailed settlement discussion was on March 12, 2024, Board of Supervisors agenda and has been postponed due to additional information requests on the insurance settlement. The DFC is advocating for a detailed discussion and board resolution on the PG&E Settlement Fund. This discussion will help shape and create planning and construction opportunities for the next year. Thank you for your time and consideration thus far on this subject. We appreciate your efforts in contributing to the overall County recovery plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick H. Joseph", written in a cursive style.

Patrick H. Joseph