



COUNTY OF DEL NORTE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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On behalf of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors and Office of Emergency Services ("OES") we are pleased to provide a letter of support to the Del Norte County Fairgrounds ("Fairgrounds") in endorsement of the importance of the Power Pole Replacement Project ("Project"). The Fairgrounds is a valuable resource to our community, and is viewed as a critical asset by OES. Ensuring that the facility is operational at all times augments our ability to provide for the public health and safety of over 27,000 Del Norte County citizens and its visitors.

In the past, OES has utilized the Fairgrounds as an evacuation center for both people and animals. Just this past October, a local senior center experienced a fire and all residents were evacuated to and housed at the Fairgrounds in a collaborative effort between OES, American Red Cross, Del Norte Public Health, and local first responders. During the Chetco Bar Fire in 2017 many livestock were brought to the facility in assistance to a neighboring county. Currently, the facility has been mission-tasked by CalOES to serve as an Alternative Care Site for COVID19 response and is additionally tasked to be a staging center for a standalone COVID19 confirmation and antibody testing site. The Fairgrounds has been, and remains, an essential asset for responding to the wide varieties of hazards that threaten the North Coast.

The Project is vital in safeguarding this asset's operational status and our ability to rely on this resource. Recently, one of the three main wires failed and had to be replaced. The repair company noted that the remaining two wires and the pole itself (installed in the early 90s) were also due to be replaced. We are working to secure additional funding to place a large generator at the site as well, and these two projects together would guarantee the ability for OES to continue to rely on the Fairgrounds in emergency situations for decades to come.

This is the only site within Del Norte of a size and of a location to safely house large numbers of our citizens within a short period of time. As such, we implore you to fund this valuable project and to support the people of the North Coast. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hemmingsen, Chair
Board of Supervisors
Del Norte County, California