



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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November 17, 2020

Congressman Jared Huffman
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Ruth Lake and Mad River Watershed Restoration Post August Complex Fires

Dear Honorable Congressman Huffman:

During the past months of August, September and October, Humboldt and Trinity Counties experienced severe wildfires in the Ruth Lake area. There was extensive property damage, forest destruction and environmental harm. These fires have left behind many environmental threats. Most critical is the potential long-lasting contamination of the water in Ruth Lake and Mad River. These water sources provide drinking water to approximately 88,000 residents in Humboldt County. Therefore, water quality is of the utmost importance, not only to the residents of these counties, but also to fish habitats, watersheds and the environment.

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District is requesting our support in securing funding to expedite and continue the cleanup efforts. The need for erosion control, burned tree removal, woody debris removal from tributaries, and revegetation of the burnt areas are the focus in the next several months. For your reference and information, we are attaching the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water Districts Emergency Declaration Resolution 2020-08 which was passed on October 8, 2020.

While this disaster area has seen immediate FEMA and State funding for initial clean up, the anticipated restoration will require resources beyond what has been received, Therefore, on behalf of the County of Humboldt Board, we are asking for additional support of federal and state resources to address watershed restoration to maintain the high-quality water from Ruth Lake and Mad River.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for the continued support of this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

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cc: United States Senator Diane Feinstein
 California State Senator Mike McGuire
 California Assemblyman Jim Wood