

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Jason Heath
Santa Cruz County Counsel
701 Ocean St., Rm. 505
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and County Counsel,

On behalf of the Sierra Club's Ventana Chapter (Santa Cruz Group), we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the actions recently taken by the Board of Supervisors and Santa Cruz County Counsel to protect both survivors of the CZU fires and the irreplaceable natural habitat of Santa Cruz County from PG&E's egregious and unwarranted tree and vegetation removals post-fire. As you are aware, these actions have inflicted unnecessary further trauma on residents and unacceptable damage to an already fragile ecosystem, including endangerment of wildlife, forested lands, and critical waterways and watersheds.

The fire season of 2020 was the largest in California history, and Santa Cruz County was particularly hard-hit with 86,000 acres burned and the loss of 925 homes. Recovery from a historic natural disaster of such magnitude is a difficult and lengthy process. By your unanimous resolution of December 8th, 2020, directing the opening of a legal process of remedy, and the filing of a formal complaint against PG&E with the CPUC on January 22, 2021, you have offered residents of Santa Cruz County reassurance that they have the consideration and support of their County government and officials as they undertake the challenges of rebuilding.

In our reading of the complaint and its attached exhibits, we found it to be comprehensive, pertinent and well-referenced. It recognizes and addresses the gravity of the situation and is a serious attempt to rectify the damage done. We appreciate the County Counsel's thorough and diligent work, and the Board for making this a priority.

As Santa Cruz County residents and Sierra Club members, we are grateful for your swift and thoughtfully executed actions, and offer our continued support.

Respectfully,