

RESOLUTION No. 1569-2022<sup>3</sup>

**RESOLUTION OF THE RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDING A  
PRIORITIZATION STATEMENT FOR THE HOUSING RECOVERY PHASE OF THE  
DISASTER RESPONSE RESULTING FROM THE DECEMBER 20, 2022 EARTHQUAKE  
AND JANUARY 1, 2023 AFTERSHOCK THAT RENDERED AT LEAST NINETY-ONE  
STRUCTURES DEEMED UNINHABITABLE AND HUNDREDS OF RIO DELL  
RESIDENTS DISPLACED**

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**Recitals**

**A. WHEREAS**, on December 20, 2022 a 6.4 magnitude earthquake occurred approximately 7.5 miles west of Ferndale and was followed by a series of hundreds of aftershocks including a 5.4 magnitude aftershock located approximately 9.5 miles southeast of Rio Dell; and,

**B. WHEREAS**, the City of Rio Dell was the primary and all but exclusive location of earthquake related damages in Humboldt County that greatly impacted Rio Dell streets, water, wastewater and housing; and,

**C. WHEREAS**, ninety-one structures in the City of Rio Dell were deemed uninhabitable resulting in one-hundred twenty-five dwelling units being deemed uninhabitable with an estimated displaced population of nearly 300 individuals; and,

**D. WHEREAS**, these seismic events and the resulting damage do not meet certain federal thresholds for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be involved and therefor there is no federal disaster declaration resulting in no government disaster funding for Individual Assistance or private property despite the lack of earthquake insurance in the community and the level of displacement and damage within and outside of the community; and,

**E. WHEREAS**, there is a large and diverse portfolio of options available to the victims of the seismic events, including but not limited to federal SBA lending, USDA Rural Assistance, State Housing & Community Development (HCD) funding, however, these funding streams already pre-date the earthquake and are generally not designed for disaster relief or are otherwise limited in their scope and timeliness; and,

**B. WHEREAS**, the most flexible dollars available for disaster specific relief are related to a \$1m allocation from the County of Humboldt and philanthropic dollars already donated and future pending donations, however, these funds are limited in quantity and also come with some restrictions for their use and are ultimately not controlled by the City of Rio Dell; and,

**B. WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Rio Dell have expressed the extreme importance for recovery efforts to be focused on the unprecedented displacement of individuals and

families and that relief and recovery efforts need to focus on their repatriation to their homes in which they lived prior to the earthquake.

**Resolved**

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the City Council for the City of Rio Dell does hereby find, determine and resolve as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
  
2. Ending the displacement of earthquake victims is the highest priority at this stage of the recovery process. The City of Rio Dell requests that donors, non-profits and government agencies consider, prioritize and fund the rehousing of earthquake victims into Rio Dell or the community where they lived prior to the earthquakes. These individuals and families will almost exclusively be red or yellow-tagged residents whose home was determined to be uninhabitable. Because the impact was greatest in Rio Dell and the need is the highest in Rio Dell, the vast majority of these individuals and families are residents of Rio Dell.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Rio Dell City Council based upon a motion made by City Council Member \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by City Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, at a properly agendized and noticed meeting of the City Council of City of Rio Dell held on the <sup>31st</sup> day of January, 2023, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:  
Noes:  
Abstain:  
Absent:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Dunham, City Clerk