

**From:** [Denise Hill](#)  
**To:** [\\_CityCouncilListPublic](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PG&E Settlement for addressing issues on the Prince Memorial Greenway  
**Date:** Sunday, November 15, 2020 11:35:38 AM

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Dear Mayor Schwedhelm and City Council Members:

Please consider this suggestion for using funds from the PG&E Settlement for addressing issues on the Prince Memorial Greenway. The Greenway serves many community needs such as open space, fish and wildlife habitat, a major connector of our bike path and walking path system, and a critical link for the community to downtown and Railroad Square.

Prior to the downturn in the economy in 2011, my husband and I were thrilled to be able to use the Greenway for walking and cycling. However, once the City stopped providing general maintenance, regular graffiti cleanup, and police patrols it quickly became a rundown and unwelcome space. Sadly, what was once a jewel in our downtown area is now avoided by most downtown residents. Allocating a small portion of the PG&E settlement funds to make the necessary repairs and to increase maintenance of the Greenway would not only show the City understands the importance of this connector to the downtown area, but also gives back a much needed outdoor recreation area to current and future downtown residents. Many of the downtown residents have housed fire victims, participated in fire funding and donation drives, and provided multiple acts of kindness through volunteering in response to the last three years of fires. As one of the few areas not affected by PSPS or a destructive wildfire, the downtown has become a safe harbor for fire victims multiple times. Let's extend that safe area to the Prince Memorial Greenway so all residents can enjoy it again.

It is essential to fund improvements now to avoid further deterioration of the Greenway. Please consider allocating \$2 million to fund the needed improvements to the Greenway. This investment is critical for the future of our downtown.

Best,

*Denise Hill*

*Joe Lilienthal*

**From:** [Bill Montgomery](#)  
**To:** [\\_CityCouncilListPublic](#)  
**Cc:** [Steverabino](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Use of PG and E Settlement Funds to Improve and Rehabilitate the Prince Greenway  
**Date:** Sunday, November 15, 2020 6:56:24 PM

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Dear Councilmembers:

I understand that that at this week's meeting, you will be discussing the use of the PG & E Fire Settlement Funds. I understand that there are many many worthy needs for these funds, but I would like to throw my support behind the proposal to earmark \$2 million of that money fro the Rehabilitation of the Prince Memorial Greenway as proposed by Steve Rabinowitsch and others.

I have been a strong supporter of the Greenway since I first heard of the concept 30 years ago as we moved to Santa Rosa when I began my job in the Recreation and Parks Department. The concept of restoring to a natural creek, providing habitat in the downtown and creating a community link and activity center was, and remains irresistible.

For the last ten years, i have worked with the First Saturday Clean Up Group, established by Stan Grow, to keep the Greenway clean and remove undesirable invasive plants. Each Saturday, until the pandemic, we would have dozens of volunteers work to preserve this treasure.

However, because of poor ongoing maintenance, homelessness , and lack of a strong City plan for the Greenway, it is has suffered deterioration. Some structures have worn out or been vandalized, some plantings have died or deteriorated with little maintenance, and the presence of the homeless causes some people to avoid it. We need a plan and funds for physical rehabilitation, a plan to improve it for bicycles and pedestrians, a plan to make better connections to neighboring businesses and neighborhoods, and a plan to make it a safe and vibrant part of the downtown.

Please strongly consider \$2 million of these funds to make the greenway a beautiful and important part of the downtown's future!

Sincerely,

William Montgomery