



On March 1, 2023, Trustee Cathy Yanni, Trust CFO Tim Jorstad, Claims Processor Phil Strunk participated in a second virtual meeting hosted by Sonoma County Supervisors Susan Gorin and James Gore. The FVT leaders answered additional questions that had been submitted in advance from fire survivors in Sonoma and pledged to post those questions and the answers on the FVT website. [Note that some of the questions have been combined or truncated for brevity]:

1. Have all victims of the fires been located, including those who moved out of state?

Irrespective of where people live now, we are in touch with every fire victim (or their lawyer, if represented) who has contacted the FVT to file a claim. After the Trust was established in July 2020, we received contact information for all claimants (or their lawyers). We contacted everyone at that time and have continued to work with them, and any newly identified claimants, throughout the claims process.

As part of PG&E's bankruptcy cases, the Court established and oversaw a robust notice campaign that included mailed notices (as is typical and required in all bankruptcy cases); email notices; notice via a variety of print media publications; online advertisements; social media advertisements; local television and radio advertisements in both English and Spanish; national television advertisements to reach those who may have moved out of state; a dedicated website for Wildfire Claimants; and a toll-free phone number for Wildfire Claimants.

2. What can the FVT do to motivate law firms to get the funds faster to the claimants who need them?

We don't have jurisdiction over lawyers although we certainly support timely distribution of funds. Most fire victims' contracts with their lawyers were entered into before the Trust even existed. It is important to understand that some of the funds are not held by the law firms but instead by Qualified Settlement Fund administrators they hired, which creates another step in firms' payment processes after the Trust distributes funds. Any time we become aware of issues such as delayed payments, we contact the lawyers to push for expedited resolutions for the fire victims. We also have met with some of their Qualified Settlement Fund administrators in the past to make sure they understand all the information and resources we have provided to assist with their processes. We will continue outreach to the law firms and Qualified Settlement Fund administrators.

3. When was the newest 15% payment sent?

The *pro rata* payment percentage increase from 45% to 60% became effective on January 31, 2023. For all claimants receiving a first *pro rata* payment on January 31 or later, the Trust will disburse 60% of their payable award. For claimants who received a 45% *pro rata* payment before January 31, the Trust disbursed the applicable 15% increase (a true up to 60%) to claimants (or their lawyer, if represented) on February 7, 2023.



4. What is the status of Medicare and medical liens in general?

We have resolved 99% of all medical liens thanks to arrangements the Trust made with federal, state, and private health care plans that resulted in favorable medical lien processing timelines, lien recovery caps, offsets for liens associated with injury-related care, and in many cases, exemptions from medical lien repayment obligations altogether.

There are cases still left to resolve, no doubt, and we are working very hard to clear these up. With over 68,000 claimants in the Trust, there are currently less than 120 pending Medicare obligations and roughly 220 pending Medi-Cal (California Medicaid) obligations remaining. This means a pending Medicare or Medi-Cal obligation is the exception, not the norm. Because medical liens are highly case-specific, any Claimant with questions about a remaining lien obligation should have their lawyer contact us at LRA@firevictimtrust.com to discuss the details of their case.

5. What else can the FVT do to support federal legislation that would provide tax relief to fire victims?

We speak with both Congressmen Thompson and La Malfa's offices on a regular basis and provide program statistics to support their efforts. We also keep in communication with state legislators and the Administration to determine whether there are efforts they could take to help with the passage of the legislation. We wrote letters of support last year to Congressional leaders, and we submitted new letters of support this year. We recognize that this is important to fire victims, and we are working to help.

6. How much is the Trust spending on its own administration?

We report these numbers each year in our annual report, filed in the Bankruptcy Court and posted to the Trust's website each April. Our annual administrative overhead costs have averaged just about 0.65 percent of the total value of the Trust. We believe this to be significantly lower than comparable disaster relief or mass tort financial processes. If you extrapolate that rate, we estimate that our current overhead rate, at 30 months of operation, is approximately 1.625 percent, and that the current year should end at around 2.25 percent.

For comparison, we can share that most large settlement programs have administrative expenses ranging from 3 to 6 percent and, on average, when organizations contract with the state of California, the state authorizes between 10 to 15 percent for administrative overhead.