

California State Senate

SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



August 4, 2025

CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants Committee
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244 2460

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for Mendocino County's application to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program to fund their Hopland Shaded Fuel Break project.

The proposed project will be built along ridgelines west of Hopland, an area bordered by Highway 101, a key evacuation route. This 63.14-acre, 1.72-mile shaded fuel break wildfire mitigation initiative is essential in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone of Hopland. The project would reduce fuel loads, expand wildfire defense zones, improve evacuation routes, and work to enhance resilience. This fuel break would greatly improve upon fire safety and prevention in the city of Hopland and the Mendocino County region, and will implement critical public safety provisions necessary for the most vulnerable parts of our community.

I respectfully encourage you to support this proposal and look forward to seeing this project's successful implementation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at 707-576-2771.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mike McGuire", written in a cursive style.

MIKE MCGUIRE
Senator

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002
(916) 319-2002
FAX (916) 319-2102

DISTRICT OFFICE
50 D STREET, SUITE 450
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 576-2526
FAX: (707) 576-2297

E-MAIL

Assemblymember.Rogers@assembly.ca.gov



COMMITTEES
BUDGET
COMMUNICATIONS AND
CONVEYANCE
TRANSPORTATION
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON
CLIMATE CRISIS, RESOURCES,
ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION

August 5, 2025

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Wildfire Prevention Grants Committee
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244 2460

RE: Support for County of Mendocino Application

Dear Review Committee:

As the Assemblymember for Mendocino County, I am writing to express support for Mendocino County's application to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program.

The proposed Hopland Shaded Fuel Break project is essential for reducing fuel loads, expanding wildfire defense zones, improving evacuation routes, and enhancing resilience in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) of Hopland. This 63.14-acre, 1.72-mile shaded fuel break will be built along ridgelines west of Hopland, an area bordered by Highway 101, a key evacuation route.

Local Community Wildfire Protection Plans and CAL FIRE's Unit Fire Plan prioritize this shaded fuel break for wildfire mitigation. Project partners have collaborated for over a decade on this initiative, which has progressed to environmental review (CEQA) with CAL FIRE support.

Additionally, the project will facilitate community chipper days for surrounding Fire Safe Councils and the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, helping residents reduce fuel loads and create defensible space around homes.

The County of Mendocino, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, and local stakeholders strongly support this funding request and urge CAL FIRE to approve it. We urge CAL FIRE to approve this crucial funding request.

I kindly ask that you give this application your full consideration. Please feel free to contact my office at 707-576-2526 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

CHRIS ROGERS, Assemblymember, Second District

CR:sa



Hopland Fire Protection District

21 Feliz Creek Road • Post Office Box 463 • Hopland, California 95449

(707) 744-1222 • (707) 744-1198 Fax

www.hoplandfire.com

District Fire Chief Mitch Franklin

Date: July 31st, 2025

CAL FIRE

Wildfire Prevention Grants Committee

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter of Support for Mendocino County Wildfire Prevention Project

Dear Review Committee,

The Hopland Fire Protection District strongly supports Mendocino County's application for CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grant Program.

As a frontline responder, we have witnessed firsthand how hazardous fuels contribute to fast-moving wildfires with the River Fire in 2018 breaking out on the Eastern hills which was part of the Mendocino Complex Fires the third largest fire in the state. The proposed Hopland Shaded Fuel Break project will be a critical line of defense for our community. Creating and maintaining this strategic fuel break area, while also reducing vegetation along evacuation corridors, will substantially improve both firefighter access and public safety.

Recognizing the vital nature of this project, the Hopland Fire Protection District has collaborated with project partners for over a decade to develop the Hopland Shaded Fuel Break project. This process began with project identification and development within the Hopland Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), all the way up to this year's environmental review (CEQA) supported by CAL FIRE. This project is a crucial strategic initiative for reducing fuel loads, expanding vital wildfire defense zones, improving emergency evacuation routes, and enhancing the overall wildfire resilience of the Hopland area in Southern Mendocino County.

Not only does this project aim to reduce hazardous fuels along key access routes, but it will also facilitate community chipper days for the Feliz Creek and McNab Ranch Fire Safe Councils, and Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. These efforts are essential in assisting residents with fuel reduction and promote defensible space around their homes and roadways, ensuring homeowners can safely evacuate and emergency personnel can safely reach residents when needed.

We are committed to working with the County, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council and CAL FIRE to support this effort, as it directly enhances the safety of our residents and the effectiveness of our emergency response.

We strongly urge CAL FIRE to approve this vital funding request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mitch Franklin', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mitch Franklin

Fire Chief

Hopland Fire Protection District



MENDOCINO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

To inform, empower, and mobilize county residents to survive and thrive in wildfire-prone environments.

July 30, 2025

CAL FIRE
Wildfire Prevention Grants Committee
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Subject: Letter of Support for Mendocino County Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Education Project

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC), I am writing to express our support for Mendocino County's application to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program.

The proposed Hopland Shaded Fuel Break project will remove ladder fuels, enhance community protection, and preserve vital transportation routes through targeted vegetation thinning, thereby improving public safety.

We have collaborated with project partners over many years to develop this initiative, which originated with planning in the Hopland Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and has progressed to the environmental review (CEQA) this year supported by CAL FIRE funding. This project is a strategic effort to reduce fuel loads, expand vital wildfire defense zones, improve emergency evacuation routes, and enhance the overall wildfire resilience of the Hopland area in Southern Mendocino County.

This project will also support free community chipper days for the Feliz Creek and McNab Ranch Fire Safe Councils, and the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. These efforts will help residents reduce fuel loads and create defensible space around their homes, minimizing fire hazards and wildfire spread. Chipping not only reduces the amount of fuel available for fires but also decreases the waste sent to landfills. The MCFSC is committed to organizing and implementing these chipper days to assist with vegetation management throughout the Hopland area.

We are dedicated to collaborating with the County, the Hopland Fire Protection District, local fire safe councils, project partners, and CAL FIRE to enhance community safety and emergency response effectiveness. We urge CAL FIRE to approve this crucial funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Cratty".

Scott Cratty, Executive Director
director@firesafemendocino.org / 707-489-5985



Hoplend Band of Pomo Indians

3000 Shanel Rd., Hopland, California 95449 Phone (707) 472-2100 Fax (707) 744-1506

July 31, 2025

CAL FIRE
Wildfire Prevention Grants Committee
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter of Support for Mendocino County Wildfire Prevention Project

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, I am writing to express our strong support for Mendocino County's application to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program.

Our Tribal community, located in southern Mendocino County, supports the County's Hopland Shaded Fuel Break project, which is a critical wildfire defense measure that protects both Tribal lands and surrounding communities. The proposed project aims to enhance these efforts by further reducing hazardous vegetation to the west of Hopland and providing free community chipper days for local fire safe councils, including the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians Tribal Community.

The safety of our Elders, families, and cultural resources is dependent on expanding and maintaining these strategic wildfire prevention measures. The Hopland Band of Pomo Indians is committed to collaborating with Mendocino County and the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to support the implementation of this project and the success of these chipper days, ensuring that its benefits extend throughout the region.

We respectfully urge CAL FIRE to approve this funding request. Strengthening and extending the protections of the Hopland Shaded Fuel Break is essential for safeguarding lives, homes, and cultural heritage in Mendocino County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonny J. Elliott".

Sonny J. Elliott
Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
Tribal Chairman

McNab Ranch Fire Safe Council
August 1st, 2025

CAL FIRE
Wildfire Prevention Grants Committee
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Subject: Letter of Support for Mendocino County Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Education Project

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of the McNab Ranch Fire Safe Council, I am writing to express our strong and full support for Mendocino County's application to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program.

The proposed Hopland Shaded Fuel Break project will remove ladder fuels, enhance community protection, and preserve vital transportation routes through targeted vegetation thinning, thereby improving public safety. This project is a strategic effort to reduce fuel loads, expand vital wildfire defense zones, improve emergency evacuation routes, and enhance the overall wildfire resilience of the Hopland area in Southern Mendocino County.

Additionally, this project supports free community chipper days for the Feliz Creek and McNab Ranch Fire Safe Councils, and the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. These efforts will help residents reduce fuel loads and create defensible space around their homes, minimizing fire hazards and wildfire spread. Chipping not only reduces the amount of fuel available for fires but also decreases the waste sent to landfills. The McNab Ranch Fire Safe Council is committed to collaborating with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to ensure the success of these chipper days, which will assist with vegetation management throughout the Hopland area.

We are dedicated to collaborating with the County, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, project partners, and CAL FIRE to enhance community safety and emergency response effectiveness. We urge CAL FIRE to approve this crucial funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Zanetell". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Sue Zanetell
Lead Volunteer
McNab Ranch Fire Safe Council

**FELIZ CREEK
FIREWISE COMMUNITY**

July 31, 2025

CAL FIRE
Wildfire Prevention Grants Committee
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Subject: Letter of Support for Mendocino County Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Education Project

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of the Feliz Creek Firewise Community, I am writing to express our strong support for Mendocino County's application to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program.

The proposed Hopland Shaded Fuel Break project will remove ladder fuels, enhance community protection, and preserve vital transportation routes through targeted vegetation thinning, thereby improving public safety. This project is a strategic effort to reduce fuel loads, expand vital wildfire defense zones, improve emergency evacuation routes, and enhance the overall wildfire resilience of the Hopland area in Southern Mendocino County.

Additionally, this project supports free community chipper days for the Feliz Creek and McNab Ranch Fire Safe Councils, and the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. These efforts will help residents reduce fuel loads and create defensible space around their homes, minimizing fire hazards and wildfire spread. Chipping not only reduces the amount of fuel available for fires but also decreases the waste sent to landfills. The Feliz Creek Firewise Community is committed to collaborating with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to ensure the success of these chipper days, which will assist with vegetation management throughout the Hopland area.

We are dedicated to collaborating with the County, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, project partners, and CAL FIRE to enhance community safety and emergency response effectiveness. We urge CAL FIRE to approve this crucial funding request.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Byrne

Bernadette Byrne
Feliz Creek Firewise Community