

Doug Hutchison
Fire Chief



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1 August 2025

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

Subject: Letter of Commitment to Maintenance – Hopland Shaded Fuel Break

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, I am writing to express our commitment to support the Hopland Shaded Fuel Break, being proposed by Mendocino County through the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program.

The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority currently operates a fuels crew funded through a U.S. Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant. Our crew is dedicated to hazardous fuels reduction and vegetation management in high-risk wildfire areas across Mendocino County.

We recognize the importance of ensuring the long-term effectiveness of the Hopland Shaded Fuel Break, which will reduce wildfire risk and improve community safety along critical ingress and egress routes. Ukiah Valley Fire Authority commits to providing ongoing maintenance for the treated areas associated with this project as long as our fuels crew remains sufficiently funded, anticipated to be at least the next five (5) years.

This commitment includes:

- Conducting follow-up vegetation management and re-treatment, as needed, to maintain reduced fuel loads;
- Coordinating with Mendocino County and CAL FIRE on project monitoring and reporting;
- Leveraging our USFS CWDG-funded fuels crew to ensure treatments remain effective in meeting wildfire risk reduction goals.

We are proud to partner with Mendocino County on this important effort and look forward to working collaboratively to safeguard our community from catastrophic wildfire.

Sincerely,

Justin Buckingham

Justin Buckingham
Battalion Chief of Operations
Ukiah Valley Fire Authority
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“Providing Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services to the City of Ukiah and Ukiah Valley Fire District”