FY 2024-2025 USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Application

Applicant:
County of Mendocino

Project:

North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety

Letters of Support

JARED HUFFMAN

2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE

2445 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 PHONE: (202) 225–5161

WEBSITE: huffman.house.gov

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, **BC** 20515-0502

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES – RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

March 12, 2025

Brooke Rollins Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture 212A Whitten Building 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

I am writing to express my support for the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for their North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project. This project seeks to increase wildfire resiliency for remote and at-risk communities in northern Mendocino County.

Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities, with more than 16,000 people facing extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

The project will increase wildfire resiliency by targeting fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning. Specifically, this project will achieve this by implementing vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes. It will conduct extensive public education and outreach through public training sessions, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness. Further, the project will develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated communities in Northern Mendocino to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration for this application. Please contact my District Director, Shane Trimmer, at 415-258-9657 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

JARED HUFFMAN Member of Congress



SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



March 12, 2025

Sherry Hazelhurst, Director of State and Private Forestry USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear Director Hazelhurst:

I am writing to express my strong support for the County of Mendocino's application to the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project.

This project proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and at-risk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning. This will be conducted through vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas and robust community education and outreach. Additionally, this project will develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north County communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Because Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+ people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation, the CWDG funds will mobilize the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long term resilience in the region.

I respectfully encourage you to support this proposal and look forward to seeing its successful implementation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at 707-468-8914.

Warmest regards,

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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

Assembly
California Legislature

CHRIS ROGERS

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
BUDGET
COMMUNICATIONS AND
CONVEYANCE
TRANSPORTATION
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
WATER. PARKS. AND WILDLIFE

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON CLIMATE CRISIS, RESOURCES, ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION

March 12, 2025

USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear USFS Staff:

As the Assemblymember for Mendocino County, I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project which proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and at-risk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning.

The project will (1) implement vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas, as well as procurement of essential equipment for ongoing management and emergency response, (2) conduct extensive public education and outreach through public trainings, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness, and (3) develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north county communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+ people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

Thank you for your consideration of the County's request. Please contact my office if you have any questions at 707-576-2526.

Sincerely,

CHRIS ROGERS

Assemblymember, 2nd District

CR: sa



MENDOCINO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

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

USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

3/5/2025

Dear USFS Staff:

Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) is pleased to submit this letter in support of the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project which proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and at-risk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning.

The project will (1) implement vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas, as well as procurement of essential equipment for ongoing management and emergency response, (2) conduct extensive public education and outreach through public trainings, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness, and (3) develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north county communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+ people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

This project aligns with MCFSC's mission to inform, empower and mobilize residents to survive and thrive in a wildfire prone environment. If awarded, MCFSC agrees to support the implementation of the grant and will be glad to share resources and knowledge to help drive the success of this project.

MCFSC fully supports this project and asks that the USFS respond favorably to Mendocino County's funding request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Cratty

Executive Director

Mendocino County Fire Safe Council



2240 Old River Road Ukiah, CA 95482-6156 Ph. (707) 467-5001 Fax (707) 462-0379 NICOLE H. GLENTZER Superintendent of Schools

SERVICE

EXCELLENCE

INNOVATION

TEAMWORK

March 7, 2025

USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear USFS Staff:

Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) is pleased to submit this letter in support of the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project which proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and at-risk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning.

The project will (1) implement vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas, as well as procurement of essential equipment for ongoing management and emergency response, (2) conduct extensive public education and outreach through public trainings, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness, and (3) develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north county communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+ people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

MCOE fully supports this project and asks that the USFS respond favorably to Mendocino County's funding request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Nicole H. Glentzer

County Superintendent of Schools Mendocino County Office of Education

ROUND VALLEY INDIAN TRIBES

A Sovereign Nation of Confederated Tribes

TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICE 77826 COVELO ROAD COVELO, CALIFORNIA 95428 PHONE: 707-983-6126 FAX: 707-983-6128



LOCATION: ON STATE HWY 162 ONE MILE NORTH OF COVELO IN ROUND VALLEY TRIBAL TERRITORY SINCE TIME BEGAN

ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION ESTABLISHED 1856

USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear USFS Staff:

The Round Valley Indian Tribes is pleased to submit this letter in support of the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project which proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and at-risk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning.

The project will (1) implement vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas, as well as procurement of essential equipment for ongoing management and emergency response, (2) conduct extensive public education and outreach through public trainings, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness, and (3) develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north county communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+ people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

The Round Valley Indian Tribe's mission is to promote the social and economic welfare of the members of the Round Valley Tribes. Protect the rights of all Tribal Members. Protect and develop our land, timber, fish, wildlife, water and natural resources. Preserve and protect our heritage including our cultural values and traditions and build a stronger tribal government. Preserve, secure and exercise all the inherent rights and powers of a Sovereign United Indian Tribe. This project aligns with our current grant we are working on from Cal OES. Our goals and priorities will be focused on potential emergencies that may affect the Tribal Community and the community at large such

as earthquakes, floods, wildfires, planned and unplanned power outages by creating this comprehensive TEMP we will learn about the community response plans, evacuation plans, and designated emergency shelters. If awarded, the Round Valley Indian Tribes agrees to support the implementation of the grant and will be glad to share resources and knowledge to help drive the success of this project.

The Round Valley Indian Tribes fully supports this project and asks that the USFS respond favorably to Mendocino County's funding request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Russ, Tribal Business Administrator

Round Valley Indian Tribes



USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear USFS Staff:

Westport Volunteer Fire Department is pleased to submit this letter in support of the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project which proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and at-risk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning.

The project will (1) implement vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas, as well as procurement of essential equipment for ongoing management and emergency response, (2) conduct extensive public education and outreach through public trainings, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness, and (3) develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north county communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+ people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

Westport Volunteer Fire Department's mission is to respond to fire, medical, and other emergencies within the Westport Volunteer Fire Department response area, and to provide education and community services on health, safety, and emergency response issues for people living in or owning property in the Westport Volunteer Fire Department response are. This project aligns with our upcoming objectives match all of Mendocino County OES's CWDG grant proposal objectives. Branscomb Road has been identified as a key East-West Evacuation Route and is in great need of roadside fuels and hazardous tree removal. We are committed to seeking funding for this and for obtaining more emergency response equipment and vehicles using additional funding. It is also important to update our Emergency Preparedness / Response and Recovery Plans for Wildfire, Tsunami and Earthquake, while preparing for a shelter-in-place



evacuation center of our community members as well as potentially 3,000 campers and overnight transient tourists.

We in Westport have set the Western Branscomb Rd Evacuation Route and Community Planning, Preparedness and Evacuation safety as some of our highest priorities for upcoming grant applications. We are honored to join with OES to take this on. If awarded, Westport Volunteer Fire Department agrees to support the implementation of the grant and will be glad to share resources and knowledge to help drive the success of this project.

Westport Volunteer Fire Department fully supports this project and asks that the USFS respond favorably to Mendocino County's funding request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerel

Chief Daniel Maxey

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

3.10.2025

Piercy Fire Protection District

PO Box 206, Piercy, CA 95587 707-247-3333 Piercyfire.org

March 6, 2025

USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear USFS Staff:

The Piercy Fire Protection District (PFPD) is pleased to submit this letter in support of the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project which proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and at- risk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning.

The project will (1) implement vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas, as well as procurement of essential equipment for ongoing management and emergency response, (2) conduct extensive public education and outreach through public trainings, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness, and (3) develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north county communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+ people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

The mission of the Piercy Fire Protect District is to protect life and property in the Piercy community against threats from structural and wild-land fires, vehicle and medical emergencies, hazardous materials releases, and disasters, natural or man-made.

This project aligns with our goals to help provide an environmentally safe district for our residents and our community. If awarded, the PFPD agrees to support the implementation of the grant and will be glad to share resources and knowledge to help drive the success of this project.

The PFPD fully supports this project and asks that the USFS respond favorably to Mendocino County's funding request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry Casteel, Commissioner Piercy Fire Protection District

Larry Casteel

Leggett Valley Fire Protection District 66255 Drive Thru Tree Rd. PO Box 190 Leggett, CA. 95585]

USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear USFS Staff:

Leggett Valley Fire Protection District is pleased to submit this letter in support of the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project which proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and at-risk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning.

The project will (1) implement vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas, as well as procurement of essential equipment for ongoing management and emergency response, (2) conduct extensive public education and outreach through public trainings, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness, and (3) develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north county communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+ people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

Leggett Valley Fire Protection District agrees to support the implementation of the grant and will be glad to share resources and knowledge to help drive the success of this project.

Leggett Valley Fire Protection District fully supports this project and asks that the USFS respond favorably to Mendocino County's funding request. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ely Reighter

Leggett Fire Chief

USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear USFS Staff:

Wildwood Firesafe Council is pleased to submit this letter in support of the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project which proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and at-risk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning.

The project will (1) implement vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas, as well as procurement of essential equipment for ongoing management and emergency response, (2) conduct extensive public education and outreach through public trainings, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness, and (3) develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north county communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

Wildwood Firesafe Council mission is to provide fire safety through fuel reduction, signage, and addition water tanks for the Wildwood Ranchos subdivision. In 2023 we applied for and were awarded two grants, one from PG&E for \$30,000 which was used for fuel reduction and one from Mendocino County for \$8,000 which got us a total of 29,000 gallons of dedicated fire water storage. We are currently applying for the maximum allowable amount for two more grants for an firesafe evacuation route from Spyrock Road through Wildwood. Our project aligns with your proposed goals your goals of safe evacuation, education, and cooperation. If awarded, Wildwood Firesafe Council agrees to support the implementation of the grant and will be glad to share resources and knowledge to help drive the success of this project.

Wildwood Firesafe Council fully supports this project and asks that the USFS respond favorably to Mendocino County's funding request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Ronald Surratt and Alberta Davidson Wildwood Firesafe Council

Whale Gulch Vol. Fire Co.

USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear USFS Staff:

Whale Gulch Fire Co. is pleased to submit this letter in support of the County of Mendocino's application to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program for the North Mendocino County Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Safety Project which proposes a comprehensive approach to increasing wildfire resiliency for remote and atrisk communities in northern Mendocino County through targeted fuels reduction, public education, and evacuation planning.

The project will (1) implement vegetation management and hazardous tree removal along key evacuation routes with a focus on high-risk areas, as well as procurement of essential equipment for ongoing management and emergency response, (2) conduct extensive public education and outreach through public trainings, school programs, and community events to increase evacuation understanding and preparedness, and (3) develop localized evacuation plans for all unincorporated north county communities, to be annexed into the Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Northern Mendocino County is comprised of highly rural, fire-prone communities of 16,000+ people who face extreme wildfire risk, economic hardship, and geographic isolation. CWDG funds will be crucial in mobilizing the County's efforts to mitigate immediate wildfire threats, enhance preparedness, and build long-term resilience in this region.

Whale Gulch's mission is to reduce fuels on county rd and prvt. driveways, as well as creating a fuel break along our eastern ridge. This project aligns with our Firewise and Firesafe council goals by taking on these much needed projects, that have been on our five year plan. If awarded, Whale Gulch Fire agrees to support the implementation of the grant and will be glad to share resources and knowledge to help drive the success of this project.

Whale Gulch Fire fully supports this project and asks that the USFS respond favorably to Mendocino County's funding request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sascha Kissell

Sascha Kissell Cheif 5900 Whale Gulch Vol. Fire Co.