

Dear Supervisors,

Again, Mendocino Fire Safety is a budget whipping post. The proposal to cut Mendocino County Fire Safe Council allocation by 75% down to \$25,000 is unrealistic, short sighted and irrational in the face of the worst fire threat season in memory.

What can this do for all the hard work and engagement of the public partnering with government efforts to make us safe at the grass roots level?

Reminder: Fire Safe Councils, like Community Foundations and government grant writers, attract and capture funding from a multitude of sources. All this ENHANCES the fire fighting expenditures in county budget and money spent by volunteer fire departments, private citizens, communities and all.

Some years back I worked with Mendocino Fire Safe Council to establish a local FSC in Caspar with which I and neighbors raised over \$100,000 in matching funds and efforts with California State funding and Federal Forest Service grants to remove the flammable gorse threatening the community. That example has inspired new gorse treatment now going forward with some of those neighbors still active. We also placed a "dry hydrant" in the pond for water supply for fire trucks, marked escape routes and other accomplishments.. There was little or no expense to County of Mendocino for all that except to support M F S C.

I also ask Supervisors McGourty and Haschak about this budget impact on the Drought Relief initiative they lead.

Please continue existing \$100,000 annual funding for operations of our Mendocino County Fire Safe Council.

And, again, thank you all for your service to our County.