

Dear Board Members:

**From MCFSC:** The County's significant support last year powered a substantial revival of the MCFSC. We are now engaged in a number of vital fuels-reduction (such as major road clearing work in Ukiah and Brooktrails) and educational programs. We hope to continue substantially increasing our affiliated network of Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils so that they can leverage the work needed to address our mission to help all residents of Mendocino County to survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment.

As you know, wildfires and the need to prepare for them are not going away. Fire season is already upon us, and there is much work to do. At the County's proposed level of funding for next year, the MCFSC would need to reduce its operations and its effectiveness. Given the current drought and ever-increasing wildfire risk, it is obvious that sustained funding is needed to maintain our momentum.

I am asking that you restore the original funding of \$100,000 (or a portion thereof) to MCFSC so that they can continue their fire mitigation work during this time that we need it the most. As we all know during this time of uncertainty (coronavirus/Trump) the last thing we need is another horrible fire season.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathleen Rippey,  
Willits, CA