

Dear Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County -

I just read that the published draft County of Mendocino budget for the upcoming fiscal year proposes to reduce the County's support for the Fire Safe Counsel from the current \$100,000 to \$25,000/year.

The County's significant support last year powered a substantial revival of the MCFSC. They are now engaged in a number of vital fuels-reduction (such as major road clearing work in Ukiah and Brooktrails) and educational programs.

The community desperately needs this kind of help and I hope the Fire Safe Counsel can continue to substantially increase their affiliated network of Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils so that they can leverage the work needed to address the 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 would like to see MCFSC operations thrive in 2020-2021, and I am here to ask that you increase the MCFSC's funding to at least \$50,000, which would allow them to operate at a baseline level and effectively bring in other grant funding to support more fire-safety work in our community.

Thank you for supporting the vital work of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council!

Chiah Rodriques
Local resident, Redwood Valley