

June 7, 2020

Board Item 5a for June 9, 2020

To the Board of Supervisors:

This letter is a request that the Supervisors approve a budget for the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council of at least \$50,000 for FY 20-21.

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is an important and necessary agency that supports fire suppression efforts and fire prevention education throughout Mendocino County. As a longtime resident of the Sherwood Corridor and a member of Sherwood Firewise Communities, I am extremely thankful for the support of the MCFSC. Our group has over 5,000 people that live in a very dangerous fire area. The Fire Safe Council has been instrumental in supporting our local Sherwood Firewise Communities group by sharing resources and expertise. They have assisted us in a number of vital fuels-reduction and education projects. They assist with grants and help to leverage and coordinate the work needed for our county residents to survive our high fire areas.

Sherwood Firewise has accomplished a lot of progress in fuel reduction and fire education as we work diligently to make our residents safer. We would not have this level of success if it were not for the FireSafe Council. The FireSafe Council works with many other firewise groups throughout the County to increase community involvement for fire prevention and education. Our group is as successful as it is because of the hard work by committed volunteers, and the coordination and communication with other agencies. We rely on support from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and with guidance from the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is key to the coordination of fire safety in our County and the residents rely on it. Please find a way to at least approve a \$50,000 budget for its functioning. This funding would allow them to operate at a baseline level and bring in other grant funding to support more fire-safety work in our community. The danger of a wild fires is around us. Please support this vital agency that works to make residents safer.

Best regards,

Doreen Blumenfeld

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