



MENDOCINO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

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

June 8, 2020

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Delivered Electronically to BOS@MendocinoCounty.org

RE: 2020-2021 Fiscal Support for the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

Dear Supervisors:

With the County's support the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) got an amazing amount of work done the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The organization was essentially brought back to life with a new Board, restored bylaws, four years of back tax filings caught up, a revamped online presence, and new staff and the capacity it is currently deploying to project manage substantial fuels reduction projects, and community education and organizational work. It is now a fully functional asset for the community – in the centrally vital work of wildfire preparation – with renewed capability to independently bring new grant resources to the county.

In 2020-2021 the MCFSC hopes to deliver more benefits from the significant development work that was accomplished last year. Fortunately, the MCFSC already has some funding sources for this year that it can use to continue to enhance specific programs and offerings. Notably, one-time capacity building funds from the Community Foundation will enable us to do things like developing Spanish language materials and expand the reach of our Neighborhood Council work to a wider range of the community. Funds from the Ukiah Valley Fire Fuels Reduction grant will enable us to deliver home hardening and defensible space training and Community Chipper Day offerings in some areas (an opportunity that we hope to find a way to expand).

However, our existing grants come with specific deliverable requirements and will not cover most of our basic operational costs for things like core staff to respond to the MCFSC's substantial incoming requests from area residents, support for neighborhood fuels reduction projects, insurance, phones, internet, participation in community meetings and the development of emergency preparation and mitigation plans, to name a few. The County's proposes to reduce its support from this year's \$100,000 to \$25,000 in the current budget draft. At that level funding the MCFSC would need to start trimming its core operations.

Given the drought and the, very appropriately, high profile of the need to prepare for wildfire as a new core activity for residents county-wide, this is not the time for significant curtailment in preparation. Please consider increasing the MCFSC's funding to at least \$50,000, which would allow us to operate at a viable baseline level and continue to work on bringing in other grant funding to support more work in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Cratty".

Scott Cratty, Executive Director