

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

We have been informed that the current \$100,000 funding for the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) may be slashed to \$25,000 as per the draft County of Mendocino budget for year 2020-2021. MCFSC has been highly instrumental in supporting our Western Hills Fire Safe Council (WHFSC) in becoming an established council that includes approximately 650 residences in the western hills. We are focused on fire and emergency protection measures for home hardening and landscape defensibility of our residences as well as protection for the City of Ukiah. MCFSC has supported the WHFSC through monthly meetings that provide the latest in protection measures and connection with other fire safe councils, pamphlet distribution, grants that include limbing trees and clearing of brush at residences, vegetation management of roads, and chipper days for continued landscape vegetation management.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, we understand there has to be a reallocation of finances. However, it is important that the MCFSC remain viable for providing the latest fire safety information and continue to meet with all the County fire safe councils. We request that the Board provide a minimum of \$50,000 to the MCFSC in year 2020-2021 for operations to continue at a baseline level, and to retain Scott Cratty, as the Executive Director of the MCFSC. With this additional minimum funding the MCFSC will have the ability to support fire safety in our community and to seek more funding to remain sustainable.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeanne Wetzel Chinn, Chair, WHFSC
John Rogers, Vice-Chair, WHFSC
Ulla Rand, Vice-Chair, WHFSC