

Board of Supervisors, Mendocino County

Protest in Cuts to Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

While we understand the financial difficulties that the County is currently experiencing and that there is a need to reduce budgets, the Mendocino Fire Safe Council is actually bringing more funding into the County than the agency's annual budget.

Public safety in the high fire danger areas of the County remains a critical mission for the County. The potential damages resulting from wildfires could far exceed the loss of life and property resulting from the pandemic. Under the guidance of the MCFSC, Sherwood Firewise has been successful in developing and implementing several important public safety projects with funding secured that is far in excess of the annual MCFSC budget. Other Fire Safe Councils around the County are also relying on the MCFSC for

support in developing programs and obtaining funding. I have seen MCFSC help Sherwood Firewise Communities procure \$570,000 for fuel reduction in the Brooktrails area alone. The value of their service is far beyond their current budget.

Sherwood Firewise respectfully requests that the budget for the MCFSC be sustained at last year's levels, if possible, and if not to maintain at least a minimum budget of \$50,000 for the next fiscal year. Thank you for your consideration of this request