

Last year, Mendocino County enthusiastically supported the work done by the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. All around the Ukiah Valley, there is visible evidence of the work that has been completed to prevent a catastrophic wildfire from devastating our town. They are currently working on several essential fuels-reduction projects, including one to be completed on my property. (I live in the western hills.) The MCFSC is also planning enhanced fire-prevention education programs, and increasing the Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils' network. These efforts will allow them to ensure that all Mendocino County residents will be able to survive another devastating wildfire.

We had very little rain this winter, which increases the likelihood of a long, dangerous wildfire season. This is not the time to undermine our community's efforts to prepare for one. At the County's proposed, drastically reduced level of funding for 2020-2021, the MCFSC would need to eliminate jobs and reduce its operations, and therefore its overall effectiveness.

Please reconsider the proposed funding cut, and reinstate the MCFSC's funding to at least \$75,000. That would allow the Council to continue to work towards fulfilling its mission to help all residents of Mendocino County to survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment.

Thank you.

Lisa Ray