

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As you know, wildfires and the need to prepare for them are not going away. Fire season is already upon us, and there is much work to do. The County's significant support last year powered a substantial revival of the MCFSC. They are now engaged in a number of vital fuels-reduction (such as major road clearing work in Ukiah and Brooktrails) and educational programs. They hope to continue substantially increasing their affiliated network of Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils so that they can leverage the work needed to address their mission to help all residents of Mendocino County to survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment.

Personally my husband and I have been living in Brooktrails for over 36 years now. We built our own home, with the help of some professionals, and moved into it in December 1983. Since the threat of wildfires in our area has increased tremendously over the last several years, we have been loading up our truck every summer with clothing, food for ourselves and our pets, bottled water, dishes and silverware, pet carriers, personal belongings like pictures, important paperwork, etc. We don't know if we will be able to find a place to temporarily live or we might have to live out of our truck.

Given the current drought and ever-increasing wildfire risk, it is obvious that sustained funding is needed to maintain MCFSC's momentum. These are very scary times. We are asking the Board of Supervisors to increase the MCFSC's funding to at least \$50,000, which would allow them to operate at a baseline level and effectively bring in other grant funding to support more fire-safety work in our community.

If a fire were to break out in the Brooktrails area, we would hope that all the work MCFSC and residents are doing would minimize a fire getting completely out of control. If this were not to happen due to lack of funding, we could lose lives and people's homes and property could be destroyed. Imagine the pain of losing a family member, knowing all of us could have done something to save lives and minimize costs.

We personally would also like to thank John Haschak for his continuing concerns and support for the work that MCFSC is doing.

Dwayne and Pam St. Martin