

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council provides a critical service to the community facilitating and partnering with residents, Fire Safe Councils, road associations, to survive and thrive in our wildfire prone environment. The MCFSC has stepped up to meet the residents needs in a time of increasing wildfires. Real life examples of MCFSC organizational leadership can be seen throughout the massive Ukiah Valley road clearing project. Hundreds of hours of work go into initial community discussion of what resident needs are, what fire professionals see value in, finding the right grants, communicating with residents about work that will be done, and getting that work accomplished. Another real life example was the MCFSC virtual meeting held in May to prioritize needs, education/fuels reduction/water storage/road out development, of Anderson Valley residents and fire professionals. One of the many community representatives on the call outlining their neighborhood issues and the corresponding need for grant help was from Nash Mill Rd. Nash Mill Rd had the first fire of the season on June 1. Education, information, empowerment, mobilization and coordination all critical parts of the MCFSC mission to help residents survive these awful fires which are occurring earlier and more violently then ever before.

We all realize that the county's budget has been strangled by the pandemic. However, the drastic cut to the MCFSC would compromise their ability to help county residents in a time of growing needs. Please consider funding above the proposed \$25,000 to cover the hours and hours of community support the MCFSC provides.

Thank you,
Nancy Armstrong-Frost