

Dear Supervisors,

The County's significant support of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council 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 the 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.

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. At the County's proposed level of funding for next year, the MCFSC would need to reduce its operations and its effectiveness. Given the current drought and ever-increasing wildfire risk, it is obvious that sustained funding is needed to maintain the power of the MCFSC's momentum.

As a member of the newly established Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council. I would like to see MCFSC operations thrive in 2020-2021, and I am asking the Board of Supervisors to increase the MCFSC's funding to at least \$100,000, 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.

Sincerely,

Leslie Wieland