

06/08/2020

Comment to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors regarding Mendocino County FireSafe Council funding

Dear Mendocino County Supervisors,

The University of California's Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) encourages the Board of Supervisors to increase the MCFSC's funding to at least \$50,000, allowing this vital community engagement tool to operate at a baseline level and effectively bring in other grant funding to support more fire-safety work in our community.

The Firesafe council model has been proven to mobilize community members who stand to lose the most, fire safe councils create a powerful group initiative that can:

- Minimize risks to life, homes, and natural and human-made resources.
- Increase the insurability of property by increasing community safety.
- Forge strong partnerships with first responders.
- Acquire resources that can assist in fire prevention efforts.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and face another fire season in our County, we must continue to recognize the value of such community planning and communication.

Over the past few years HREC has been involved in sharing fire science research from the site and educational resources to the MCFSC Technical Meetings. Partnership with the MCFSC was integral to a \$100,000 grant awarded to HREC and our partner Sierra Foothill REC to provide fire science education to middle schoolers, which has already allowed 250 middle school students in Mendocino to learn skills to make themselves and their communities more fire resilient. As a sub-awardee the MCFSC will also be providing community fire safe meetings in Spanish to meet the needs of our diverse population.

At least \$50,000 funding allows MCFSC to leverage further grants that will be of great value to our community, creating a resilient and prepared Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Bailey" clearly distinguishable.

John Bailey
Director, UC ANR Hopland Research and Extension Center