



## MENDOCINO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

*To inform, empower, and mobilize county residents  
to survive and thrive in wildfire prone environments.*

July 20, 2020  
Mendocino County Fire Safe Council  
410 Jones St  
Suite C-3  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) urges you to support July 21, 2020 Agenda Item 6b), "Discussion and Possible Action Including Direction to Staff to Author a Hazardous Vegetation and Rubbish Abatement Ordinance" and to implement its recommended action item to "provide direction to staff to write a Hazardous Vegetation and Rubbish Abatement Ordinance."

MCFSC frequently hears from community members who live near properties that are creating a hazard. This is a significant problem in Mendocino County, and the lack of a strong ordinance and its enforcement is a significant barrier in resolving abatement problems. We had in fact intended to request the action item on your agenda ourselves.

Being ready for coming wildfires is an issue that requires community effort. Property owners who do not comply with defensible-space requirements, or do not reduce dangerous fuel loads, or allow invasions of flammable invasive plants or maintain other fire hazards on their property put the entire surrounding community at risk.

More homes burn down from embers than from direct flame, and embers are reported to travel up to a mile. Thus a badly maintained property that hosts a more intense fire can generate embers that will endanger a wide area of neighboring homes.

Most fires are started by human activity. Being able to enforce basic risk-management requirements for property owners is an important step toward reducing human agency in the disasters we have all suffered from in recent years.

Insurance companies are also reportedly starting to assess fire risk based on overall risk in an area. Improperly maintained properties put their neighbors at risk of increased premiums and/or loss of insurance, which damages our economy and makes it even harder for people to afford homes in Mendocino County.

The MCFSC would be pleased to offer assistance in researching best-in-class model ordinances, or otherwise supporting the recommended action.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Cratty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Cratty  
Executive Director, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council