

In an exact repeat of last year, the proposed budget would again drop support of the MCFSC from the current \$100,000 to \$25,000. After considering the consequences last year, the Board restored our prior funding. The MCFSC hopes you will reach the same conclusion this year.

Although we have brought in substantial grant funding for specific community projects we have no source of support for key components of our mission such as supporting our growing network of neighborhood level FSCs (now about 40) that are all multiplying important fire risk mitigation work throughout the County.

Having support for our base operations allows the MCFSC to focus on delivering service to the community. Over the past year, with the County's support, this approach has proven incredibly productive. This fiscal year the MCFSC has already secured \$400,000 in grants for on the ground work being implemented in the County, with another \$600,000 expected soon. That is not considering work on the significant grant-funded projects that the MCFSC is managing on behalf of the County or the grants we have helped the County draft that may result in yet more support. The MCFSC has also become a significant resource for community wildfire mitigation efforts, delivering community chipping services, low-income defensible space assistance, video and radio educational campaigns and much more. Indeed, we have done so much, so successfully that the MCFSC will soon be announced as California's 2nd State Assembly District Nonprofit of the Year. Now is not the time to reverse that progress.

The alternative, if the current budget proposal stands, that would be a truly unfortunate situation at this moment as we head into what is expected to be a historically dangerous wildfire season.

As a resident of the Deerwood community, I urge the Board to restore funding, at a minimum, to last year's level.

Respectfully,

David R. Lieberman