

Members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE BUDGET of the MENDOCINO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL--one of the most effective and critical organizations dedicated to wildfire prevention in the county (and award-winning, "Non-Profit of the Year" in California's 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District)! Ironically, this enormous budget cut is being considered just as we head into what is expected to be a historically dangerous wildfire season!

40-some neighborhood fire safe councils in the county depend on MCFSC for its wealth of information, expertise, and financial and tactical assistance for enormously important and otherwise daunting community efforts to reduce wildfire risk in our forested communities and to ensure the safety of our residents. Preparing for and preventing wildfires in the county should be one of the TOP PRIORITIES of the county. Funding for fire prevention through the efforts of organizations like MCFSC saves hundreds of thousands more on the disastrous results of wildfires.

This proposed budget cut would seem to be outrageously counterproductive, and I urge you to vote NO on the proposed cuts to the MCFSC budget.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Panzer, Chairperson for Cherry Creek Fire Safe Council  
Representing the 5,600-acre Cherry Creek Ranches community of Mendocino County