

Dear Supervisors,

It is my understanding that there is a proposal to reduce the funding of the Mendocino Fire Safe Council from \$100,000 to \$25,999. This seems particularly egregious as we enter yet another year of drought with the attendant wildfire risks.

I urge you to fund the MCFSC at it's prior year funding of \$100,000. This base operational budget is essential to continue fire safety services in the County and covers costs that are not allowable with grant funding. Base funding allows the MCFSC to bring in grants to multiply this initial County investment, which indeed MCFSC has done this past year by essentially 'matching' the County's investment through \$400,000 in grant funds this fiscal year with another \$600,000 expected soon. With no operational base, it is possible these grants wouldn't be pulled in and the County would lose this additional monetary support. I think MCFSC is a smart investment for the County; where else does the County double a budgetary investment in it's operating budget?

We depend on the MCFSC to bring these resources into Mendocino County and provide essential services like fuel reduction through the Chipper Days program. In the Mitchell Creek neighborhood last year on just one day of tree service over 70 loads of dry brush clearing by residents was chipped by MCFSC services. That is an excellent partnership between the community and local government. More of this wildfire fuel reduction work is planned for this summer and fall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Hock

--

Ron Hock
Fort Bragg