

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing regarding the proposal to reduce the funding of the Mendocino Fire Safe Council from \$100,000 to \$25,999.

You are already painfully aware that Mendocino County is currently dealing with a drought, as is all of California. You know the seriousness of our situation. Plus, we have no idea when it will end. Our County has already suffered wildfire after wildfire! Reducing the much-needed protection of this funding will be a dereliction of your duties, and flagrantly so. Please continue to fund the MCFSC at its prior year funding of \$100,000. Your original base funding of \$100,000 is crucial for fire safety.

As I understand it, this base funding allows MCFSC to bring in grants and that MCFSC did so in this past year. The MCFSC matched the County's investment through \$400,000 in grant funds this fiscal year with another \$600,000 expected soon. The base amount is pivotal, it is our county's leverage for increased protection. Why risk losing these additional supports? Your initial investment was resourceful and spoke to the caution your job requires. No good can come from reducing the \$100,000 base fund.

Also, constituents such as I depend on the MCFSC to bring these resources into Mendocino County. They are necessary for the Chipper Days program taking place this month in the Mitchell Creek neighborhood. In 2020, during one day of tree service alone, over 70 loads of dry brush clearing by residents was chipped by MCFSC services. You can be proud of such a productive relationship and reciprocity between community, neighborhoods, property owners, and the county.

Most of our neighborhood is ready for the planned Chipper Days this month. The summer and fall fuel abatement is already planned. Stick with your base funding of the Mendocino Fire Safe Council and let MCFSC continue such critical wildfire fuel reduction.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,
Linda Rosengarten