

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

From: Comptche Volunteer Fire Department & Comptche Disaster Preparedness Team/FSC

June 7, 2021

The Comptche Volunteer Fire Department and the Comptche Disaster Preparedness Team/ FSC, urge the County to fully fund the budget request from the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council for the coming year. A 75% reduction from last year's funding level, as currently in the draft budget, would be a hardship for the organization that would negatively impact the work of the neighborhood FSCs who are directly connected to MCFSC.

Access to the resources, grants, expertise and programs of MCFSC has brought us community chipper days, a discounted rate for our Comptche automated emergency contact system, community education and information and much more. The MCFSC supports connection among the neighborhood councils to facilitate shared expertise and problem solving for more effective work in our own neighborhoods. The MCFSC has increased the preparedness efforts in our communities and made the work of the local volunteer leaders more impactful.

As we enter a challenging fire season amid serious drought conditions, it's important to have the MCFSC working at top capacity. It's a credit to their effectiveness that the organization is being named the Nonprofit of the Year in the 2nd Assembly District. With the \$100K in base funding from the County last year, MCFSC is expected to bring about a \$1 million dollars in outside grant support for vegetation management. The County's return on their investment in MCFSD has been substantial in fire risk mitigation throughout the County.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to fully fund the request from the MCFSC and keep the momentum of this vital organization going when the need is so critical.

Davey Beak - Chief, Comptche Volunteer Fire Department
Deena Zarlin - Chair, Comptche Disaster Preparedness Team/FSC