



Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055
Pine Grove, California 95665
209-295-6200

June 16, 2015

Chairman J. Keith Gillless
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, California 94244-2460

LETTER OF SUPPORT: Use of SRAFPF Funds to Fire Safe Council Coordinators

Dear Chairman Gillless:

We are writing you today in support of the California Fire Safe Council's recommendation to use SRA fee (SRAFPF) funds to pay for the annual salaries/expenses of the recognized County and Regional Fire Safe Council Coordinators in the state.

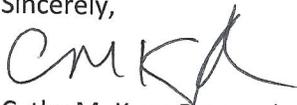
Our mission is to protect the people of Amador County and their property from the catastrophic effects of wildfire through education and outreach, innovation and action.

The SRAFPF's legislative intent is "to provide fire prevention benefits to the fee payers." The Amador Fire Safe Council has been in existence since 2002 and we have consistently provided the residents (SRA fee payers) of Amador County with high degree of fire prevention benefits in the form of community wildfire protection plans (Amador County 2005; Volcano, 2006; Pioneer/Volcano 2012; Pine Grove, 2013) and approximately 12 to 15 public outreach and education events each year for the past 12 years. In addition, we actively develop hazard fuel reduction projects in the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) throughout the county in collaboration with local, state and federal agencies including CALFIRE. Working closely with the county OES, we produced significant annexes to the county Hazard Mitigation Plan recently accepted by FEMA.

We develop and produce educational articles, press releases, social media posts, and handouts on a variety of topics covering wildland fire prevention, effective defensible space, fire-adapted landscaping, Firewise Communities development, and neighborhood preparation and evacuation.

We continually seek alternative and innovative funding sources as these same critical funds are rapidly dwindling and compromising our ability to serve our community. Funding coordinator salaries with SRA fee funds would allow us to continue this good work of fire prevention within our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CMKB', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Cathy M. Koos Breazeal, Executive Director
Amador Fire Safe Council

Cc: Frank Stewart, CAFSC
George Gentry, CA BOF



Frank Stewart
Director, Sierra Nevada Region
California Fire Safe Council
18 Premier Court
Chico, CA 95928
530-893-4952
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Chairman J. Keith Gilles
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

June 16, 2015

Dear Chairman Gilles:

This letter is a follow up of today's Resource Protection Committee hearing and specifically item 3 – Update on Board's Grant Program, review of potential grant regulations. After Staff Forester Kevin Conway updated the committee on the various changes to the multi page Procedural Guide for the SRA Grant Program and associated Regulatory Development document he covered the recent Board Counsel evaluation of the appropriateness of allowing SRAFPF Grant funds to support the salaries of County FSC Coordinators. I and others in the hearing were pleased to learn that the Counsel indicated that the statute leaves the Board discretion to define fire protection activities that benefit the fee payer.

When Chairman Saito opened the hearing to public comment I and George Alves, Coordinator for the Placer County FSC, Pat Dwyer, Chairman of the El Dorado County FSC and Bob Bartholomeu, Coordinator for the Mariposa County FSC spoke in favor of the RPC and BOF moving forward with updating **14 CCR- 1665.8. State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund Grant Program** with the inclusion of a new: (a)(4) *Perform County or Regional Fire Safe Council Coordinator Duties, Tasks and Responsibilities that advances their Councils Mission while providing fire protection benefits to the SRA fee payers in their county.* Change the "Other activities ..." label (a)(4) to (a)(5).

Attachment 1 is a County FSC pictorial array of the various County/Regional FSC Coordinator **duties, tasks and responsibilities** performed by 22 Coordinators who participated in both the 2010 and 2014 C/R FSC Coordinator survey, attachment 2. Attachment 3 is a display of the Mission statements of various County FSC's and are achieved through the dedicated and continual implementation of the duties, tasks and responsibilities of the C/R FSC Coordinators.

As the state moves through the 2016 budget development process I urge the board to adopt and implement this Coordinator funding fire protection activity.

Cordially,

Frank Stewart



County Fire Safe Councils

the key to success are the coordinators



Creating 100 feet of defensible space around your home
Homeowners can reduce the risk of injury, property or timber loss by creating 100 feet of "defensible space" around their homes. By removing dry brush and properly stacking piles, you can help reduce the risk of injury, property loss and timber loss while also creating a safer environment for firefighters.



Education



Hazardous Fuel Reduction



Education – Home Protection

A Homeowner's Guide to Firewise Landscaping in Butte County



Timberland

Planning/Education



Education



Education



Education



Hazardous Fuel Reduction



Planning/Education



Planning, HF Reduction, Education



Planning/Education



Education



Hazardous Fuel Reduction



Hazardous Fuel Reduction

County/Regional Fire Safe Council

Coordinator Duties, Tasks & Responsibilities

Frank Stewart (9/1/14)

Administration:

- Report to County/Regional FSC board of directors.
- Designated spoke person for County/Regional FSC representing all programs and interests.
- Supervise work of staff and volunteers and field all e-mails and phone calls relating to the County/Regional FSC.
- Schedule and facilitate monthly County/Regional FSC meetings, agendas, minutes and correspondence.
- Provide Quarterly and Year-end Audit Reports, bookkeeping.
- Monitor and update our County/Regional FSC website with current fire safety and prevention information and program updates.
- Collaborate with all of our County/Regional FSC members and ensure all activities are consistent with our mission, promote long term sustainability of the organization and aligns with the policies of our board of directors.

Education and Outreach:

- Develop, administer, coordinate, monitor and annually update the County Fire Plan (CWPP) for our county.
- Develop, administer, present and monitor Firewise educational activities with the public in various menus.
- Collaborate with local, state and federal agencies on various fire prevention and protection projects.
- Develop defensible space and chipping projects around senior, low income & other citizens' homes within the WUI's.
- Develop and implement educational outreach programs for at-risk communities within the county.
- Attend other community meetings and provide educational and fire prevention/protection presentations to local citizens & businesses.
- Assist local, state and federal fire fighting/prevention agencies with school fire prevention, protection and educational programs.
- Collect and distribute home improvement, fire safety and prevention literature and materials to local residents, citizens & businesses.
- Collaborate on the development and distribution of fire safe newspaper inserts, flyers, brochures, posters, highway billboards and Video Disks.
- Write and submit fire safe press releases, articles and associated pictures to newspapers and local TV reporters and stations for the protection of homes and citizens.
- Develop & staff fire safety and prevention booth at our County Fair, Senior exhibits and Safe at home fair days.
- Conduct community wide fire prevention and educational programs.
- Work with local communities and fire agencies to ensure all hazardous fuel reduction projects are properly planned, coordinated and implemented in a timely and organized manner that includes continual homeowner communication and project update reports.
- Plan and participate in annual county Wildfire Risk Assessment Survey.

Grant Writing, Development and Management:

- Develop, write and administer all grants for organization including contracts for grant implementation.
- Continually seek funding and granting opportunities for developing and implementing fire prevention and protection projects on the ground throughout the WUI's within our County Fire Plan.

Note: Summary of the duties, tasks & responsibilities of the 22 County/Regional Fire Safe Council Coordinators that participated in the 2010 and 2014 C/R FSC Coordinator survey.

Mission Statements of County Fire Safe Councils

Amador County Fire Safe Council – protect people and property of Amador County from fire through education, outreach, innovation and action.

Butte County Fire Safe Council – to provide safety in Butte County through wildfire hazard education and mitigation.

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council – to protect the people and their property from the effects of catastrophic wildfire through education, cooperation, innovation and action.

South Lake County Fire Safe Council – to analyze, plan, coordinate and manage available resources to reduce fire hazards and improve public safety through a combination of education, dissemination of information and community projects.

Lassen County Fire Safe Council – mobilizing Californians to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfire.

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council – to preserve Mariposa County’s natural and manmade resources by mobilizing all Mariposa residents to make their homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe.

Mendocino County Fire Safe Council – to help the citizens survive and thrive in a fire-prone environment.

Monterey County Fire Safe Council – committed to protecting lives and property from harm by wildfire and to educating the public on wildfire dangers and how to reduce them.

Nevada County Fire Safe Council – to provide Firewise education and programs to enhance emergency preparedness for catastrophic wildfire to all citizens of Nevada County in order to reduce the loss of life, property and natural resources.

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance – to minimize catastrophic wildfire losses to values and risk such as life, property and natural resources; to inform and educate the public on fire safe communities, fire risk and fire hazard mitigation; to aid, assist and participate in fire mitigation planning efforts; to prioritize and secure funding for coordinated fire safe projects and activities, and to monitor and review fire safe activities to ensure alliance goals are met.

San Mateo County Fire Safe Council – to maintain the quality of life while protecting property and the environment for citizens living in the wildland/urban interface zones of San Mateo County through public and private partnerships for education and fuel reduction.

Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council – mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires.

Plumas County Fire Safe Council – to reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise community programs and pre-fire activities.

Shasta County Fire Safe Council – to be a framework for education, coordination, communication and support to decrease catastrophic wildfire throughout Shasta County.



El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 1011
Diamond Springs, CA 95619

Phone: (530) 647-1700

Email: board@edcfiresafe.org

Website: edcfiresafe.org

COUNCIL "Public and Private Partners Working Together to Protect People, Homes, and Natural Resources"

Chairman J. Keith Gilles
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

September 25, 2014

Dear Chairman Gilles:

The El Dorado Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC) strongly supports the option of funding professional staff (Executive Coordinators) from the SRA grants.

The EDCFSC is an all-volunteer organization and has been very successful in obtaining grants from CAL FIRE (SRA), the Grants Clearinghouse (USFS) and private industry (PG&E and SMUD). We anticipate that grant opportunities will increase rapidly with additional funding available from the drought funds (SRA), Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the USFS Cohesive Strategy. All of these organizations have considerable professional staff to administer the grant funding at the top level. The Fire Safe Councils are at the bottom of the food chain and are staffed with volunteers or part time Executive Coordinators with limited budget and staff. Our organizations are where the actual work of executing the projects and applying the funding to fuel reduction and mitigation efforts on the ground, yet we have very fragile organizational structures. With sporadic funding for Executive Coordinators from Title III or other sources and volunteer "burn out" we may be the weak link in the process and we are at the "point of the spear". This situation will be exacerbated if grant funding increases without a commensurate source of funding for grant execution. Applying the allowable overhead percentage for permanent professional staff is not a good option due to the sporadic and unpredictable nature of grant awards.

For the reasons outlined above we support a specified dollar allocation to the county or regional fire safe councils to establish and maintain professional administrative staff.

Respectfully submitted,

/signed/

Roger "Pat" Dwyer
Chairman



**NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617
(530) 265-1480

FAX TRANSMITTAL

June 16, 2015

From: COUNTY OF NEVADA, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Name of Sender: Eve Diamond, Board Analyst (for Supervisor Hank Weston)
Total number of pages (including transmittal): 3

RE Comments to proposed revisions to SRA FPF Grant Guidelines

TO: Kevin Conway, RPF 2888 916-653-0989

Copy list to:

- Governor Jerry Brown (916) 558-3160
- Senator Ted Guines (916) 324-2680
- Assembly Member Brian Dahle (916) 319-2101
- John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources (916) 653-8102
- George Gentry, Executive Officer, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (916) 653-0989
- Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE (916) 653-4171
- George Runner, State Board of Equalization (916) 327-4003
- Kirk Uhler, Chair, Placer County Board of Supervisors (530) 889-4009
- Mary Jane Griego, Chair, Yuba County Board of Supervisors (530) 749-7353
- James Beard, Chair, Sierra County Board of Supervisors (530) 289-2830
- Matt Cate, Executive Director, California State Association of Counties (916) 441-5507
- Greg Norton, President/CEO, Rural County Representatives of California (916) 448-3154
- Joanne Drummond, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County (via e-mail)

Please see attached letter.

Thank you,

Eve Diamond, Board Analyst
eve.diamond@co.nevada.ca.us
(530) 265-7247 phone
(530) 265-9836 fax

COUNTY OF NEVADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Wm. "Hank" Weston
Supervisor, 4th District
Email: hank.weston@co.nv.ca.us

June 15, 2015

Kevin Conway, RPF 2888
Staff Forester, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
116 9th Street, Room 1506-8
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
kevin.conway@bof.ca.gov

VIA FACSIMILE: (2 pgs)
916-653-0989

Dear Mr. Conway:

As you may be aware, last month the Nevada County Board of Supervisors sent a letter to Chief Emmott asking for changes in the way SRA Fire Prevention funds are allocated back to counties. I have attached a copy of that letter for your convenience.

I have reviewed the proposed revisions to the SRA Grant Program guidelines and to the proposed legislation, and would like to add the following comments as individual Supervisor.

Proposed revisions to the SRA Grant Program guidelines - I believe more changes are needed to improve accountability and strengthen oversight. There must be some verification of applicant claims with regard to project scope, benefits and community support, and there should be consequences if false claims are made. Specifically, I would like to see the following criteria included in the grant guidelines:

- Applicants must attach proof of community support to the application; such as letters of support from local government, the Fire Safe Council, a homeowner's association or Fire District. If a specific housing development or community is within the scope of the project, then a letter of support from that community must be included.
- Applicants must attach data to support the estimate of habitable structures that will benefit from the project. This could involve clear Google maps showing the housing nearby, or a GIS map from the County or the Fire District.
- Application budget should include a section outlining Return on Investment—i.e. a dollar calculation, supported by verifiable data, of the cost/benefit to individual habitable structures in the project area.
- Project must already be contained within a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

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website: <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos>

Letter to Mr. Kevin Conway, CAL FIRE
Re: Revisions to SRA FPF grant guidelines
June 16, 2015
Page 2 of 2

The review process should have a mechanism to prevent or avoid conflict of interest. While I support having my CAL FIRE Unit review at the local level, what if that reviewer sits on the Board of another non-profit that submitted an application? Who the reviewers are, and whether there is a mechanism to avoid conflict of interest, is not clear. There needs to be local representatives of the fire prevention stakeholder community included in the vetting process.

The section "Loss of Funding" should include: "Grantee falsely represents project scope, community support or other information in the project application".

Submitted applications and awarded projects should be easily visible on the CAL FIRE website. Since the monies to be expended are public funds, the public should see how their funds are being spent.

As a County Supervisor, an Executive Board member on the local Fire Safe Council and a former Fire Chief with a 45-year career in fire service, I believe that CAL FIRE needs to ensure that the SRA Fire Prevention Fund grants will stand the meticulous public scrutiny that the best projects deserve.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,



Frank Weston
Supervisor, District IV

Copied to:

- Governor Jerry Brown
- Senator Ted Gaines
- Assembly Member Brian Dahle
- John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources
- George Gentry, Executive Officer, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
- George Rumer, State Board of Equalization
- Nevada County Board of Supervisors
- Placer County Board of Supervisors
- Yuba County Board of Supervisors
- Sierra County Board of Supervisors
- Matt Cate, Executive Director, California State Association of Counties
- Greg Norton, President/CEO, Rural County Representatives of California
- Joanne Drummond, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County



Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
P.O. Box 1112
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone (530) 272-1122
Fax (530) 272-3232
www.areyoufiresafe.com

June 15, 2015

J. Keith Gillless, Chairman
California Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: SRA Fees Distribution Request for Fire Safe Coordinators

Dear Mr. Gillless:

The Fire Safe FSCNC of Nevada County (FSCNC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3), local volunteer based organization dedicated to making Nevada County safer from catastrophic wildfire through fire prevention education, fire break clearing projects and creating nationally recognized Firewise Communities/USA.

The FSCNC is a recognized leader in community fire safe programs and services in the State of California. We have been awarded "The Bronze Smokey" for outstanding public service in wildfire prevention by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service National Association of State Foresters and The Advertising FSCNC, Inc. in 2001. We received the Regional Excellent Award in 2003 from the California Fire Safe FSCNC. Our Executive Director, Joanne Drummond, was given a Special Recognition award by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District in 2007 for dedication and advocacy to the awareness and collaboration of partnerships. In 2010, Ms. Drummond was honored with the Forestry Achievement Award by the Northern California Society of American Foresters. The National Fire Protection Association honored the FSCNC with the 2010 Firewise Leadership award. This award is one of seven annual awards given across the nation with FSCNC being the only organization in California recognized. In 2012, the FSCNC received a National Fire Protection Association Firewise Project Award as well as being named Sponsor of the Year by AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, Pacific Region. In 2013, Drummond was featured in FEMA's Strategic Foresight Initiative, highlighting Bold Leaders and Strong Action, on the wildfire mitigation topic. Our county-wide organization has been in business for over 17 years and is considered one of the oldest and most accomplished Fire Safe Council's in the State of California.

These efforts would not be possible without our staff Executive Director. Having a professional leader enables our organization to vie for grants to implement our mission and provides for volunteer recruitment and training in our community. Fire Safe Council's that lack paid staff typically are not able to sustain the momentum required to properly mitigate catastrophic wildfire. Ongoing education, developing partnerships with agencies, homeowners and landscape fuel break projects requires dedicated staff to be successful over the long-term. Wildfire mitigation is a long-term investment. A single project or program will not enable this goal to be attained. Sustained effort will.

We request you consider providing stable funding for Fire Safe Council coordinators to aid in developing strong fire prevention programs throughout the SRA in California. This single act, more than any other proposed, from our perspective would have the biggest impact on reducing the loss of lives, property and natural resources to wildfire.

*J. Keith Gillless, Chairman
California Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
June 15, 2015
Page 2*

Additionally, a requirement to have all projects funded by the SRA fees included in a County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CCWPP) should be implemented. This document identifies priorities in a collaborative manner with private, local, state and federal partners. CWPP's have been required by federal funding sources to ensure the best, well-vetted projects are funded in a prioritized manner. This process has ensured that the cost-benefit to the community is maximized. Without this critical plan, grant funds may be given to lower priority projects that may benefit only a handful of homes.

For complete information on our organization, please visit our website at: www.areyoufiresafe.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Nolle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Nolle
Chairman

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance

www.placerfirealliance.org

Email: placerfirealliance@earthlink.net

530-886-5319

Core Team:
BLM
BOR
CAL FIRE
PC OES
USFS



Chairman J. Keith Gilles
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

June 15, 2015

Dear Chairman Gilles:

The Placer County Board of Supervisors has supported a paid Fire Mitigation Coordinator position through Secure Rural Schools Title III funding for the past seven years. Title III funding has continued to decline over the past four years and without a sustainable funding source, Placer County's efforts to manage our fire mitigation program within its communities may end.

The Western Placer County model consists of a Placer County Fire Safe Alliance, four local Fire Safe Councils and a newly developed Firewise Community model. These processes are managed by a part time (contract) Fire Mitigation Coordinator and a part time (contract) Firewise Communities Coordinator/Grant Writer. Both are funded through current SRS Title III funds. In the last 18 months, Western Placer County has received over \$1.8M in grants. These include PG&E, USFS and SRA Fee grants. The above mentioned positions, along with Placer County Resource Conservation District, lead the processes to request, receive and manage these grants. In addition to the grants received, we are working to recognize 13 new Firewise Communities in Western Placer County.

In addition to fuels management programs, our efforts to educate the public are critical to the success of fire prevention work in the County. The items listed in the Coordinator's Duties and Responsibilities document cannot be accomplished without the leadership of these positions.

We support Frank Stewart's efforts and encourage you to provide a sustainable funding source through the SRAFPF grant process for our Fire Mitigation and Firewise Communities efforts.

Regards,

George Alves
Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator,
Placer County Fire Safe Alliance Chair

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Chairman J. Keith Gilles
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

June 16, 2015

Dear Chairman Gilles:

The mission of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council is: **To reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities.** Since the formation of our Council in 1998 we have been working to fulfill that mission throughout Plumas County. To date we have accomplished a tremendous amount of work:

- We have worked with over 20 communities in Plumas County and have secured a variety of funds that have allowed us to treat over 3,500 acres of private forest lands.
- We have facilitated the development of 5 recognized Firewise Communities and are in the process of assisting with the development of an additional 5 Firewise Communities.
- We have a successful Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance program that serves between 30-50 residents in need each year.

Our Council has been able to do this important work as a result of the support that we have received from the Plumas County Board of Supervisors from Title III of the Secure Rural Schools act. These funds have covered the coordination of the Council. The Coordinator has been able to develop a variety of proposals that have brought more than \$4 million to the County to develop and update Community Wildfire Protection Plans; facilitate Hazardous Fuel Reduction Strategic Planning efforts; conduct Wildfire and Defensible Space educational programs and implement hazardous fuel reduction programs.

Congress recently approved a two year extension to the Secure Rural Schools Act. The PC FSC will develop a proposal to our Board of Supervisors seeking additional funds to support the continued coordination of our Council, however, this is a competitive process and each year more local organizations are seeking those limited funds. If our Council ceases to receive support from our Board of Supervisors, our Council will find it incredibly difficult to continue to pursue our mission. As we move forward in addressing the growing catastrophic fire problem that is threatening our citizens, communities and resources it is critically important that the Coordinator salaries and expenses be funded through the SRAFPF Grant Program.

The PC FSC developed a successful proposal to the SRAFPF program in early 2015 and as a result, residents of Plumas County will begin to realize a small return on the investment that they have contributed to the SRA program. We hope that the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection will support the efforts of the California Fire Safe Council and will choose to support the coordination of Fire Safe Councils throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Michael De Lasaux, Chair



Fire Safe Council of San Diego County

11769 Waterhill Road, Lakeside, CA 92040

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www.firesafesdcounty.org

June 16, 2015

J. Keith Gilles, Chairman,
State Board of Forestry
Post Office Box 944246
Sacramento, California 94244-2460

Re: State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) Grant: Fire Safe Council Coordinators

Dear Mr. Gilles:

As District Manager of the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County and Executive Director of the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, I am writing in support of funding Fire Safe Council Coordinators with the SRAFPF funds.

Resource Conservation Districts are not for profit agencies who may, or may not, receive a tax base to support them; most of our programs are grant dependent. Our FSC is a 501C3 that is a partnership of the RCD and local, state, federal, and tribal fire agency partners who have come together to help our community stay fire safe. Our Fire Safe Council relies wholly on grant funds to provide its programs. These programs included: support of our thirty-five active local fire safe councils, community wildfire prevention plans development, private and community chipping, defensible space clearing and education, fire prevention training, and our Defensible Space Assistance Program (DSAP) which provides defensible space protection for the elderly who are either physically or financially unable to provide it for themselves. We also work closely with CAL FIRE and the San Diego County Fire Authority to support their on-going fire prevention areas.

Through the years we have provided San Diego with exemplary fire prevention services; in fact, work we have done for the San Diego County Fire Authority and the Bureau of Land Management has been so efficient, cost effective, and transparent, that offers of long term partnerships between our organizations are in process. Unfortunately for us, without funding for staff, we cannot accomplish what is needed for our area.

Funding for Fire Safe Coordinators is imperative to keep these programs running and, I believe, is a direct benefit to those property owners who pay the SRA fee. Please reconsider allowing SRA fee funds to support necessary staff to do this much needed work.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheryl L. Landrum".

Sheryl L. Landrum, District Manager, Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
Executive Director, Fire Safe Council of San Diego County



11769 Waterhill Road * Lakeside, CA 92040

Phone: (619) 562-0096 * Fax: (619) 562-4799

Website: www.rcdsandiego.org



Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
Shasta County Fire Safe Council
6270 Parallel Road
Anderson, California 96007

June 15, 2015

California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: Chairman J. Keith Gilless
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Letter of Support – Use of SRA Funds for Fire Safe Council Coordinators

Chairman J. Keith Gilless:

As outlined in our May 19th letter to the Resource Protection Committee (provided as an attachment), there has been a steady decline in Shasta County Fire Safe Council (SCFSC) operations, as well as the complete dissolution of multiple fire safe councils at the local level. By this time next year, there may be even fewer.

On behalf of the SCFSC and Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD), this letter is to communicate concurrence with California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) solicitation for State Responsibility Area (SRA) funding to support Fire Safe Council Coordinator positions across the State, including Shasta County.

Benefits to Shasta County

There is a lot of work that goes into fuels management that often falls outside the confines of project-specific budgets. A Fire Safe Council Coordinator in Shasta County would make it feasible to:

Coordination, Planning, and Development

- Conduct pre-project feasibility assessments (site visit, land access, maintenance agreements, consult with technical experts);
- Keep SCFSC running through regular meetings;
- Collaborate with public and private entities in the interest of aligning efforts;
- Support and re-invest in local fire safe councils through active engagement;
- Develop relationships with resource managers, SRA fee payers, and grantors;
- Launch dedicated grants and donor solicitation;
- Assist with future Community Wildfire Protection Plan updates.

Education

- Update and expand outreach platforms (e.g. information trailer, social media);
- Offer workshops (e.g. structural ignitability, evacuation drills, Firewise Communities incentives, fire science/management techniques);
- Design and implement school programs (e.g. home inspections, emergency preparedness, fire ecology);
- Compliment and expand upon agency outreach efforts (e.g. CALFIRE 'Are You Ready?' campaign);
- Keep up-to-date on regulations, funding sources, fire risk conditions, and community needs.

A SCFSC Coordinator would be able to focus on fire safety outside the responsibility of regulatory oversight and demonstrate how SRA fees benefit SRA fee payers; which is why resource conservation districts are ideal partners for this role. However, this just isn't possible without a dedicated funding source.

We sincerely request that you to appropriate a portion of annual SRA fees for this purpose, in accordance with Board of Forestry and Fire Protection regulations. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Don Curtis
Interim President, Shasta County Fire Safe Council



Chester Anderson
District Manager, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors, Shasta County Fire Safe Council



RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY

2 Sutter Street, Suite D ♦ Red Bluff, California 96080 ♦ 530-527-3013 ♦ Fax: 530-527-7451

June 15, 2015

Chairman J. Keith Gillless,
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246,
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Chairman Gillless:

The Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC) has provided a coordinator to the Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council (TGFSC) for more than twelve years using funding provided by the California Department of Conservation. In providing this support, the RCD has been able to prepare Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Eastern and Western Tehama County and to assist Cal Fire with its preparation of the Tehama-Glenn Unit Plan. Through preparation of the CWPP's the Tehama County RCD and its Fire Safe Council Coordinator have been able to develop a focused planning effort out of which a large number of project proposals have been designed and implemented by RCDTC personnel that improve fire and fuels management conditions within Tehama County's State Responsibility Area lands. Since its 2008 release, almost 80% of the projects that were developed in the Tehama East CWPP have been implemented. A large number of projects that were developed in the Tehama West Fire Plan have been completed as well.

More specifically, since 2008 the RCDTC has developed and completed more than 70 miles of fuel breaks and other fuel treatments throughout Tehama County's SRA. At the present time, the RCD is about to initiate work on another 4 miles of fuel breaks in Western Tehama County. When that work is completed later this year, a 50 mile network of 300' wide fuel breaks will traverse the Westside area of the County from State Route 36W in Shasta County to the Glenn County line. Within the eastside of Tehama County, the RCD is about to launch in cooperation with various timberland owners, the development of a 22 mile long fuel break adjacent to the boundaries of both the Lassen National Forest and Lassen Volcanic National Park. Upon its completion, this fire management infrastructure will connect with other fuels work being completed by the RCD along with a large fuel break under development by Sierra Pacific Industries. Once these large projects are completed, a

network of fuel breaks will span eastern Tehama County from the Shasta County line to Mill Creek Rim a distance of approximately 32 miles. The cost of this countywide system of fire protection infrastructure developed by the RCD totaled approximately \$1,707,600 in federal and State grant dollars that were requested by the RCD's Fire Safe Council Coordinator.

In addition to the development and implementation of fuel breaks and other vegetation treatments, the RCD's Fire Safe Council Coordinator has been working with fire and fuels management staff from the Bureau of Land Management in order to garner that agency's support for and access to federal parcels under its management. In developing such support the RCD of Tehama County will be better able to design and implement more extensive and protective fuel treatments that take an all lands approach to fuels management and that incorporate parcels owned by the BLM, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife along with private land owners. Developing greater access to federal and State parcels is critical to collaborative efforts between the RCDTC and Western Shasta Resource Conservation District in developing a program of fuels treatments between the community of Platina and State Route 36W north to the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area west of Redding.

At the present time, the RCD's Fire Safe Council Coordinator is working with BLM staff to develop protocols that will allow RCD of Tehama County personnel to complete NEPA related environmental analysis in order to expedite the implementation of project work on Department of Interior lands. Similarly, our District's Fire Safe Council Coordinator is working with Forest Service personnel in developing similar protocols and processes through which RCD staff can prepare NEPA documents related to various US Forest Service projects that will greatly expedite implementation of fuels management efforts within and adjacent to National Forest lands in Tehama County. In addition our Coordinator is in the process of developing a programmatic permitting program that once completed will allow various pre-approved fuel treatments within an 80,000 acre area of northwest Tehama County to be completed after cursory environmental analysis as impacts from these activities will be fully analyzed in a programmatic CEQA document prepared especially for this permitting program.

It is important to note that the RCDTC's ability to fund the Fire Safe Council Coordinator position is the result of having been provided 15 years of funding through the California Department of Conservation's Watershed Coordinator Program. This source of funding provided labor dollars and other financial support to the RCD's Fire Safe Council Coordinator who developed collaboration and cooperation among public and private

watershed stakeholders as well as to design and implement projects that execute the fire and watershed protection goals developed by these entities. As you can imagine, fire and fuels management projects have been a major component of the RCD's work program given their significance to public safety and watershed health. As of March 2015 our contract with the California Department of Conservation under this program came to an end and the agency decided to not develop another round of funding. This lack of personnel dollars has severely limited our District's ability to develop new project work and other initiatives that will help to protect communities and watershed resources on SRA lands throughout Tehama County.

It is my understanding that there is the possibility of SRA fee dollars being used in order to fund County Fire Safe Council Coordinators. Such funding would be a great help in continuing the significant fire and fuels management program in Tehama County by developing project work, preparing funding proposals and managing the affairs of the Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council. Of some urgency is the revision of the Tehama East and Tehama West Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Having future projects listed in these plans add a lot of weight to proposals submitted for review by funding entities such as the California Fire Safe Council. In addition funding for such a position would allow RCD personnel to further develop relationships with funding entities, resources agencies and regulatory entities that have an impact on the ability of landowners to conduct prescribed burns and other fuel treatments on private lands. It would also greatly assist in the District's efforts to increase collaboration and improve the efficiency with which federal and State environmental analysis documents are prepared.

The Board of Forestry's consideration of utilizing State Responsibility Area fee dollars to provide partial funding for Fire Safe Council Coordinators would be most appreciated. Please give me a call at 530-200-1231 if you have questions regarding our request. I can also be reached at 530-527-3013 x120 or via email at tom@tehamacountyrcd.org.

Sincerely

Tom McCubbins

Tom McCubbins
Watershed Coordinator/Project Manager
Tehama County Resource Conservation District
Coordinator
Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council