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Edith Hannigan
Board Analyst
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
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May 1, 2016

Dear Ms. Hannigan:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input to the proposed Board of Forestry and Fire Protection "SRA Fire Prevention Fund Grant Program" documents that are out for public review and comment and will support the *annual salaries and expenses* of the County, Regional and/or Community Fire Safe Council Coordinator's that apply. As you are well aware, I and various County/Regional Fire Safe Council Coordinators have been actively participating in the monthly Board of Forestry and associated Resource Protection Committee meetings for the past year and a half in order to get this critical issue of *covering annual salaries and expenses* of C/R/C FSC Coordinator salaries into the Board's forthcoming SRA Fire Prevention Fund Grant Program.

Back in March, when you Published the draft documents, I forwarded them to all of the County and/or Regional Fire Safe Council Coordinators and received back e-mails that expressed concerns that the issue of covering *annual salaries and expenses of Coordinator's* is not authorized in the Initial Statement of Reason and Code of Regulations provided for public review and comment. Although I interpret that annual salaries and expenses are authorized under a single grant project situation where all costs are direct costs and I encourage you to make positive wording changes to the appropriate sections of the proposed regulations in order to clarify this critical point for the concerned Coordinator's and the public.

In Section 1666.1 Definitions under Indirect Costs you list Fire Safe Council Coordinators as a recipient of Administrative Costs which has an upper \$ limit of 12% of the project grant amount. In the same section under Direct Costs you have no upper \$ limitations on expenses of doing business that are directly attributable to the project and you do not list Fire Safe Council Coordinators as a potential recipient. It is my interpretation that coverage of annual salaries and expenses of C/R Fire Safe Coordinators would qualify under a single Fire Prevention Project designation.

The three enclosed County Fire Safe Council Documents show that the individual Mission Statements, Coordinator Duties, Tasks and Responsibilities of the County/Regional and/or

Community Fire Safe Council Coordinator's provide critically needed *fire prevention activities* (project) that reduce the effects of fire in the states wildlands and watersheds on habitable structures within the SRA while providing a positive input to the environment and an increased benefit to public health and safety.

Under Section 1666.5(a)(4) on page 10 of the Initial Statement of Reason you state that "after extensive input from representatives of various Fire Safe Councils" the Board determined that a cap of 12% was reasonable to cover the administrative costs of "performing these activities". On page 11 of the proposed regulations under Section 1666.5 Non-Qualifying Projects (4) Projects with admin costs greater than 12% of the total grant request would not qualify. This is why it is critically important that you clarify that the Resource Protection Committee and Board approved both the Indirect Cost and Direct Cost recognition and distribution of SRA Grant Funds to cover the annual salaries and expenses of County/Regional and/or Community Fire Safe Council Coordinator's.

As you are well aware, the Secure Rural Schools Act terminated last year and Title III funds of that Act were used by County Boards of Supervisors to fund their County/Regional FSC Coordinator annual salaries and expenses. This is why it is critically important that the Board SRA Grant program recognize and meet this important challenge.

I also need to inform you that due to a family health situation I am forced to resign from the Board of Directors of the California Fire Safe Council and I will not be able to travel down to Sacramento to make any further Board of Forestry hearings.

Thank You,

Frank Stewart
CFSC – BoD
Sierra Regional Rep.

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.

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:

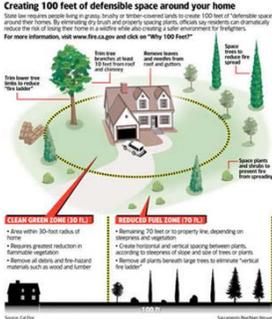
- Develop, write and administer all grants for organization including contracts for grant implementation.
- Continually seek funding and granting opportunities for developing and implementing fire prevention and protection projects on the ground throughout the WUI's within our County Fire Plan.

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.



County Fire Safe Councils

the key to success are the coordinators



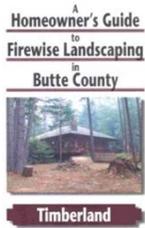
Education



Hazardous Fuel Reduction



Education – Home Protection



Planning/Education



Education



Education



Hazardous Fuel Reduction



Education



Planning/Education



Planning, HF Reduction, Education



Planning/Education



Education



Hazardous Fuel Reduction



Hazardous Fuel Reduction