

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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September 10, 2013

Ms. Liron Galliano, Grant Manager
California Fire Safe Council
5834 Price Avenue, Suite 101
McClellan, CA 95652

**RE: Support – El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
2014 Residential Defensible Space Program**

Dear Ms. Galliano:

The County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors fully supports the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council's (Council) application for the U.S. Forest Service Wildfire Prevention grant funding for the Council's 2014 Residential Defensible Space Program.

Public outreach and education are essential to promoting fire safety within a community. The Council has assisted communities in developing local "grass root" Satellite Fire Safe Councils that are comprised of volunteers from within each community. These Satellite Councils hold informative meetings, sponsor community clean-up day events, and propose fuel reduction projects in their neighborhoods. Their efforts have educated individual property owners on the importance of maintaining a defensible space and have assisted in the efforts to accomplish significant fuels reduction projects in communities throughout our County.

For the past eight years, the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and the Satellite Fire Safe Councils have successfully coordinated community clean-up events and individual property owner efforts to reduce hazardous fuels and establish defensible space around structures, driveways, propane tanks and ingress/egress routes throughout the County of El Dorado. The Council's efforts to reduce hazardous fuels include their Residential Chipping and Green Waste Dumpster Programs. These programs provide residents with convenient and fire safe options to dispose of the hazardous fuels removed from their property. The removal of flammable vegetation as part of establishing defensible space reduces the likelihood of fire spreading to structures; removing the vegetation from the property instead of burning it on site greatly reduces the likelihood of fire expanding into our County's wildlands.

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The Council and Satellite Councils have developed Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) for different communities throughout our County. Each CWPP provides an assessment of risk, a plan to mitigate that risk, and unique community based information for evacuation planning and disaster preparedness. Each CWPP guides the Council and local communities in their efforts to identify fuel reduction projects throughout the County, increasing the effectiveness of the Residential Chipping and Green Waste Programs.

Providing education and assistance to individual property owners is essential to keeping our neighborhoods and our County fire safe. The Residential Chipping and Green Waste Dumpster Programs have provided incentive and opportunity for residents to take personal responsibility for their homes and businesses. Funding the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council's 2014 Residential Defensible Space Program will enable the Council to continue to provide these very effective programs within our County.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors supports the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council's efforts within our County and respectfully requests the State Fire Safe Council's favorable consideration of the Council's 2014 Residential Defensible Space Program application for grant funding.

Sincerely,



Ron Briggs
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado