



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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December 19, 2023

Chief Mike Wink
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
1199 Big Tree Rd
St Helena, CA 94574

Dear Chief Wink,

On behalf of the County of Lake, I am writing to express support for the grant application submitted by the Konocti Fire Safe Council to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire Prevention Grant Program in the amount of \$54,000, for the project titled "Wildfire Prevention Education and Safety in the Soda Bay Corridor Communities."

The Soda Bay Road Corridor is identified in the Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (May 2022) as a Priority 1 Community at Risk. It is a densely populated area in Lake County contained entirely within the urban/wildland interface (WUI) and is within a very high fire hazard severity zone. It encompasses an area of more than 5,325 acres and has one, 17-mile, two-lane county road as its only evacuation route for more than 7,800 residents.

The Konocti Fire Safe Council (KFSC) is seeking funds to create an effective educational program using an innovative approach to providing information to all residents of the Soda Bay Corridor with the purpose of increasing knowledge and awareness of information that could be used to reduce the number of wildfires, lives threatened, and structures lost including defensible space training. Roadside portable, programmable, full-matrix message centers will provide awareness and information especially to the 60% of residents living in unincorporated communities that have limited or no access to social media, neighborhood programs, or other direct communication venues for fire safety information. The KFSC will acquire, program, place, store and maintain the message center equipment. Placement will take advantage of the one road that all residents must travel to enter and leave the area. Additionally, the Council will design, acquire, and place permanent evacuation signage at critical egress points across the area.

The Board of Supervisors is confident in the ability of the KFSC to implement this project and the value of investment in greater capacity to provide awareness and information to our residents. The Council has the active support of four incorporated Firewise Communities and has acquired grant funding in the past year to increase its capacity to serve the Soda Bay Corridor communities.

We wholeheartedly support this effort and encourage CalFIRE to fund this project to help reduce wildfire threat in Lake County and, in turn, increase the safety of the residents in these communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (707) 263-2368.

Respectfully,

Jessica Pyska, Chair
COUNTY OF LAKE