

# Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*

*representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar*

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Chair            Vice-Chair            Secretary            Treasurer

Date:            September 8, 2021  
To:              Julia Marsili, California Fire Safe Council  
                    Amber Gardner, California Fire Safe Council  
Cc:              Don Horsley, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, District 3  
From:            Midcoast Community Council  
Subject:        2021 County Coordinators Grant Opportunity

The Midcoast Community Council strongly supports San Mateo County's application for funding through the California Fire Safe Council, County Coordinators Grant Opportunity Program.

The County of San Mateo has a long history in the planning and coordination for the prevention and mitigation of wildfires beginning in 1991 when it formed the nation's first Fire Safe Council (FSC). In the intervening decades, San Mateo County's Fire Safe Council (FSSMC) comprised of 26 agencies, municipalities, private agencies, groups, and foundations has worked collaboratively on evacuation preparedness, home hardening, defensible space, community education, and project implementation.

Likewise, various County departments are also involved in myriad aspects of fire planning, data collection and climate modeling, long range policy development and implementation, mitigation programming and projects, community education, outreach, research and implementation of fire detection technologies, partnering, engagement and coordination, as well as ensuring equity in programming, policies and resources as well and funding. The accelerated pace of wildfire in the State of California, including the CZU August Lightning Complex which swept through the County in 2020, and the County's continued vulnerability to catastrophic wildfire as evidenced by the mapping prepared by the FSSMC which found that the County is in Very High, High and Moderate Severity Zones ([Maps | Data Basin](#)) underscore the urgent need for San Mateo County to increase its coordination, streamlining and fire prevention and mitigation efforts countywide and within the region to ensure a higher degree of responsiveness, equity, efficiency, and effectiveness in programming, projects implementation and funding.

The County's grant application to the California Fire Safe Council addresses this critical need by proposing that a County Coordinator on San Mateo County achieve the following: 1) coordinate various aspects of fire mitigation countywide and within the region in concert with FSSMC and by liaising with cities, fire agencies and CBOs/other organizations on fire prevention, programs, projects and funding; 2) strengthening relationships and collaborative opportunities countywide among previously listed stakeholders; 3) in coordination with FSSMC and key stakeholders,

prioritize and synthesize resources for important large scale mitigation projects, including risk/reduction preparedness, fire safety, and evaluation; and 4) identify barriers to full community participation in the countywide alert and evacuation systems and implement measures to ensure optimal enrollment, particularly among low income and non-English speaking residents.

The County is deeply committed to educating, encouraging and developing countywide collaboration and coordination among its various wildfire mitigation groups and the funding provided through this grant would be extremely helpful in launching this critical effort.

For these reasons, we are in full support of this application.

MIDCOAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
s/Michelle Weil, Chair