

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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April 22, 2016

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

RE: 2016 SFA Grants Clearinghouse Program

Ms. Galliano:

The CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit is pleased to continue support for the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) and their work to promote defensible space and to conduct fuel reduction projects. Our unit has incurred some of the highest loss in both life and property from WUI fire in the nation. In spite of ongoing collaborative regional efforts, we continue to be at high risk for additional losses. The mission of the SCCFSC is to "mobilize the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires." By working together towards this common goal we all benefit. We wish to continue our collaborative relationship on strategically important projects throughout Santa Clara County.

The SCCFSC is proposing projects that will build up past successful work and to expand into previously underserved communities. We believe their proposal to construct fuel breaks, improve evacuation routes, continue assistance to homeowners with defensible space creation, and for expanded public education will make a tremendous improvement in the County's resilience to wildfire. These projects have been identified in a draft community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) that is currently under development for all of Santa Clara County. This SCCFSC grant request will allow the community so see work begin just as the CWPP stakeholder signatures are still drying.

The value of the Santa Clara Unit's support is estimated at \$20,000.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek J. Witmer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Derek J. Witmer  
Unit Chief  
Santa Clara Unit

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