



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548



February 2, 2021

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Request for Yurok Tribe Appointment on the Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Aiy-ye-kwee':

The Yurok Tribe respectfully submits this recommendation for the addition of a tribal representative from the Yurok Tribe to serve as a voting member on the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC). The Yurok Tribe would like to nominate Yurok Fire Chief, Rod Mendes to be appointed by your Board to fill that new position. He has served as Fire Chief for the Yurok Tribe since his hiring in April 2020, and leads the development of our fire management strategy on tribal lands. In addition, we would like to nominate Yurok Fire Battalion Chief, Blaine Mckinnon to serve as a voting alternate on the FSC for Chief Mendes when needed.

Chief Mendes represented the Hoopa Tribe on the HCFSC from 2011-2020. During his nine years of service on the HCFSC, Chief Mendes provided valuable guidance to the committee, including: input on the 2019 Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan update, and contributed to the 3rd edition of the Living with Wildfire in Northwestern California magazine, which was co-sponsored by the Yurok Tribe Wildland Fire Program, the County of Humboldt/HCFSC, Del Norte County FSC, Six Rivers National Forest, and CAL FIRE. His vast knowledge and experience in wildland fire management enabled him to provide valuable technical and policy input and guidance on other HCFSC activities as needed.

We recommend that a Yurok Tribal committee position is added to the HCFSC, and if appointed, we believe that Chief Mendes will continue to be an asset to the HCFSC, and will professionally represent the interests of the Yurok Tribe and other tribal communities in our region. Chief Mendes continuing participation will support on-going collaboration with the other members of the HCFSC and advance the development of mutually beneficial wildfire adaptation and community preparedness projects and initiatives.

Thanks for your time and consideration of this appointment request to the HCFSC.

Wok-hlew'

Joseph L. James, Chairman
Yurok Tribe