



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

D-15

For the meeting of: October 18, 2016

Date: September 22, 2016

To: Board of Supervisors

From:  Thomas K. Mattson, Public Works Director

Subject: Community Wildfire Protection Plan Certification of the Lower Mattole Fire Plan per the Standards of the Federal Healthy Forest Restoration Act

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Review the staff report and the Lower Mattole Community Wildfire Protection Plan ("CWPP");
2. Certify that the Lower Mattole CWPP has adequately met the standards of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act ("HFRA") for consideration as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan by authorizing the Chair of the Board to sign, in duplicate, the Lower Mattole CWPP Certification and Agreement Signature Sheet; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to return the original signed copies of the CWPP Certification and Agreement Signature Sheet to the Public Works Department.

Prepared by Cybelle Immitt

CAO Approval Karen Clowen

REVIEW:

Auditor _____

County Counsel gs

Human Resources _____

Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

- Consent
- Departmental
- Public Hearing
- Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. C-3

Meeting of: December 13, 2005

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell (Seconded by Supervisor Bass)

Ayes Fennell, Bass, Lovelace, Bohn, Sundberg

- Nays _____
- Abstain _____
- Absent _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: October 18, 2016

By: Kathy Hayes

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

No funding is necessary for this item.

DISCUSSION:

The National Fire Plan directs federal agencies to “work directly with communities to ensure adequate protection from wildfires, and to develop a collaborative effort to attain the desired future condition of the land.” The key wildland fire management agencies in California have chosen to accomplish this effort through the California Fire Alliance (“Alliance”). To this end, the Alliance encourages the development of CWPPs, as defined by the HFRA; meaning a plan, for an at-risk community, that fulfills the following criteria:

- A. Is developed within the context of the collaborative agreements and the guidance established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed to by the applicable local government, local fire department and state agency responsible for forest management, in consultation with interested parties and the federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the at-risk community;
- B. Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on federal and non-federal land that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure; and
- C. Recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community.

Benefits of having a CWPP include National Fire Plan funding priority for identified projects. This priority will help communities be more competitive as they pursue National Fire Plan grants to fund projects designed to reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their local communities. Additionally, the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) can expedite the implementation of fuel treatments, identified in a CWPP, through alternative environmental compliance options offered under the HFRA.

The CWPP must be agreed to by three entities: the local government, the local fire department and the state forester. In California, a CWPP becomes final when the CWPP Certification and Agreement Signature Sheet is signed by these three entities (Attachment 1). Communities with a completed CWPP are required to attach this signature page to their plans. In Humboldt County, CWPPs must be submitted to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (“CAL FIRE”) Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Chief and the appropriate local fire protection provider. Certification of a CWPP by these entities does not constitute plan adoption but does represent the signee’s agreement that the contents of the CWPP conform to the standards set forth in the HFRA.

The Mattole Restoration Council (“MRC”) has submitted a CWPP on behalf of the Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council for review by the Board of Supervisors (Attachment 2). The MRC requests that the Board certify that the CWPP was developed collaboratively, identifies fuel reduction projects and recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures. Public Works staff evaluated the CWPP and determined the following:

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Certification
October 18, 2016

- Collaborative effort is demonstrated throughout the plan and summarized on page 11. Local residents were active participants in the planning process. Additionally, CAL FIRE, the BLM, the MRC, Humboldt Redwoods State Park and local fire departments were active throughout the CWPP development process.
- Priority fuel reduction projects are identified in the Action Plan Project Tables on pages 75 through 78.
- Measures to reduce structure ignitability are identified in the Action Plan Project Tables on pages 71 and 72 and discussed as a theme throughout the CWPP.

Based on this evaluation, staff can reasonably find that the plan meets the HFRA standards of a CWPP without amendment or changes and recommends that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the attached CWPP Certification and Agreement Signature Sheet.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This action will not have an impact on the Humboldt County General Fund. Staff time needed to prepare this report is supported by Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, Title III funds (revenue line 1720289-505010).

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

This report has also been copied to the Mattole Restoration Council, CAL FIRE, and the Humboldt Fire Safe Council as a courtesy.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board may choose not to certify the CWPP or ask for modifications or clarification before doing so.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: Community Wildfire Protection Plan Certification and Agreement Signature Sheet (in duplicate)
- Attachment 2: Lower Mattole Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Certification and
Agreement Signature Sheet (Two original copies
included in this Agenda packet)

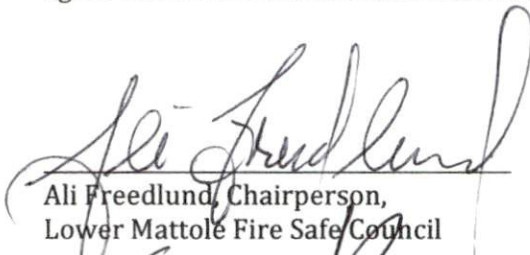



ATTACHMENT 1

**Lower Mattole Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Certification and Agreement**

The Lower Mattole Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2016 is an update of the first Fire Plan in Humboldt County, the Lower Mattole Fire Plan (2002). This plan developed for the communities in the lower Mattole river watershed:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the Lower Mattole have been consulted.
- This Plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect communities in the Lower Mattole.
- This plan recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed in the plan.

The following entities attest that the standards listed above have been met and mutually agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

 _____ Ali Freedlund, Chairperson, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council	<u>4/18/16</u> _____ Date
 _____ Travis Howe, Chief, Petrolia Fire Department	<u>4/18/16</u> _____ Date
 _____ Mark Dube, Chief Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company	<u>5/25/16</u> _____ Date
 _____ Hugh Scanlon, Unit Chief CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit	<u>June 2016</u> _____ Date
 _____ Chairperson, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors	<u>10/19/16</u> _____ Date