



# COUNTY *of* VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
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September 14, 2021

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject: Designate the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council as the Countywide Coordinator of Local Fire Safety Councils; Authorize the Council to Apply and Receive the California Fire Safe Council's one-time \$175,000 Countywide Coordinator Grant; and Approval of a Letter in Support of the Grant Application by the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council**

## **Recommendations:**

1. Designate the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council as the countywide coordinator of local fire safety councils
2. Authorize the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council as the applicant and recipient of the California Fire Safe Council's Countywide Coordinator Grant program
3. Approval of a letter (Exhibit 1) to the California Fire Safe Council that designates the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council as the County fire safe council coordinator and authorizes the entity to begin the Countywide Coordinator Grant process

## **Background:**

The Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council (VRFSC) is a 501c3 nonprofit that partners with community-based organizations, public agencies, academia and business, including county and city fire departments, the Oxnard College Regional Fire Academy, Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Cattleman's Association, Farm Bureau, Parks, and the County of Ventura Office of Emergency Services, to reduce the threat of wildfire to farms, ranches, urban neighborhoods, and infrastructure through an aggressive program of action, education, and collaboration.

The California Fire Safe Council (CFSC), in partnership with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) have made available a grant program for counties that can support the efforts of their regional fire safety councils. The objective of this *County Coordinators Grant* is to educate, encourage, and develop countywide collaboration and coordination among various wildfire mitigation groups (including local Fire Safe Councils) operating within counties containing State Responsibility Area high-risk lands. This funding targets counties with a high percentage of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, a history of damaging fires, and a higher proportion of disadvantaged and/or low-income communities.

Eligible counties can direct the application process and funds to a fire safety non-profit or public agency that they feel are best equipped to execute the workload. Ventura County will receive a one-time grant of \$175,000 under this funding opportunity.

### **Discussion**

Ventura County has four (Ventura, Ojai Valley, Bell Canyon, and Ventu Park) fire safety bodies across its diverse communities. As mentioned earlier, these entities play a key role in the areas of fire safety, prevention, and mitigation. The County recognizes the value of these local voices and strives to understand their unique perspectives. Given the magnitude of the recent Thomas and Woolsey wildfires, the County seeks to optimize communication amongst these local bodies. The County Fire District is already working successfully with the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council and District leadership believes that the entity is an ideal fit to serve as countywide coordinator. The Fire District supports the Board's decision to authorize VRFSC as the applicant and recipient of the *Countywide Coordinator Grant* as these funds will be strategic in expanding its fire safety framework. Finally, Fire District personnel will support VRFSC in the areas of grant compliance and reporting. As part of the grant application process a letter of support from your Board is recommended. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Scott Powers, CEO Sr. Deputy Executive Officer at 805-677-8761.

  
Michael Powers  
County Executive Officer

Exhibit 1 – Letter of Support from Board of Supervisors