

Clerk

From: Stacy Corless <scorless@sbcouncil.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 3:02 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Support for Local Government Investment in Wildfire and Forest Resilience

You don't often get email from scorless@sbcouncil.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Supervisors and Councilmembers,

I'm writing today to comment on item 4.2 of your joint meeting, but first would like to thank all of you and town and county staff members for your work during this incredibly challenging winter. Thank you for your public service! Fire isn't top of mind to many right now, but the memory of September 2020 isn't so distant. We all know what the devastating impacts of destructive megafires can be, and recognize the need to take action. We are fortunate here in Mammoth Lakes to have a project already underway that can help protect our town and surrounding lands from devastating losses during a wildfire, and restore our forests to good health. I urge the board and council to invest local funding in the Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project and other local forest, fire and community resilience efforts. In the short term, assisting local organizations such as Whitebark Institute with a revolving loan fund or other solution for cash flow issues they face with implementing grant-funded programs would be a huge step in the right direction.

Formerly as a county supervisor and currently as an advocate for the Sierra Nevada, I've been deeply engaged in the work of the state's [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force](#) and see the incredible multi-billion dollar investments that California is making in building wildfire resilience. Even as the state faces budget shortfalls, funding for wildfire resilience remains a high priority for state investment (which will likely be supplemented through a bond measure in 2024). The more we can demonstrate our local and regional capacity to collaboratively plan and support wildfire and forest resilience projects, the better we will be positioned to receive more state and federal funding to protect our communities and the incredible natural resources surrounding us that benefit millions of Californians.

I hope the board and council can reach consensus on investing in the future of our communities and our forests.

Sincerely,

Stacy Corless

--



Stacy Corless (she/her)

Director, Government & Community Affairs

scorless@sierrabusiness.org | (760) 920-0190 | sierrabusiness.org

Catalyzing innovative solutions to foster community vitality, environmental quality, economic prosperity, and social fairness in the Sierra Nevada