



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SHADED FUEL BREAK TO IMPROVE FIRE SAFETY FOR THE UKIAH VALLEY

**Ukiah, CA. November 30, 2018**. – The County of Mendocino and the City of Ukiah have been actively engaging with CAL FIRE, the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, and other stakeholder groups, to review and develop fire prevention and mitigation measures for the Ukiah Valley. On December 13 at 5:30, the County and City will host a community meeting to discuss the restoration and expansion of a shaded fuel break at the base of the hills on the west side of the Ukiah Valley, first created in 2004.

A shaded fuel break is a forest management strategy used for mitigating the threat of wildfire leading to a dangerous buildup of combustible vegetation. The goal of a shaded fuel break is to thin the surface vegetation, remove dead and down woody material, remove ladder fuels to prevent a catastrophic fire, and prevent the loss of structures. The project involves the use of hand tools and power equipment to re-establish a 100-200 foot wide space, shaded by the mature tree canopy. Width of the break will vary due to slope of terrain and fuel loading.

Attached to this notice is a map illustrating the location of the project. It is planned to run along the base of the western hills from Highway 253 to Hensley Creek. If your property is included and/or adjacent to the project, it is recommended you attend this meeting. Representatives from the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority and CAL FIRE will lead a short presentation on the project, and will be available for questions and answers.

The County and City view this collaborative effort as a demonstration project to improve fire safety for the community. Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager, commented, "Thanks to these proactive measures and the active collaboration between stakeholders, major progress is rapidly occurring." Carmel J. Angelo, Chief Executive Officer for the County of Mendocino stated, "Showing home owners how to create defensible space is critical for fire damage mitigation strategies. We are excited to witness this guiding step in enhancing fire protection measures for the community."

**WHEN:** December 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Ukiah City Council Chambers, 300 Seminary Ave, Ukiah CA 95482

For more information regarding this project please contact Fire Marshall Kevin Jennings (707) 462-7921.

Carmel J. Angelo, Chief Executive Officer

County of Mendocino

Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager

City of Ukiah

