

Inyo County Board of Supervisors

September 22, 2025

RE: CPSP Grant 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors;

Southern Inyo Fire Protection District is proposing a change to the use of our 2025 CPSP grant funding from our traditional festival model event to sponsoring a community dinner. The dinner would be held in the Hurlbutt Rook Community Center and be made up of dishes from all of the local food service businesses in Southeast Inyo. After the meal we will hold a talent and karaoke show and dancing. The goal is to celebrate the holiday season and build community spirit, bringing all of the populations within our area of service together. SIFPD will also hold a raffle to benefit the fire department.

The change in this year's event was prompted by a number of factors. Some of those were beyond our control, necessitating this last minute pivot. Other factors included input from our community members, who asked for several things regarding the annual event, including: a neutral location, a smaller event, more local focus. In honor of these requests, we moved our event location to the Community Center. Instead of the projected festival, we will be holding a simple flea market there on November 8<sup>th</sup>, which was also one of the top requests from the community and draws visitors to the area. We can do this without funding (and have done many times). Then on December 17<sup>th</sup>, we will call upon all of the food service businesses in our area to provide the different elements of a holiday dinner. We will use grant funds for this and it will be provided free to the community. We will also use grant funds for the sound system and for decorations and supplies. Any props built or supplies purchased in this regard constitute an investment in future events as the community center requires a great deal of work to prepare it for an event like this. We hope to use the center in our festival events as an arts hub and would like to be able to do things like temporarily cover the walls with canvas or chicken wire for hanging artwork, etc. These are temporary improvements that can be taken down and reused year after year.

The community dinner event gives local businesses an opportunity to shine while they participate in a meaningful way. We will also hold a fundraising raffle for SIFPD in which we will ask other local businesses to donate prizes.

In addition to the dinner, SIFPD will host a talent/karaoke show and dancing. There will be no alcohol allowed. Children are especially welcome and we'll have some Christmas treats, too.

In 2026, SIFPD plans to return to the festival model event, with similar modifications as those mentioned above. In 2025, as the SIFPD fundraising committee watched our plans collapse for this year's event, we put our heads together and came up with an alternative that would accomplish the primary purpose of the CPSP grant and the primary goal of most of the individual members of the team—building up our community. It's been a rough year across the country in many ways and also here in Tecopa. We are seeing division in our own small community that is unsettling and we'd like to provide an environment

where everyone can come together in the spirit of fun. Also, since Tecopa lost its commodities food distribution allotment, we would like to provide one really good holiday meal.

We understand that what we are proposing is outside of the norm, but we believe it meets the fundamental criteria in almost every way, except for encouraging visitation to the area, as our target attendees are residents and long term visitors. We will contribute to the project in the form of countless volunteer hours and Christmas cookies. Our team of volunteers works tirelessly to bring together these events and no one is ever paid for their time. This idea sparked new energy in everyone on the fundraising team and we are all excited to make it happen so we hope it will meet with the County's approval.

Thank you for your time,

Robin Flinchum  
Chair, SIFPD Fundraising Committee