



Nevada County Consolidated Fire District Department of Fire Prevention

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February 13, 2020

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Update of Nevada County Ordinance No. 2459 An Ordinance amending Section G-VII a.27 of Article I of Chapter VII of the Nevada County General Code Pertaining to Discharging a Firearm.

Honorable Supervisors,

I have been contacted by Jeff Thorsby in regard to the above ordinance as it relates to Red Flag Warnings and the use of organized ranges during this time. Mr. Thorsby also provided me with a copy of a letter dated November 7, 2019 from the Nevada County Sportsmen, Inc. which is located within the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District.

Organized ranges such as the Nevada County Sportsmen, as long as they are maintained in a fire safe condition pose no real fire danger and are relatively safe to use during all weather conditions including Red Flag Weather.

Personal or Private ranges on the owner's open land or at their residence is beyond our normal inspection authority. I believe it would be appropriate to require no shooting during Red Flag Weather on any range both public and private that does not receive an annual fire safety inspection and clearance. In my experience these types of ranges have vegetation within the area used for shooting and could easily cause a fire to be ignited from the rounds being fired at certain targets.

I would recommend that you add verbiage or rewrite Section F to allow organized ranges with supervision on site and with a current fire clearance from the fire district the range is located in to continue operations during Red Flag Weather. The fire clearance should be done annually so as long as it is within the last 12 months it should be fine.

The section in the letter from the Nevada County Sportsmen that discusses shooting hours, the Fire District has no concern one way or another on the times shooting is allowed and we would support the change of time from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or I can be of further assistance feel free to contact me.

Terry McMahan
Fire Marshal