



Nevada County Consolidated Fire District

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August 30, 2018

Chair Edward Scofield
Board of Supervisors
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Letter of Support for Nevada County Urgency Ordinance Banning Open Fire along the South Yuba River Corridor

Honorable Chair Scofield,

It has come to our attention that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors at its Regular meeting on September 11, 2018 will be considering an Urgency Ordinance banning open fires along the South Yuba River in Nevada County. On behalf of the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, I am submitting this letter to express our support for the Urgency Ordinance not only as the Fire Chief, but also as a member of the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort. Unfortunately, it appears that wildfire is the new normal in California, with devastating fires sweeping throughout the state. As noted by the Governor on March 13, 2018, "It is critical we take strong and comprehensive action to protect all California from the threat of natural disasters and climate change," which include, but are not limited to, fire evaluation, hazard mitigation, tree mortality and forest management practices.

We are encouraged that Nevada County has made it a priority to implement existing County policies and programs to reduce the risk of wildfire and the effects of wildfire on life, property, and the environment, as well as explore other ways to reduce the threat and damage from wildfires. The Urgency Ordinance is a precautionary measure to mitigate the hazards of human caused wildfire in the Yuba River Corridor that could have devastating impacts on the County and the community. A prohibition on open fire during fire season as declared by Cal FIRE and the United States Forest Service would further align the policies that are already in place on public lands to private property owners which protect the watershed and its resources that contains extraordinary scenic, recreation, fishery, and wildlife values of statewide significance.

The proposed Urgency Ordinance takes a reasonable approach to wildfire prevention and public safety in an era when the dangers of wildfire are more severe than they have ever been. Therefore, the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District strongly supports the proposed Urgency Ordinance and encourage the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to adopt this proposed Urgency Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Jim Turner
Fire Chief

RECEIVED

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**NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**