

**From:** [K Taylor](#)  
**To:** [BOS Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Roger Tucker](#)  
**Subject:** County ordinance for fire clearing  
**Date:** Friday, June 24, 2022 5:31:57 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Unfortunately, I can not be present in person at the next regular meeting.

My comment relates to the established ordinance requiring property owners clear 100' from structures on neighboring parcel.

First, let me express my appreciation to county staff who respond promptly, honestly, and thoroughly to issues when presented. Roger Tucker is an asset to our community and you should hear that from us.

My concerns are as follows:

The current ordinance is meant to be forward-thinking and to address one of the top threats to Nevada County. I appreciate that it goes further to require actions by property owners than the state requirements.

However, the way the ordinance is crafted poses an inequitable burden on owners of parcels next to those that have been neglected. Requiring neighbors to pay for fuel removal is not an appropriate burden. Owners of parcels who do not clear are putting neighbors and the community at risk for their failure to manage. We bear the cost of that risk. We should not bear the cost of clearing too.

I recently asked the county to get involved in a situation where my absentee neighbor owner failed to reduce fuel loads on his property year after year. I personally spoke to the owner when he wanted to reduce his tax burden and obtained agreement from the Board to shift zoning from commercial to agricultural. I expressed concern about dense manzanita fuel buildup across large swaths of the property and the need to mow along boundaries. The owner assured me he would bring in a crew to clear and that he planned a fruit stand. Neither has happened. The only clearing that has occurred has been the county crews paid for by public tax dollars mowing in the highway easement. Currently, there is dense vegetation in the county right of way of Rough and Ready Highway.

As a result of my request...and offer to pay half the cost of what would represent minimal improvement..the neighbor filed a cross-complaint about a storage structure that encroached on the setback limits. My storage shed has been there for at least 30 years and I and other owners have been paying taxes on it the whole time. To my surprise, it was not permitted when then house was built. I am in the process of removing it.

The result of my request that the neighbor clear dangerous fuel (dense manzanita) is that I am now spending tens of thousands of dollars to demolish the structure and purchase new complying structures. I have no hope of an as-built permit.

The language of your ordinance had this unintended effect. Current owners who do their part should not bear any burden because they ask irresponsible neighbors to clear fuel loads.

Please fix this and require owners of undeveloped parcels to clear at their own expense. Don't force neighbors to be involved in the process. This is not a private benefit that I accrue by asking my neighbor to clear. The current

ordinance sets up too many opportunities for administrative bullying.

Kim Taylor



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