



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alex Keeble-Toll – Office of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign the Joint Memorandum of Association between Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado counties for the purpose of advancing Wildfire Resilience and Forest Biomass Residue Management on behalf of the County of Nevada

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Not applicable. This MOA does not obligate the participating parties to funding commitments.

BACKGROUND:

The County of Nevada has a severe and present danger from wildfire presenting a threat to public health and safety. Over 92% of residents live within areas designated as “High” or “Very High” Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). This scenario is common across the region, including in Placer and El Dorado counties. The connectivity of forested landscapes throughout these counties and the high likelihood that wildfires will cross jurisdictional boundaries poses a collective threat to assets at risk, including infrastructure, natural resources, and regional economies.

Reducing forest biomass is a priority across the three-county region to alleviate the risk of catastrophic wildfire and enhance forest health and carbon sequestration. A key barrier to this is opportunities to dispose of biomass. Three years ago, the California Office of Land Use and Climate Resiliency commissioned five pilot projects around the state to examine the obstacles of biomass removal from forested areas. This effort was labeled the California Forest Residual Aggregation Market Enhancement (Cal FRAME).

Cal FRAME has identified the lack of long-term feedstock contracting as a significant barrier to the material disposal necessary for sustainable forest management. The five pilot projects specifically studied the aggregation of biomass “feedstock” supplies into regional brokerages. Locally this effort included producing Biofuel Development Opportunity Zone (BDOZ) risk ratings for Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado counties.

The BDOZ rating is an economic development tool that evaluates an areas suitability for biomass utilization and provides an investment-style risk rating to help inform and attract bio-based business development. All three counties received a rating grade “A,” which denotes high prospective viability of feedstock supply and infrastructure and indicates that capacity to support new biobased plant operations is strong.

To build upon the coordinated progress made under the Cal FRAME project and demonstrate a continued commitment to identify biomass solutions with regional benefit, Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado counties have narrowed the focus of this ongoing effort and developed a corresponding Joint Memorandum of Association to address the following activities:

1. Economic development/bioeconomy development opportunity zones.
2. Joint biomass utilization project information sharing.
3. Joint biomass utilization funding opportunities.
4. Advocacy and coordination on biomass removal and use (state/federal).
5. Promotion of forest bioeconomy offtake facilities.
6. SB 1383 compliance coordination for woody biomass.
7. Coordination/promotion of other wood manufacturing projects.

In developing this collaborative framework, staff carefully examined multiple organizational structures. The group determined that beginning with a simple Memorandum of Association was the most prudent and efficient approach to initiate joint action among the three counties. This structure allows the counties to move forward quickly, retain flexibility, and avoid the added complexity of forming a new governmental entity. The MOA also provides for amendments, which may be made from time to time by unanimous vote of the parties to the MOA. Any amendment must be formally approved by each participating county’s governing body, ensuring both transparency and accountability in any future modifications.

Item Initiated by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services

Approved by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services