

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AIRPORT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

BACKGROUND:

The Nevada County Airport serves a critical role in supporting public safety, economic activity, and transportation within Nevada County. The Airport hosts special events, accommodates multiple charter flight operators, provides fueling and aviation services, and supports key emergency response operations, notably including the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and CAL FIRE Grass Valley Air Attack Base. Collectively, these activities contribute to the County's business and tourism sectors, emergency services, and regional transportation.

In December 2025, the Airport Manager retired. During this same period, the Airport Commission has been evaluating potential amendments to its bylaws. Additionally, following the completion of a professionally prepared Nevada County Airport Land Use Evaluation, the County is preparing to issue a Request for Information (RFI) to assess developer interest in the parcel adjacent to the airport commonly known as "Lot 6."

Taken together, these concurrent leadership, governance, and planning changes reflect a period of transition for the Airport. This transition presents both challenges and opportunities that the County should thoughtfully and intentionally address.

For consideration of the Board of Supervisors:

- Should the Board of Supervisors establish an ad hoc committee of two Supervisors to assist with policy direction and coordination related to governance, operational, and development matters at the Nevada County Airport during the current transitional period?
- Should the Board of Supervisors direct staff to retain an independent consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of governance structure and operational practices at the Nevada County Airport and provide recommendations for improvement?