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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: September 9, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tine Mathiasen, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Resolution designating the Eagle Hose Company Site, located at 139 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (APN 008-348-002), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 25-09

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: On April 25, 2025, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to designate the Eagle Hose Company Site, located at 139 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (APN 008-348-002), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 25-09. Specifically on March 11, 2025, the City Planner of the City of Grass Valley, Amy Wolfson, applied to the NCHLC requesting the Eagle Hose Company Site be considered and designated as a county historical landmark.

As outlined in the attached supporting documents, the Grass Valley Fire Department was established in 1853 and is recognized as the third oldest active fire department west of the Mississippi River, according to the City of Grass Valley Fire Department History. On June 7, 1858, the department was officially recognized under law as the Grass Valley Hook and Ladder Company. Over the next 42 years, three additional ladder companies were formed to serve the growing community. Protection Hose Company No. 1, established in 1858, was originally located at Main and School Streets before relocating to Brighton Street, where it remains today.

The Eagle Hose Company, organized in 1866, became Grass Valley's second volunteer fire company and occupied a building reportedly constructed in 1858. This structure served the community for decades until February 1937, when a severe snowstorm caused it to collapse, leaving only the front wall and the city's signal fire bell intact. A new building was soon constructed on the same site and continued to serve as a fire station for many years. Beyond its firefighting role, it became a gathering place for community groups such as the Campfire Girls.

The building's significance also stemmed from its housing of the city's fire alarm signal bell, which worked in conjunction with numerous fire alarm boxes placed throughout Grass Valley. This system alerted both firefighters and residents to the location of a fire and remained in use for over a century. In April 1945, the bell sounded a special signal to announce Victory in Europe (V-E) Day and the official defeat of Nazi Germany, marking a historic moment for the town. The system remained operational until it was eventually replaced by modern electronic communications.

The proposed landmark designation honors the historical importance of the Eagle Hose Company No. 2 site including its vital role in fire protection, its connection to community life, and its place in the broader history of Grass Valley.

With this information, there is no doubt that the Eagle Hose Company Site should be designated as a Nevada County Historical Landmark. Therefore, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission recommends the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Resolution designating the Eagle Hose Company Site, located at 139 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (APN 008-348-002), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 25-09.

Initiated: Carissa Cyr, Senior Management Analyst
Submittal Date: August 22, 2025