

Jones Bar Firewise Committee

April 5, 2022

Attn: Chair Susan Hoek
Board of Supervisors
County of Nevada
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Nevada City, CA 95959
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RE: Letter of Support for Nevada County Ordinance Prohibiting Open Fire on Private Property along the South Yuba River Corridor

Honorable Chair Hoek,

On behalf of **Chuck Scimeca** and as a member of the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort, I am writing to express support for the proposed Ordinance extending the prohibition on open fire – during fire season - on private properties along the South Yuba River Wild Scenic Corridor in Nevada County.

Unfortunately, wildfire is the new normal in California, with increasingly devastating fires sweeping through the state. The 2020 Jones Fire and the 2021 River Fire made clear that a fire in steep terrain like the South Yuba River will threaten nearby residences and regional communities with frightening speed, not to mention the devastating impacts to the watershed itself.

We are encouraged that Nevada County has made it a top priority to implement policies and programs to reduce the risk of wildfire and its threats to life, property, and the environment. The **Jones Bar Firewise Community** and as a retired California State Park Ranger supports the Ordinance as a sensible precautionary measure to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfire in the South Yuba River Corridor. Furthermore, a prohibition on open fire during fire season (as declared by CAL FIRE), would align with policies that are already in place on public lands and in similar communities. We also support amending the ordinance to remove the start of the prohibition from Memorial Day Weekend to the start of declared fires season and to extend it into perpetuity.

The proposed Ordinance takes a reasonable approach to wildfire prevention and public safety in an era when the dangers of wildfire are more severe than ever before. Therefore, **Jones Bar Firewise Community** strongly supports the proposed Ordinance and encourages the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to adopt the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Chuck Scimeca, Jones Bar Firewise Committee