



**HIGGINS FIRE DISTRICT**  
of Nevada County  
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June 17, 2021

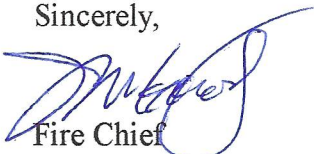
To Whom it May Concern,

The Nevada County commercial cannabis permitting program was adopted and implemented in 2019 creating a legal path to compliance for the local cannabis industry. Following the implementation of this ordinance and program there continues to remain a high number of un-permitted cultivators in the County. Many of these un-permitted sites create public nuisances, fire hazards, environmental damage, and dangerous situations. Due to this we support the implementation of tools and resources to help hold un-permitted cannabis cultivators accountable in our community. One tool that would help improve cannabis enforcement would be the creation and implementation of an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Pilot Program for cannabis enforcement. A pilot program has the potential to:

- Improve staff and community safety
- Improve fire safety by abating fire hazards
- Verify violations at more un-permitted cannabis sites
- Continue to protect privacy rights by operating from public-rights-of way and not flying over private property unless consent is given by that owner
- Hold un-permitted cannabis cultivators accountable
- Obtain proof of violations to obtain and serve warrants on inaccessible parcels
- Conduct enforcement activities in a cost-effective and responsible way

There is a need to implement tools and programs to address the large amount of unpermitted cannabis cultivation sites in our community. Addressing these sites and holding violators accountable will help improve fire safety, reduce blight, protect neighborhoods, and support our rural quality of life. We support the implementation of a UAS Pilot Program specific to cannabis enforcement to support this goal.

Sincerely,

  
Fire Chief  
Higgins Fire District