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NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 29, 2018

Chair Edward Scofield
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 Urgency Ordinance Banning Open Fire along the South Yuba River Corridor

Honorable Chair Scofield,

It has come to our attention that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors shall be considering a proposed Urgency Ordinance banning open fire along the South Yuba River in Nevada County at its Regular meeting on September 11, 2018. On behalf of myself, I am submitting this Letter of Support to express our support for the Urgency Ordinance as a member of the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort and as a member of the Nevada County Historical Society and the community representative of the South Yuba River Citizens League. Unfortunately, wildfire is the new normal in California, with devastating fires sweeping throughout the state. As noted by the Governor on March 13, 2018, "It is critical we take strong and comprehensive action to protect all California from the threat of natural disasters and climate change," which include, but are not limited to, fire evaluation, hazard mitigation and tree mortality and forest management practices.

We are encouraged that Nevada County has made it a top priority objective to implement existing County policies and programs to reduce the risk of wildfire and the effects of wildfire on life, property, and the environment, as well as explore other ways to reduce the threat and damage from wildfires. I support the Urgency Ordinance as a precautionary measure to mitigate the hazards of human caused wildfire in the Yuba River Corridor that would have devastating impacts on the County and the community and encourage the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to take the necessary actions to adopt such a needed measure. A prohibition on open fire during fire season as declared by Cal FIRE and the United States Forest Service would further align the policies that are already in place on public lands to private property owners which protect the watershed and its resources that contains extraordinary scenic, recreation, fishery, and wildlife values of statewide significance.

The proposed Urgency Ordinance takes a reasonable approach to wildfire prevention and public safety in an era when the dangers of wildfire are more severe than they have ever been. Therefore, I respectfully request that you strongly support the proposed Urgency Ordinance and encourage the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to adopt the proposed Urgency Ordinance.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Scimeca, South Yuba River State Park Ranger, retired