



County Executive Office

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Presentation of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 2023 Challenge Award to the Nevada County Agricultural Department for the Nevada- Placer- Yuba Disaster Livestock Access Program

RECOMMENDATION: Accept presentation from CSAC CEO Graham Knaus.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: Each year the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) holds its Challenge Awards where counties are invited to submit program accomplishments showcasing creative and innovative collaborative solutions to address important issues. The awards recognize and elevate the most innovative programs amongst California's 58 counties.

In 2022, CSAC received 370 entries across the state and awarded 19 programs across 14 different counties. The "Nevada- Placer- Yuba Disaster Livestock Access Program", which is the recipient of the 2022 Challenge Award in the Rural Disaster & Emergency Response category, was established by UC Cooperative Extension and the County Agricultural Commissioners from Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties, to facilitate for the care of commercial livestock before, during, and after a wildfire or other natural disaster event.

The program was developed in response the need to allow for safe access by trained and qualified ranch personnel to protect the welfare of critical livestock during a disaster when evacuating the livestock may not be an option.

Under the Disaster Livestock Access Program, ranchers apply for, and are allocated a Livestock Access Card, prior to a disaster, which identifies these ranchers as bona-fide agricultural owner-operators or employees whose services are essential to providing protection and care for livestock. Card holders are key personnel who have a working knowledge of the agricultural property and are trained in emergency procedures. They additionally understand that their role during a disaster is to support the agricultural operation and not to fight fire or act as a first responder during a disaster. The intent of the card is to allow the cardholder access to the agricultural property when front-line emergency personnel have deemed that there is no imminent risk to accessing the land.

The cooperation and participation of CalFire, Sheriff's Office and Office of Emergency

Service for each of the three founding counties is also critical for the success of the program.

The program not only provides an innovative and proactive solution to address the increasing risk and prevalence of disaster events necessitating evacuations in our rural county, but it also represents a tri-county partnership with collaboration from essential front-line disaster response teams to address this critical rural county need.

The county is honored to receive the CSAC Challenge Award in 2023.

Therefore, CSAC CEO, Graham Knaus, will provide the Board with an overview presentation on the CSAC 2023 Challenge Awards in honor of the award-winning work of Nevada County.

Item Initiated by: Mandy Stewart, Administrative Analyst II
Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer
Submittal Date: 6/27/2023