

Lelia Loomis

Subject: FW: Fire risk for Nevada City area posed by illegal campers in Deer Creek canyon

From: Sam Goodspeed

Date: September 6, 2018 at 11:40:00 AM PDT

To: Steve Rothert

cc: Emails Redacted

Subject: Re: Fire risk for Nevada City area posed by illegal campers in Deer Creek canyon

*cc: All BOS
County Counsel
CEO*

Sam Goodspeed
Fire Chief
Nevada City Fire Department
(530) 265-2351 ext. 11
sam.goodspeed@nevadacityca.gov

On Aug 24, 2018, at 4:13 PM, Steve Rothert wrote:

August 24, 2018

Heidi Hall, Supervisor District 1, Nevada County
Keith Royal, Sheriff, Nevada County
John Gulserian, Manager, Nevada County Emergency Services
Jim Turner, Chief, Nevada County Consolidated Fire
David Parker, Mayor, Nevada City
Sam Goodspeed, Fire Chief, Nevada City
James Leal, Chief of Police, Nevada City

Via electronic mail and post

Re: Fire risk for Nevada City area posed by illegal campers in Deer Creek canyon

Dear Public Officials of Nevada County and Nevada City:

We write to you as concerned residents of the Nevada City area to notify you of and request your assistance with a situation that puts the Nevada City area at great risk: the risk of a catastrophic fire erupting from campfires at illegal camps in the Deer Creek canyon. With the onset of cooler weather and the recent proliferation of illegal camps, combined with above normal temperatures this summer, this risk has never been greater and will only worsen unless you help us address it.

As you well know, CAL FIRE has designated Nevada City a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and with our low humidity, low water content in vegetation and soil and prevailing westerly winds, we could expect a fire to reach Nevada City very quickly if it started at one of more than six illegal camps within one mile of downtown. We have begun to smell campfires already.

We appreciate that you are aware of this risk and are extremely busy. However, we respectfully request that you prioritize this extreme fire risk until the first significant rains occur by identifying how you can urgently exercise your authorities – with the enthusiastic help of numerous residents – to protect the thousands lives and properties

at risk. We understand all fire risk cannot be eliminated, but with your leadership we can remove the risk of illegal camps causing a fire that could become catastrophic.

We and other members of the Greater Champion Neighborhood Association would be happy to discuss this with you and assist in any way we can to help protect our community.

<image003.jpg>With great appreciation for your service to the public,
Steve Rothert and Elizabeth Soderstrom

CC Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Nevada City Council Members
Nevada City Chamber of Commerce
Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
Cement Hill Neighborhood Association
Lake Vera Neighborhood Association

NEVADA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

(530) 265-2351 • Fax (530) 265-8640
317 BROAD STREET
NEVADA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95959

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**NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

September 6, 2018

Steve Rothert and Elizabeth Soderstrom
16545 Champion Mine Rd.
Nevada City, CA 95959

*cc: All BOS
County Counsel
CEO*

Dear Steve and Elizabeth,

In response to your letter dated August 24, 2018 concerning the "extreme fire risk for Nevada City area posed by illegal campers in the Deer Creek canyon", I would like to first of all thank you for your interest and commitment to protecting your neighborhood and community.

Your local fire chiefs and law enforcement officers are well aware of this target hazard and the potential for catastrophic wildfire emanating from that location. The City of Nevada City has gone to great lengths to lessen the risks of wildfire in the Deer Creek Canyon. Whether its neighborhood associations or non-profit groups operating through grant funding, there have been numerous vegetation management projects that have been undertaken over the years. Ongoing efforts include community members that donate their time to maintain the Tribute Trail and surrounding areas and private property owners that are taking responsibility for their own land. Future efforts to reduce the threat of wildfire will include pursuing grant opportunities for fuels management and public outreach and education.

To address your specific concern regarding illegal camping and camp fires, I have personally increased my patrols of the area. I have communicated with the Nevada City Police Chief and have been assured that their officers are doing the same. The Nevada City Parks and Recreation Director is in close contact the trail groups and will be informed of any illegal camping activity they encounter. I would also encourage you and your neighbors to call 911 and immediately report any signs of smoke in the area.

In my estimation, a wildland fire coming out of the Deer Creek drainage is the number one threat to Nevada City. You can be certain that protecting against such an event is a top priority. Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Sam Goodspeed
Fire Chief
Nevada City Fire Department



NORTH SAN JUAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Post Office Box 299, North San Juan, CA 95960

(530) 292-9159 • Fax: (530) 292-1417

e-mail: info911@nsjfire.org • www.nsjfire.org

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NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

cc: All BOS
County Council
CEO

August 29, 2018

Chairman, Edward Scofield
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Letter of Support for Nevada County Urgency Ordinance Banning Open Fire along the South Yuba River Corridor

Dear Chairman 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 North San Juan Fire Protection District (NSJFPD), I am submitting this Letter of Support for the Urgency Ordinance as a member of the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort and as a fire and emergency service agency responsible for calls to this area of the Yuba River and the surrounding community. 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 of California from the threat of natural disasters and climate change," which include, but are not limited to, fire evaluation, hazard mitigation, 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. NSJFPD supports 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 CalFIRE 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, North San Juan Fire Protection District strongly supports the proposed Urgency Ordinance and encourages the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to adopt the proposed Urgency Ordinance.

Sincerely

Jason Flores, Fire Chief



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tahoe
National
Forest

631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA
95959-2250
530-265-4531
530-478-6109 FAX

SEP 06 2018

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

File Code: 2500
Date: September 4, 2018

cc: All BOS
County Council
CEO

Chair Edward Scofield
Board of Supervisors
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Letter of Support for Nevada County Urgency Ordinance Banning Open Fire along the South Yuba River Corridor

Honorable Chair Scofield,

The Tahoe National Forest Fire Management staff has participated as a member of the *Yuba River Public Safety Cohort* multi-agency workgroup. The Tahoe National Forest supports mitigating the fire risk within the South Yuba River *Wild and Scenic* designated corridor during times of high or extreme fire danger. The corridor contains thick dry brush and flammable vegetation along steep slopes, has limited and/or restricted access, and has potential for high winds. These conditions make it very difficult to fight fires in this area.

The Tahoe National Forest goes into fire restrictions after assessing the fire danger for the area. Many factors go into this assessment, such as the current National Fire Danger Rating System level, long term weather forecasts (temperature, humidity, and rainfall), current large fire activity in the area (which limits the amount of firefighting resources available), and vegetation conditions (amount of moisture in live and dead fuels). Restricting fires imposes many limitations to the public and should be implemented only when high or extreme fire danger is predicted to persist. The Tahoe National Forest supports going into a burn ban when these conditions are present, and not based on set dates.

Sincerely,


for ELI ILANO
Forest Supervisor

Cc: Shelly Allen



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NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Greater Champion Neighborhood Association

August 27, 2018

cc: All BOS
County Counsel
CEO

Heidi Hall, Supervisor District 1, Nevada County
Keith Royal, Sheriff, Nevada County
John Gulserian, Manager, Nevada County Emergency Services
Jim Turner, Chief, Nevada County Consolidated Fire
David Parker, Mayor, Nevada City
Sam Goodspeed, Fire Chief, Nevada City
James Leal, Chief of Police, Nevada City

Dear Public Officials of Nevada County and Nevada City:

The Greater Champion Neighborhood Association supports the recent letter from Steve Rothert and Elizabeth Soderstrom about the increase of illegal camping in Deer Creek canyon in and just west of Nevada City. These camps pose an immediate threat of wildfire to Nevada City and the surrounding area.

The Greater Champion Firewise Committee recently established a working group to address the issue of illegal camping in our area. That group is led by Vicky Reeder at (530) 470-0428.

We strongly concur with Steve and Elizabeth's letter and call on local government officials, private non-profits, and other stakeholders to work with us to eliminate these high-risk camps.

Sincerely,



Sue Williams, Chair
Greater Champion Neighborhood Association

CC:

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Nevada City Council Members
Nevada City Chamber of Commerce
Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
Cement Hill Neighborhood Association
Lake Vera Neighborhood Association
Steve Rothert
Elizabeth Soderstrom

From: Jonathan Gicker <jon@gickers.net>
Date: September 5, 2018 at 1:11:55 PM PDT
To: <bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Attention Hank Weston, District 4

Dear Mr. Weston:

My husband and I are constituents of yours in District 4. We would like to let you know that we support the urgency fire ordinance in the Yuba River corridor that is coming up for public hearing this week. We have received a letter from the County as we are private property owners, at 14290 Lily Creek Trail, Nevada City, who would be affected by the ordinance.

My comments are only that I'm shocked burning and campfires are not already prohibited by Cal Fire's seasonal burn ban, that such an ordinance should have been in effect for the last 30 years (we lost our home in the 49er Fire in 1988), and that I would be happy if there were NO EXCEPTIONS at all to any kind of burning, fires, BBQ's, etc. during the fire season. That seems like common sense, but that doesn't seem to be that common these days.

Please vote Yes for the ordinance and do what you can to make it as strong and effective as possible. We are already appalled that State Parks does not have the personnel to patrol the Jones Bar area of the Yuba River State Park, which our property adjoins, won't lock the gate at the top of the road where it meets the pavement, and feel as if we're just sitting here waiting for the next fire to be started by illegal camping and campfires in the Jones Bar section of the river corridor.

Thanks for anything you can do.

Carol and Jon Gicker

From: Rorie Lin Gotham <skyranch1@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 9:33 AM

To: heather.newell@fs.fed.us; Richard Anderson; Melinda Booth; Hank Weston; Heidi Hall; Ed Scofield; Dan Miller

Subject: Camping and Camp Fires continue at Golden Quartz Day Use Park on South Yuba River in Washington

Greetings Heather -

cc: Nevada County Supervisors, Hall, Miller, Scofield, Weston, Anderson
SYRCL ED M. Booth

I trust this finds you well

I have to take issue with something very important to the South Yuba River and to the people who call Washington home.

This is not the first weekend this season or the first year of hazardous activities from out of towners going to Golden Quartz Day Use Park.

I called the TNF Coyote Street office last month and made you aware of activities there where people are camping and having camp fires at Golden Quartz.

This is NOT supposed to be happening - this is a DAY USE only site

But once AGAIN. camping and camp fires were part of this last weekend's activities at that site.

Nevada County is voting on imposing fire restrictions on property owners in the canyon where we are responsible, have substantial investments in our properties, know weather and fire hazard conditions and have water on site

Yet, these out of town visitors come into the canyon and do what they want, go where they want and are potentially going to be the cause of a fire down here, not the property owners.

I do not understand why this problem continues to happen other than the fact that perhaps no one with authority is going to Golden Quartz to monitor human activity knowing there are big concerns there, particularly on weekends..

Someone from TNF comes down to Golden Quartz to supply toilet paper why can't that same person come down here on the weekends to do that task and see what other kinds of activities are happening? Perhaps there can be a TNR volunteer to monitor activities.

Additionally, people continue to walk through the decommissioned Keleher Day Use Park to trespass at the private properties up and down stream. . I find cigarette butts there frequently and the grasses are tall and dry which is not a good combination of conditions. :Perhaps TNF could cut down the grasses on their property to reduce fire hazardous conditions.

PLEASE, Heather, something needs to be done to monitor human activity in this part of Washington.

None of us want to see the canyon and Washington go up in smoke, but we are heading in that direction.

Thank you for your attention

Sincerely

Rorie Lin Gotham
Resident of Washington, CA
(530) 478-0258