

COUNTY OF NEVADA  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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Julie Patterson Hunter,  
Clerk of the Board

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** June 12, 2018

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Hank Weston, District IV Supervisor**  
**Heidi Hall, District I Supervisor**

**SUBJECT:** Presentation overview on the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort, a multi-agency workgroup, and the associated action items to promote and enhance public safety in the South Yuba River Corridor and to prevent and mitigate wildfire.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Accept the presentation overview on the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort, a multi-agency workgroup, and the associated action items to promote and enhance public safety in the South Yuba River Corridor and to prevent and mitigate wildfire.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

The Yuba River Public Safety Cohort (Cohort) is a multi-agency workgroup that includes Federal, State and local agencies and departments. The Cohort was established for the purpose of coordinating public safety and law enforcement efforts in the South Yuba River corridor. Historically, the Cohort met annually ahead of the summer season specifically to discuss Purdon Crossing and issues of public safety. However, starting in January 2018, the group has convened monthly and broadened their scope of coordination to the entire South Yuba River corridor. The workgroup includes District I Supervisor Heidi Hall, District IV Supervisor Hank Weston, Sheriff's Office, County Executive Office, Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, Nevada County Public Works Department, California Highway Patrol, CalFIRE, Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, North San Juan Fire District, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Federal Bureau of Land Management, The Hub for Direct Community Action Friends of Purdon Crossing Project, Yuba Bus, the Lake Vera Road Round Mountain Neighborhood Association and the South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL). Representatives from Verizon Wireless, AT&T and the Nevada County Superior Court have also attended meetings and provided input to the workgroup.

Various initiatives have been identified and implemented by the Cohort in order to further promote public safety and law enforcement efforts at the South Yuba River. As such, listed below are the initiatives and several recommended action items for the Board's consideration:

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200, Nevada City CA 95959-8617  
phone: 530.265.1480 | fax: 530.265.9836 | toll free: 888.785.1480 | email: [bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us)  
website: <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos>

### Joint Agency Taskforce (Update)

The South Yuba River consists of various Federal, State and local jurisdictional boundaries that are enforced by multiple agencies that include the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Highway Patrol, the Bureau of Land Management and CalFIRE. In an effort to thwart illegal behavior and to promote public safety, the aforementioned agencies have established a Joint Agency Taskforce whereby peace officers from all the agencies go out together to key locations along the river corridor to issue citations for illegal activity and provide information to members of the public on public safety. The first taskforce patrol occurred on Memorial Day Weekend and every agency was represented. The Taskforce has identified several more joint patrol dates that will occur throughout the summer.

### River Safety Marketing Strategy (Update)

A key component of promoting public safety and mitigating safety hazards is through public engagement. However, a key challenge is the amount of tourists and visitors that come to the South Yuba River every year. It has been estimated that approximately 700,000 visitors come annually. Moreover, the Sheriff's Office reports that approximately 60% of parking and other citations issued at the South Yuba River are to non-Nevada County residents. Therefore, a marketing campaign that is aimed at both County and non-County residents is warranted. As such, the County Executive Office and SYRCL have put together a marketing campaign called Love the Yuba Like a Local that includes six key messages: i) Be Safe – No Cell Service; ii) No Fires – It only takes one Spark; iii) Pick-up After Your Pets; iv) Prevent Injuries – No Glass; v) Pack It In, Pack It Out, and Recycle; and vi) Obey Parking Signs. The campaign objective is to educate local residents and visitors of the South Yuba River on best practices to elevate awareness of public safety and environmental issues in the area. An emphasis is placed on reaching tourists so they are well informed on how to keep the Yuba River beautiful and safe for all visitors. The campaign will include periodic press releases throughout the summer, a public service announcement safety video that includes spokespersons from the Sheriff's Office, CalFIRE, California Department of Parks and Recreation, SYRCL and the California Highway Patrol, and a safety tips flyer. Additionally, press releases will be posted to the County's tourism website GoNevadaCounty.com.

### Proposed Ordinance Banning Outdoor Burning at the South Yuba River Wild and Scenic Designated Corridor (Direction from the Board requested on scope of draft ordinance)

With input from CalFIRE and local fire districts, the Cohort has recommended that the Board of Supervisors consider an Ordinance banning all outdoor burning along the Yuba River Corridor. In order to draft a proposed Ordinance, Staff is requesting direction from the Board on its development. Specific guidance will include, but not be limited to, questions on whether the ban should incorporate the entire Wild and Scenic South Yuba River Designation within the County (39 miles), identifying how many feet from the middle line of the river the ban on burning should go, consideration to property owners, year-round or date specific time frame, etc.

### Ordinance Change to section G-IV 3.A.8 no parking zones at Purdon Crossing and Edwards Crossing (Action Item)

As a result of the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort meetings, Public Works has evaluated the County's Parking Prohibitions Ordinance Section G-IV 3.A.8. As a result of the Ordinance evaluation, staff is recommending adding no parking zones on Purdon Road near the Purdon Bridge and on North Bloomfield Graniteville Road near the Edwards Crossing Bridge. In addition, staff recommends removing roads that are no longer under the jurisdiction of the County.

### Increase of Parking Fines at Purdon Crossing and Edwards Crossing (Action Item)

Illegal parking has been identified as a major public safety issue at Purdon Crossing and Edwards Crossing. Specifically, cars and trucks parked illegally narrow the roads right-of-way to the extent that emergency response vehicles are blocked and unable to pass, along with other safety concerns. In an effort to mitigate the hazards, staff is recommending an amendment to the Nevada County Parking, Equipment, Registration Violation Penalty Schedule which was last amended on November 8, 2011 per Resolution 11-520 to include a base fine amount of \$150 for illegal parking at Purdon Crossing and Edwards Crossing. Per California Vehicle Code 40203.5 the Nevada County Board of Supervisors may establish a schedule of parking penalties to be collected as civil penalties.

### Office of Emergency Services Call Boxes and Satellite Phones (Action Items)

The South Yuba Canyon receives approximately 1,500 visitors each day during the summer season. However because the Yuba River Canyon does not have cell coverage due to its remote location, there is a heightened public safety hazard due to response time delay of emergency responders during a crisis.

In an effort to mitigate this, the Office of Emergency Services is recommending the submission of a grant application to the Department of Homeland Security for the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program, to fund the South Yuba Canyon Emergency Needs Project in the total amount of \$86,670 for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The grant would fund four (4) Satellite Fixed Call Boxes near hiking trails towards the canyon; two (2) Variable Message signs for public safety/education to be deployed in the South Yuba Canyon; and five (5) Satellite Communication Devices for community partners, including SYRCL's River Ambassadors Program to use during an emergency. Application funds are thought to be distributed in January of next year.

Per discussions with the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort, the Office of Emergency Services also outlined a \$15,000 project to be conducted by the end of June 2018 which includes the installation of (1) Satellite Fixed Call Box and (4) Satellite Communication Devices for community partners, including SYRCL's River Ambassadors Program to use during an emergency. A capital asset budget amendment is included for the purchase of (1) Satellite Fixed Call Box that will serve as a call box at Purdon Crossing allowing calls to be made to emergency services. Project will help alleviate emergency needs within the area and will provide a "proof of concept" for current and future emergency communication grants within the area.

### The Hub of Direct Community Action Friends of Purdon Crossing Project Grant Agreement (Action Item)

Friends of Purdon Crossing, a project of the nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization The Hub for Direct Community Action, have attended and contribute to the workgroup's efforts to promote areas of health, law enforcement and public safety by providing free services to the community at Purdon Crossing that meet the social needs of the visitors who come to the river. These include but are not limited to providing and maintaining trash and recycling dispensers and other public health amenities. In order to further promote the Friends of Purdon Crossing efforts and valuable services to the community, staff recommends the execution of Grant Agreement that awards one-time funding to The Hub for Direct Community Action Friends of Purdon Crossing Project in the amount of \$12,145 to promote health, law enforcement and public safety at the South Yuba River.

### Yuba Bus Parking Agreement (Action Item)

In several meetings, the Cohort identified increased parking along the roadway as an issue at various locations along the river. Yuba Bus is a new private shuttle bus service that will be transporting visitors to the South Yuba River during the river season from early June to late



September. In an effort to reduce traffic and parking, Staff is recommending the execution of a contract between Yuba Bus, LLC to allow non-exclusive patron parking for visitors to park their cars and take the bus to the South Yuba River on Highway 49. Overflow parking will be located at the SW intersection of Maidu Ave and Helling Way which is part of the Rood Center Campus.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hank Weston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hank Weston  
Supervisor, District IV

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Hall  
Supervisor, District I