

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Wm. "Hank" Weston

Supervisor, 4th District

Email: hank.weston@co.nevada.ca.us

September 14, 2018

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

DATE OF MEETING: September 25, 2018

SUBJECT: Letter of Urgency for Increased Funding for Ranger/Law Enforcement Services in the Mother Lode Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Chair to sign and submit the attached Letter of Urgency for Increased Funding for Law Enforcement Services in the Mother Lode Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND:

Nevada County is uniquely positioned in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range that receives an estimated 700,000 to 800,000 visitors annually to our various public parks and open lands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages approximately 17,349 acres in Nevada County alone through its Mother Lode Field Office with an estimated one-third of this area residing in the South Yuba River Corridor which is as a State Wild and Scenic Designated Corridor. The public lands in and around the South Yuba area are some of the most visited lands in Nevada County that attract people from all over the world. Since 2012, there has been a steady annual increase of visitors 6-8 times the population of the entire County. While the sheer number of visitors each year contributes to the County's economy, they bring other impacts and risks, such as increased fire dangers from illegal camping, homelessness and campfires.

Recently it has come to the attention of the County that one of the three full-time Ranger positions within the Mother Lode Office will become vacant in the near future, thereby leaving only two (2) remaining filled Ranger positions for the entire resource area. This raises a strong concern that should the Ranger position remain vacant, or even worse remain un-filled indefinitely, the public's safety, not to mention the stewardship responsibility to the public's lands, would be in jeopardy and at risk.

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Therefore, I respectfully request the Board to authorize the Chair to sign and submit the attached Letter of Urgency to encourage that any Ranger/Law Enforcements vacancies are filled as quickly as possible and that sustained and/or increased resources are properly dedicated to any and all of the public lands that BLM has responsibility for within Nevada County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hank Weston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H" and "W".

Hank Weston

District IV, Board of Supervisors