

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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February 26, 2019

Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resources Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager

RE: Letter of Support for the Yuba Watershed Forest Collaborative

Dear Watershed Coordinator Grant Review Team,

I am writing in support of the Yuba Watershed Forest Collaborative proposal being submitted to the Department of Conservation by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) on behalf of the project team that includes SYRCL, the Camptonville Community Partnership, the Yuba Water Agency, and the Tahoe National Forest. The project team will work in partnership to catalyze landscape-scale planning and implementation for forest and watershed health projects across the Yuba River watershed and expand the local forest product industry, which will serve as an economically and environmentally viable means of disposal for excess forest biomass residuals and non-merchantable timber.

SYRCL and the Camptonville Community Partnership propose to leverage their existing relationships and work collaboratively with the United States Forest Service Tahoe National Forest and the Yuba Water Agency to build capacity and strengthen coordination in this region. Specifically their proposal includes hiring two employees over a period of four years to work across the watershed to provide technical support and community and stakeholder engagement through facilitated meetings where landowners, public agencies, private industry, and the general public can work together to cultivate high priority forest/watershed health and forest product projects. The intended impact of the projects are anticipated to provide environmental, social, and economic benefits that increase the pace and scale of forest and watershed improvements in the Yuba River watershed.

Nevada County has been working to improve local fire preparedness and forest health for years, and the Board of Supervisors has adopted a Priority A objective to "reduce the risk of local wildfire and the effects of wildfire on life, property, and the environment by providing leadership and support to community partners, pursuing State and Federal funding, implementing county policies and programs, and assisting the public to be 'wildfire ready.'" Accordingly, the Board supports the efforts of this collaborative.

The County of Nevada looks forward to working with one or all of the project team members to improve forest and watershed health and the forest product industry in the Yuba River region. If this grant is successful, we anticipate participating as an active stakeholder to help ensure the Yuba River watershed remains a carbon sink, rather than becomes a carbon source.

Sincerely,


Richard Anderson
Chair, Board of Supervisors