

COUNTY OF NEVADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Dan Miller
Supervisor, 3rd District
Email: dan.miller@co.nevada.ca.us

DATE OF MEETING: January 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Letter of Concern regarding the availability and affordability of Commercial Insurance in Wildland Urban Interface Areas

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached letter and authorize the Chair to sign and submit the Letter to the California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara

FUNDING: None.

BACKGROUND: On December 24, 2019, Timothy DeMartini contacted the County regarding a Non-Renewal Notice of insurance coverage he received for his Commercial Auto Policy on October 9, 2019 for DeMartini RV Sales. DeMartini RV Sales is a large employer for our area with 35-40 employees that requires specialized insurance coverage for the commercial sales of RVs. Mr. DeMartini provided staff with the risk evaluation used to justify the termination of his commercial insurance coverage that identified a risk threat of 71 for 625 Idaho Maryland Road and 76 for 1305 East Main Street in Grass Valley, CA 95945. The maps provided show the properties located in 61-80 and 81-100 wildfire risk areas, respectively. However, when cross-compared to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) State-wide Fire Map, neither properties are located in Tier 2 Elevated Wildfire Threat or Tier 3 Extreme Wildfire Threat Areas, but instead are located in Tier 1 Non-Fuel Areas.

On December 30, 2019 Grass Valley Fire Chief Mark Buttron conducted an exterior defensible space fire safety inspection at both locations and found both are in compliance with California Fire Code. Chief Buttron submitted a Letter of Concern to the California Department of Insurance on December 30, 2019 outlining that Mr. DeMartini has reinforced his defensible space at 625 Idaho Maryland Road by providing 100' or more clearance with his neighbors and installing noncombustible driving surfaces throughout the property. I also submitted a Letter of Concern directly to Sentry Select Insurance on December 30, 2019. The loss of commercial insurance could force his business to relocate out of the County or close altogether.

As such, I request the Board approve the attached Letter of Concern regarding the availability and affordability of commercial insurance in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas to the California Insurance Commissioner to help elevate this issue statewide.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Miller
Supervisor, District 3

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
website: <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos/>