



SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

November 10, 2020

Chair Heidi Hall
Board of Supervisors
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Letter of Support for Extension of Nevada County Ordinance Prohibiting Open Fire within the South Yuba River Corridor

Honorable Chair Hall,

It has come to our attention that, at its regular meeting on November 17, 2020, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors will consider a proposed Ordinance extending the prohibition on open fire – during fire season - on private properties along the South Yuba River in Nevada County. On behalf of the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) and as a member of the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort, I hereby express our support for the considered Ordinance.

Unfortunately, wildfire is the new normal in California, with increasingly catastrophic fires sweeping through the state. The August 2020 Jones Fire made it clear that a fire in the South Yuba River canyon can quickly leave the canyon and head toward residences and businesses with frightening speed.

We are encouraged that Nevada County has made it a top priority to implement policies and programs to reduce the risk of wildfire and its threats to life, property, and the environment. SYRCL supports the Ordinance as a sensible precautionary measure to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfire in the Yuba River Corridor. Furthermore, a prohibition on open fire during fire season (as declared by CAL FIRE and the United States Forest Service), would align with policies that are already in place on public lands and in similar communities, such as Truckee. We encourage the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to take the necessary actions to adopt this measure.

This Ordinance takes a reasonable approach to wildfire prevention and public safety in an era when the dangers of wildfire are more severe than ever before. Therefore, SYRCL strongly supports the proposed Ordinance and encourages the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to adopt the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Melinda Booth
Executive Director