

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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January 13, 2015

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Resource Management
Grants Management Unit
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Attn: Sam Walker
Fire Prevention Fund Program Manager

Re: Project Tracking #14-SRA-HF-01-0062
El Dorado Integrated Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Master CWPP)
Letter of Support

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors are committed to supporting the efforts of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council to protect the people of El Dorado County and their property from the effects of catastrophic wildfire.

Our County is rich in resources for recreation, agriculture, commerce and housing. Our residents and millions of visitors enjoy all our County has to offer. We realize the economy and beauty of our County can be quickly destroyed by wildfire. The Fire Safe Council and the BOS have partnered with the US Forrest Service, CAL-FIRE, BLM and local Fire Districts to help reduce the threat of wildfire in our area. Public outreach and education is essential to promoting fire safety. The County Fire Safe Council has assisted communities in developing local "grass roots" satellite Fire Safe Councils. Each of these "mini councils" are comprised of community volunteers that hold informative meetings, sponsor community clean up days, and propose fuel reduction projects in their neighborhoods. Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) provide an assessment of risk and a plan for mitigating that risk. They also provide unique community based information for evacuation planning and disaster preparedness.

Comprehensive planning is essential to provide the maximum protection at the lowest cost. Currently, planning is piecemeal with several stand-alone community unique CWPPs as well as several at risk communities that do not have Wildfire Protection Plans. The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors supports the SRA grant proposal to fund the development of a countywide integrated plan. We believe this grant request should be given the highest priority.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Veerkamp, Chair, Board of Supervisors