



RESOLUTION NO.

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfires continue to threaten lives, property, and the natural resources of the state of California; and

WHEREAS, the fire threat is no longer limited to a season, but ongoing throughout the year due to the multi-year drought, increasing suppression costs, and wiping out of funds slated for fire prevention projects; and

WHEREAS, the increased risk of catastrophic wildfires in El Dorado County results in harmful secondary environmental effects, including diminished air and water quality, impacted watershed, increased air pollutant emissions, and threatened habitats of sensitive wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, 4 of the 5 largest wildfires in California in the past 100 years have been on federal land with the other having had a substantial federal component; and

WHEREAS, roughly 50% of the land in El Dorado County is federally managed land; and

WHEREAS, the management of public lands, particularly regarding fire protection and fuel reduction, on national forest system lands under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service is wholly inadequate and has long-been ignored, placing El Dorado County in significant peril and at great risk in the event that catastrophic wildfires occur; and

WHEREAS, these conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipments, and facilities of El Dorado County; and

WHEREAS, the irretrievable loss of productive forest lands for generations evidenced by the loss of goods and services originating from the public lands impacted by the catastrophic wildfire; the insurance losses from catastrophic wildfire; the loss of valuable natural resources; the damage and/or loss of public and private property; and, the long-term devastation of the local economy imperil the well-being of local residents, the State of California, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the resources to manage the federal lands to reduce fire risk would be a small investment relative to the skyrocketing costs of fire suppression;

WHEREAS, proper thinning of the forested lands in El Dorado County, home to the South Fork of the American River watershed, could increase water yield and improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, the elected and appointed officials of both the state and the nation have an obligation to preserve public safety and protect the citizenry and their homes and businesses by ensuring that the landscape is as fire-resilient as possible and that firefighting efforts can be effective and as safe as possible for fire fighters; and

WHEREAS, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 156-2014 on September 17, 2014, declaring a local state of emergency in response to the King Fire; and

WHEREAS, a Gubernatorial Declaration of a State of Emergency was subsequently made on September 17, 2014 for El Dorado County and Siskiyou County due to wildfires;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors declares that there is an ongoing emergency due to the actual and perceived threat of wildfire in California, that the state and local governments have taken many steps to resolve this issue, and now urges the Governor to take an active role at the federal level to demand that the United States Forest Service, in particular, and all federal land management agencies, in general, take action in California's federal lands to do the prevention and maintenance work required to mitigate the ongoing and increasing risk of catastrophic wildfires.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that the Governor of California is requested to seek a Presidential concurrence regarding the existing conditions in California, providing the highest possible priority and recognition of the exteme danger being encountered by providing a comprehensive and coordinated strategy directed by the federal government, in cooperation with the state and local government.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the ____ day of _____, 20__, by the following vote of said Board:

Attest:
James S. Mitrisin
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Chair, Board of Supervisors