

RESOLUTION NO.

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

**Resolution Adopting a Voluntary Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Conservation estimates an average loss of 612 acres per year of agricultural land in the County of El Dorado; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Plan Goal 8.1 is the long-term conservation and use of existing and potential agricultural lands within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, General Plan Policy 8.1.2.1 allows the Board of Supervisors to determine whether to initiate incentive based programs to retain identified grazing lands as productive grazing units; and

**WHEREAS**, General Plan Policy 8.1.3.4 allows for conservation for loss of agricultural land in active production or conservation for land identified as suitable for agricultural production; and

**WHEREAS**, General Plan Policy 8.2.4.1 allows programs to be developed to support and allow private organizations to utilize conservation easements or other appropriate techniques to voluntarily restrict land to agricultural uses only; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agricultural Commission has developed criteria to review agricultural lands for consistency with the County's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Agricultural Conservation Easement Program contemplates that only willing agricultural land owners can voluntarily submit their agricultural lands to the Agricultural Commission for review for inclusion in the program; and

**WHEREAS**, willing land owners, who are requesting General Plan Amendments or Zoning changes from Agricultural uses to non-agricultural uses, can voluntarily donate funds to an Agricultural Conservation Easement fund to offset potential impacts to agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, the El Dorado Community Foundation is willing to manage these donated funds;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado hereby adopts the Voluntary Conservation Easement Program and Program Guidelines in Attachment A.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors finds that adoption of the Voluntary Conservation Easement Program and Program Guidelines is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15307 (actions for

protection of natural resources), 15308 (actions for protection of the environment), and/or 15317 (open space contracts or easements).

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: