

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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July 22, 2025

Mr. Alan Moore
NorCal Regional Deputy Director of External Affairs
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Dear Mr. Moore,

On behalf of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, thank you for taking the time to meet individually with Board members to learn more about the priorities and challenges facing our County. As you observed, while districts have their own unique circumstances, there are clear commonalities and shared concerns that unite us in our efforts to serve our constituents effectively.

To summarize our discussions and highlight the issues that emerged as most critical, we respectfully urge the Governor and his Administration to consider the following concerns—while also seeking and valuing input from local jurisdictions such as ours—when formulating statewide policy:

• **Homeowners Insurance Availability and Cost**

- Increasing difficulty in obtaining or affording homeowners insurance, driven by State regulations, is impacting the County's property tax base and threatening housing stability for residents, particularly those on fixed incomes.
- CAL FIRE's SRA maps designate much of El Dorado County as very high and high fire risk, further complicating access to insurance coverage.
- In response, El Dorado County has proactively established an Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience to lead a countywide strategy focused on defensible space, home hardening, and coordinated public outreach. This effort was instrumental in our inclusion on the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Risk Reduction Community List. We believe local wildfire mitigation efforts like these should be recognized and factored into insurance considerations.

• **Utility and Fuel Costs**

- Rising gas prices, exacerbated by State gas tax increases, disproportionately affect rural counties where residents rely heavily on personal vehicles to travel long distances for work, services, and daily life.

- The California Public Utilities Commission’s rate-setting authority lacks transparency and accountability. With all Commissioners appointed by the Governor, we encourage exploration of mechanisms to allow for greater oversight or local input.
- **Affordable Housing and SB 35 Requirements**
 - While we support the need for affordable housing, the State’s prescribed locations for projects often conflict with other State mandates, including fire regulations, traffic safety, and emergency evacuation considerations.
 - We respectfully request meaningful local input to ensure such developments are sited in ways that align with community safety and planning standards.
- **Transportation, Transit, and Green Initiatives**
 - Despite promises associated with SB 1, El Dorado County has not received the anticipated funding and has had to rely on General Fund dollars to maintain critical road infrastructure.
 - State transportation policy remains largely urban-focused and fails to account for the realities of rural communities, including vast distances between destinations and challenging terrain. Emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle projects overlooks the fundamental need for road maintenance and improvement in areas like ours.
- **Homelessness and Supportive Services**
 - El Dorado County has made substantial progress in addressing homelessness through a collaborative and strategic approach involving law enforcement, health services, and community partners.
 - Initiatives such as the Sheriff’s Homeless Outreach Team, HHSA’s Psychiatric Emergency Response Team, a temporary Navigation Center, and a planned permanent Navigation Center demonstrate our commitment and leadership in this area. We hope these efforts are recognized and supported by the State.

While these topics represent just a portion of the concerns shared in our conversations, our central message remains clear: **a one-size-fits-all approach to State policy does not reflect the realities of El Dorado County.** In some cases, State mandates are not only impractical in our context but directly conflict with one another—for example, fire safety regulations versus housing development requirements.

We are grateful for the opportunity to engage with you and appreciate your willingness to listen and understand our unique challenges. We look forward to continued communication and collaboration with your office to ensure that State policies are developed with the input and realities of local communities in mind.

Sincerely,

George Turnboo, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors