

County of El Dorado

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RUSTY DUPRAY.....DISTRICT I
HELEN K. BAUMANN.....DISTRICT II
JAMES R. SWEENEY.....DISTRICT III
RON BRIGGS.....DISTRICT IV
NORMA SANTIAGO.....DISTRICT V

CINDY KECK.....CLERK OF THE BOARD

330 FAIR LANE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
TELEPHONE (530) 621-5390
FAX NO. (530) 622-3645



March 5, 2008

The Honorable Dean Florez, Chair
Senate Governmental Organization Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 584
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 1308

Dear Senator Florez:

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its support for Senate Bill 1308 by Senator Dave Cox. SB 1308 would increase the California Disaster Assistance Act reimbursement rate for the Angora Fire from 75% to 100% of eligible costs.

The Angora Fire near Lake Tahoe destroyed 254 homes and burned approximately 3,100 acres. Ignited in a dense stand of extremely dry fir and pine by an illegal campfire, the flames quickly transitioned to an active crown fire, and ultimately became the worst fire in the Tahoe Basin in over a century.

To date, El Dorado County has spent approximately \$1.1 million in response, recovery, and restoration efforts related to the Angora Fire. Initial response fell heavily on the Sheriff's Office as they worked to evacuate residents and establish an Emergency Operations Center. In addition multiple County departments were involved at the Local Assistance Center to aid the 1,000 people initially displaced by the Fire.

Helping to protect Lake Tahoe, our recovery effort included a groundbreaking partnership with the California Integrated Waste Management Board for a comprehensive structural debris removal program. In addition, El Dorado County initiated, managed and funded a highly successful comprehensive hazard tree removal program. The County Department of Transportation continues to work on numerous erosion control projects to prevent fire-related sedimentation in Lake Tahoe.

Working to restore the lives of those impacted by the disaster, the County worked with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to streamline permit processes. The County is also working to expedite building permits for victims through a newly established Angora Permit Center.

Given the magnitude of impacts and the potential threats to Lake Tahoe, we hope you will agree that the Angora Fire was a unique experience for El Dorado County and the State of California. We appreciate your consideration of SB 1308 which will further assist El Dorado County in continuing recovery and restoration efforts.

Sincerely,

Rusty Dupray, Chairman
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Dave Cox
Assemblyman Ted Gaines
Don Peterson, Peterson Consulting Inc.