



PROCLAMATION
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO
TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF THE
PLACERVILLE FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, in January of, 1915 The Placerville Fruit Growers began packing local fruit to ship across the Country; and,

WHEREAS, horse-drawn wagons were replaced with boxcars as the Southern Pacific Railroad hauled tons of fruit, primarily pears, across the country from the original location on Locust Street just off Main Street; and,

WHEREAS, in the late 1930's, the Placerville Fruit Growers' innovative team started a cold storage and ice plant. They packed the rail cars with ice to get the fruit across the country in the best condition. When the fruit was delivered in prime condition, the farmers got the best prices at auction; and,

WHEREAS, in the 1940's and 50's, The Placerville Fruit Growers was the biggest fruit packing shed in the United States and was a major employment anchor in El Dorado County for decades; and,

WHEREAS, in the early 1960's, a tiny aphid-like critter spread a disease that virtually wiped out the local pear crop; and,

WHEREAS, in order to survive the decline of the pear crop, The Placerville Fruit Growers contracted with the U.S. Government to pack C-rations to ship to soldiers during the Viet Nam War. This was the beginning of the diversification practices that would carry them through to today; and,

WHEREAS, a devastating fire occurred in the mid-1970's. The Placerville Fruit Growers moved to their current location of 4600 Missouri Flat Rd, Placerville; and,

WHEREAS, John Caswell, Placerville Fruit Growers Association Manager said, "Six years ago we stopped packing fruit. That was the first time we hadn't packed fruit since 1915. But with more wineries in the area, more fruit was staying local and so now there are just little loads, truckloads, for what can't be sold to the locals;" and,

WHEREAS, there are thirty-four farming and ranching members currently listed in the cooperative; and,

WHEREAS, with diversification as the mantra of their plans for the future, catering to all needs, to all customers from the farming magnate purchasing thousands of dollars' worth of vineyard trellis to the backyard gardener who needs \$20 pruning shears; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado does hereby congratulate the Placerville Fruit Growers Association for providing 100 years of excellent customer service to El Dorado County ranchers and farmers. May you continue to diversify and flex with the times to achieve success for centuries to come!

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held this 29th day of September, 2015.

Attest:

James S. Mitrison
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

by: 

Deputy Clerk





Brian K. Veerkamp, Chair, Board of Supervisors