

LATE DISTRIBUTION

DATE 12/17/2018 BOS 12/18/2018

#41

**Regarding:** Newtown Rd. Bridge Replacement Project, Mitigated Negative Declaration for Newtown Road at South Weber Creek Bridge Replacement Project CIP #77122, SCH# 2018062062

Dear EDC Board of Supervisors

To whom it may concern,

For the last 35 years I have served as an aerial firefighter throughout the western states and North Carolina flying both the large DC-4 and DC-6 airtankers and the Grumman S-2T airtanker for CALFIRE. For several years I was based at the Grass Valley and Columbia Air Attack Bases. I have fought fires throughout all of the foothills of California and I have witnessed the destruction of many communities with the associated loss of life and property. I would like to express my concerns about the proposed road project at Newtown road in the bottom of the canyon just East of Placerville. During a wildfire, evacuation or rescue of Citizens adjacent to this road would be problematic at best and the entrapment of large numbers of residents is likely. The proposed road project would block one of the primary escape routes from the canyon for at least one full fire season and possibly two. The prospect of having many casualties produced by a wildland fire should be all too obvious.

In view of the catastrophes that have resulted from the Paradise fire and the Santa Rosa, Napa fires it would be gross negligence to ignore the danger posed to the Citizens on this deep canyon East of Placerville. Provisions must be made to keep the escape routes open during fire season to protect the lives of Citizens trying to escape a deadly fast-moving firestorm.

I hope you will give this dire situation your most earnest consideration and arrive at a plan that will protect the Citizens and taxpayers of Placerville from the death and destruction that a firestorm will produce.

I urge you to vote for the "**NO PROJECT**" option, on the December 18, 2018, Newtown Road Bridge replacement project, Until a better and safer fire evacuation plan can be approved and studied by the citizens affected in this area.

Sincerely,

James M. Barnes

Retired Aerial Firefighter.

JIMMY, Hereis the list to send it to;

[donna.keeler@edcgov.us](mailto:donna.keeler@edcgov.us)  
The BOSFIVE <[bosfive@edcgov.us](mailto:bosfive@edcgov.us)>,  
The BOSFOUR <[bosfour@edcgov.us](mailto:bosfour@edcgov.us)>,  
The BOSONE <[bosone@edcgov.us](mailto:bosone@edcgov.us)>,  
The BOSTHREE <[bosthree@edcgov.us](mailto:bosthree@edcgov.us)>,  
The BOSTWO <[bostwo@edcgov.us](mailto:bostwo@edcgov.us)>  
[laura.loeffler@dot.ca.gov](mailto:laura.loeffler@dot.ca.gov)

Thank you for sooo much!!

W