



H. Campbell 1/23/2018 #39
Pollock Pines - Camino
Fire Safe Council

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"Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education, and Defensible Space"

Shiva Frentzen, Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

April 18, 2017

Subject: Letter of Support for a Vegetation Hazard Abatement County Ordinance

Dear Supervisor Frentzen,


While the vast majority of the residents of El Dorado County do their best to maintain defensible space around their homes and are good stewards of the land, there is significant fire risk from absentee property owners, land speculators and those that just do not care.

The problem of overgrown vacant lots and general property hygiene is brought forward at nearly every meeting of our Fire Safe Council. Consistently mentioned in community surveys and meetings was an overall concern of overgrown and un-managed vegetation on vacant lots. A majority of the people surveyed rated untreated vacant lots adjacent to their residence as their highest wildland fire concern. Defensible Space has important implications not only for personal and property safety, but also for insurance coverage. Homeowners within the WUI (which includes all of the area covered by our Fire Safe Council) are facing greater challenges each year with obtaining and maintaining their fire insurance coverage. Numerous residents report outright cancellation of homeowners insurance. Others, while not cancelled, have had rates increased by amounts up to and over 300% in the past year. Annual rates of between \$2000 and \$3000 are now common in our area.

Regulation through codes and ordinances and subsequent enforcement is always a major challenge. The primary goal of Defensible Space is to reduce the chance of structural ignition and to provide a safety zone for residents and firefighters. State law (CA Public Resources Code 4291) does give CAL FIRE the authority to enforce the 100-foot (or to the property line, if less than 100') defensible space requirement around structures. However, it does not address unimproved parcels, even if they are immediately adjacent to residences. A few areas may have relief through local Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R). However, these are not common in our area. Without a Vegetation Hazard Abatement ordinance, the vast majority of our residents do not have any enforcement tools to help mitigate the very real wildfire threat that the untreated and overgrown parcels present to their homes, businesses and neighborhoods.

The Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Safe Council supports the efforts of El Dorado County Fire Safe Council to work with our County and Fire Agency partners to develop an ordinance that helps to keep our citizen and homes safe, while respecting the rights of property owners.

Sincerely,

 Jan 23, 2018
BOS Mtg.

Heather Campbell
Chair, Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Safe Council

Heather Campbell
PPCFSC-Chair

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NOTES
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Wildland fires are increasing each decade in size, duration, intensity. Now Mega ^{100K} Fires not only occur each year but within our Sierra conifer forest landscape.

Insurance companies have taken notice; therefore, the political fire mitigation climate has softened too. By in large the community members attending PPCFSC's meeting complain harshly about the fire threat coming from the neighbors undeveloped parcels.

Pollock Pines and Camino have large land holdings within neighborhood communities. ~~RP~~ ^{RP} is ~~also~~ wholly a Tier 3 extreme hazard rating. The scope of any ordinance must take our landscape and wildfire threat into consideration.

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Please focus mitigation measures to increase the safety of the public and fire fighters ^{sa} road access. Road treatments should be 60' for Safe Ingress and Egress.

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At a minimum large parcels should treat 100' along their property line when its adjacent to a developed parcel. Obviously further out ~~for strips~~ ^{when} accounting for slope.

It takes a minimum of 300' to bring a crown fire back to the surface, if there is a shaded fuel break with ~~20' separation~~ between tracks and understory vegetation removed. The SOFAR Cohesive Strategy PP-C fuel break project, Phase 2 ^{11/15} is planned for a 600' foot shaded fuel break consider this when determining which how large a parcel or acreage will be included into any ordinance.