

From: Andrew Chafer, P.L.S., CFedS <achafer@LumosInc.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 7:40 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Ordinance Number 5186, Hazardous Vegetation and Defensible Space
Attachments: SAGE Ordinance Letter.docx.doc

Good morning,

See attached request regarding this ordinance on behalf of the Surveyors, Architects, Geologists & Engineers (SAGE) of El Dorado County.

Sincerely,
Andrew Chafer



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**SURVEYORS, ARCHITECTS, GEOLOGISTS &
ENGINEERS of El Dorado County**

February 1, 2024

County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors
360 Fair Lane, Building A
Placerville, CA 95667

Cc: Clerk of the Board, Chief Administrator, and County Counsel

Re: Ordinance Number 5186, Hazardous Vegetation and Defensible Space

Chair and Members of the Board,

S.A.G.E. of El Dorado County is writing to express its concerns with the proposed ordinance revision referenced above. As a professional organization formed to provide technical expertise for the betterment of the county, and to provide sound opinions to the community and its leaders, we write this letter to provide insight. We also offer our services to aid the County of El Dorado. To assist the County of El Dorado, members of S.A.G.E. have read the proposed revisions in detail and had discussion with the County's Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience. Great effort has been made to understand the contents of the revisions and their purpose. Based on this, we can provide comment & recommendations.

As written, the revised ordinance creates more questions than answers. There is a strong misunderstanding from the public as to the existence, intent and enforcement of the ordinance and the contents within it. Fire Safe Councils and the public alike have expressed concern with this ordinance as written. The sections addressing inspections, enforcement and violations do not provide enough information to the public to accurately explain the intended processes. The proposed language leaves room for interpretation, opinion, and bias. It has been stated in a public meeting that there is not an intent to uphold the proposed ordinance in a uniform manner. Discretion cannot have a role in enforcement of law & ordinance. An ordinance cannot have this type of discrepancy and contradiction. They must be implemented and enforced as they are set forth by the legislative body. An agency should not create an ordinance that it does not plan to enforce. Therefore, the ordinance must be precisely written and address each facet of its intent. This proposal does not meet that requirement.

The County of El Dorado is compliant with State law under its current ordinance #5101. If the County truly wants to be a leader in the State of California, it must ensure that this proposed

ordinance revision is executed accurately. As elected officials you represent the public that put you into office. Therefore, it is incumbent on you to ensure the final product is held to the highest standard with the public's best interest at the forefront of your decisions. This proposed revision does not meet that standard. Because of this, we the members of S.A.G.E., respectfully request that you postpone any adoption of this ordinance revision to allow the public, Fire Safe Councils, and other stakeholders more time to provide comments and insight. We also ask that you instruct those responsible for drafting the revision to ensure that they are addressing the comments and concerns provided, to create a cohesive and positive path while moving forward with the proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
The S.A.G.E. Membership
Surveyors, Architects, Geologists, & Engineers of El Dorado County