



RESOLUTION NO. 020-2011

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO THE AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA

WHEREAS, the lands comprising the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA), with their steep forested canyons, scenic beauty, and diverse recreational opportunities, are a unique and irreplaceable asset to the citizens of El Dorado County; and,

WHEREAS, most of the lands comprising ASRA are federal property, much of which was obtained by condemnation to provide for the construction and operation of Auburn Dam. These lands are managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, an agency within the United States Department of Interior; and,

WHEREAS, ASRA provides El Dorado County residents with convenient, close-to-home access to beautiful semi-wilderness river canyons; and,

WHEREAS, ASRA is an enormously popular recreation destination that attracts nearly one million visitors annually, and is the site of world famous events such as the Tevis Cup Ride and the Western States Endurance Run, thereby producing substantial economic benefits to El Dorado County; and,

WHEREAS, the ASRA canyon-lands have a rich human history and include hundreds of Gold Rush and Native American cultural sites, many of which are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation has cut the Department of Parks and Recreation's budget for ASRA management by more than 20% for fiscal year 2010-2011, and has declared that it may be unable to provide any funding in subsequent years; and,

WHEREAS, ASRA lands adjacent to the communities of Cool, Georgetown, and other populated areas of El Dorado County have not been properly managed for fuels reduction and as a result pose a grave and unacceptable risk of catastrophic fire loss to those communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation has suspended all funding and work on the development of a new plan for the future management of ASRA, and has declined to enter into new agreements with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for fire protection services on ASRA lands; and,

WHEREAS, there is a clear and urgent need for immediate changes to ASRA management and funding that will effectively address fire risk and public safety needs, protect natural, cultural and historical resources, and ensure the responsible management of the diverse and growing recreational use of ASRA lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors calls on the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior to take immediate steps, in consultation with El Dorado County and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, to: (1) designate an appropriate and effective federal land manager for the Auburn State Recreation Area; and (2) provide sufficient funding to protect public safety, responsibly address wildfire prevention and fire suppression needs, properly manage the recreational use of

