



Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 152, Grizzly Flats, CA 95636



April 22, 2019

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane, Building A
Placerville, California 95667

by email distribution

In re: Proposed Vegetation Management Ordinance
Letter of Support
April 23, 2019 First Reading, Item No. 19-0630

On behalf of the Grizzly Flats, Omo Ranch and Aukum Fairplay Fire Safe Councils, we write to provide our organizations' unequivocal support of the proposed vegetation management ordinance. As you are aware, the GFFSC has supported such an ordinance since 2015. We commend the ad hoc committee and the entire Board of Supervisors for taking up this important issue and giving thought to developing a clear and comprehensive ordinance.

We have reviewed the most recently revised draft attached to the Agenda. We would like to thank the Ad Hoc Committee and Creighton Avila from the CAO's office for inviting community participation, and entertaining comments and suggestions. The most recent draft of the ordinance addresses most of the concerns our organizations had with the first draft.

We do, however, have a limited number of comments, suggestions and concerns.

- Page 2, Section K. The current version of the proposed ordinance lists "wood chips" as a form of rubbish that must be abated under the current scheme. We would request that the Ordinance be modified to further define these as "wood chips used in landscaping or within five feet of a residential structure. Many defensible space and fuel reduction projects in our area include the chipping of branches and other woody debris onto homeowners' properties when burn restrictions are in effect or the homeowner is not comfortable burning the debris.
- Page 2, Section M. Definition of softwoods is useful to the reader, but fails to include Cedar. As it is not only indigenous to California but plentiful within the 3,000 foot elevations and above, we suggest it should be added between pine and fir.
- Page 2, Section G. The current proposed ordinance defines softwoods by name. We would suggest that hardwoods therefore also be defined for the reader as "(oak, alder, dogwood and madrone)"
- Page 2, Section N. We would request that the current ordinance further define residential structures as "including trailers and mobile homes, whether situated in a park or installed on private property."

- Page 4, Section 5. Consistent with the language in Cal. Pub. Res. Code §4291, we would suggest that the language be modified to add as follows “on that person's property (**whether owned, leased, controlled, operated or maintained**) or on any other property so as to constitute a fire hazard.”
- Page 5, Section 6, ¶4. The Council strongly feels that 5 years to comply with the ordinance puts our communities at too much risk. The entities listed in that paragraph, whether a CSD, an HOA, etc., are entities with the power and authority to seek expedited compliance from their members. As such, given a potential intervening fire season, we believe a one year compliance period would suffice.
- Page 5, Section 6, ¶6. We suggest that correct term would be “buyer” rather than potential owner.
- Page 5, Section 6, ¶2. We suggest that it should read “The County with local and/or state partners”
- Page 7, Section 6, Subheading B. Good Neighbor Policy. This is, for our area, perhaps the most important language within the Ordinance. However, after reviewing it several times, the enforcement/notice scheme and time to correct appear unclear. Does notice have to come from an enforcement official or may a property owner notify the neighboring vacant parcel owner of their non-compliance and request the abatement be done?

There will no doubt be opposition from vacant parcel owners who wish to avoid the potential financial obligation of being good neighbors and managing their land to protect neighboring structures, but we urge the Board to stay the course and adopt the Ordinance at its April 30, 2019 meeting. This Ordinance will, over the course of the next few years, contribute to stopping the start or rapid spread of wildland fires, make our communities more resilient to inevitable fire, compliment our organizations’ ongoing fuel reduction projects and defensible space evaluations and education with current homeowners and hopefully restore the availability of affordable homeowners insurance in the swath of areas recently denied renewal and/or coverage by admitted California insurance carriers.

We ask that an effort to educate the public and enforce the ordinance begin with all due haste. Each wildfire season in El Dorado County threatens to erase communities and our rich history from the map.

Respectfully,



Tim Hinkle, Chairman
Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council
chair@grizzlyflatsfsc.org



Delores Jumper, Chairwoman
Omo Ranch Fire Safe Council
deloresjumper@yahoo.com



John Hess, Chairman
Aukum Fairplay Fire Safe Council
jhess1776@innercite.com



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Fwd: Vegetation Ordinance

1 message

Lori Parlin <lori.parlin@edcgov.us>
To: EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Mon, Apr 22, 2019 at 10:02 AM

Please distribute to all Supervisors.

Thank you,

Lori ParlinEl Dorado County District 4 Supervisor
Phone: (530) 621-6513

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Penny Humphreys** <pennyhumphreys15@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 22, 2019 at 9:48 AM
Subject: Vegetation Ordinance
To: Lori Parlin <lori.parlin@edcgov.us>

Please pass this on to the other Supervisors.

I was only able to attend the hearing at the Supervisors' Chambers when this ordinance was first vetted, but here are my observations and comments.

First, 90 percent of the audience had grey hair, which means they are of the age that are on a fixed income and cannot afford to hire the crews to do the necessary clearing required. One tall grey pine costs \$1,000 to have removed if you are hiring someone who is insured and qualified to do the work. The other issue with this age group is that they would not be physically able to even clear brush or weeds from their property.

Secondly, it was unclear as to who was doing the inspections of the property. Most of the fire districts in this county are too short on funds and personnel to accomplish the inspections.

The County states they do not have the funds to help with the financing of the local fire districts so where is the money coming from to hire the staff that will do the necessary accounting of the fire inspections, owner notifications, hiring of crews to do the clearing (county employees?), and filing liens on said properties?

One stumbling block that most of the residents here face is absentee property owners. Maybe you should start with them. The other stumbling block is that most "qualified contractors" are booked into this fire season already.

Thank you for attempting to address this issue, but it needs more time and consideration.

Penny Humphreys



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Letter of Support - Proposed Vegetation Management Ordinance, Agenda Item # 19-0630 (4/23/19 BOS meeting)

3 messages

Tim Hinkle <timhinkle1970@hotmail.com>

Mon, Apr 22, 2019 at 1:21 PM

To: Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Cc: John Hidahl <bosone@edcgov.us>, Brian Veerkamp <bosthree@edcgov.us>, Sue Novasel <bosfive@edcgov.us>, "bostwo@edcgov.us" <bostwo@edcgov.us>, Lori Parlin <bosfour@edcgov.us>, Creighton Avila <creighton.avila@edcgov.us>, "jhess1776@innercite.com" <jhess1776@innercite.com>, "deloresjumper@yahoo.com" <deloresjumper@yahoo.com>

Dear Clerk of the Board,

Attached please find a Letter of Support from the Grizzly Flats, Omo Ranch and Aukum Fairplay Fire Safe Councils regarding the Proposed Vegetation Management Ordinance, currently scheduled for First Reading tomorrow, April 23, 2019 at 2:30 p.m., Item No. 19-0630.

Thank you.

Tim Hinkle, Chair
Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council

 **GFFSC ORFSC AFFSC Letter of Support Item 19-0630.pdf**
193K**Mark Matthews** <mmatthews@pioneerfire.org>

Mon, Apr 22, 2019 at 1:56 PM

Reply-To: mmatthews@pioneerfire.org

To: Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>, Tim Hinkle <timhinkle1970@hotmail.com>

Cc: John Hidahl <bosone@edcgov.us>, Brian Veerkamp <bosthree@edcgov.us>, SueNovasel <bosfive@edcgov.us>, "bostwo@edcgov.us" <bostwo@edcgov.us>, LoriParlin <bosfour@edcgov.us>, Creighton Avila <creighton.avila@edcgov.us>, "jhess1776@innercite.com" <jhess1776@innercite.com>, "deloresjumper@yahoo.com" <deloresjumper@yahoo.com>

Tim, Delores and John,

We feel this is an good review of the ordinance and support your letter and recommendations. This Public Safety Agency needs as much assistance as it can get from local Fire Safe Councils & our Board of Supervisors, especially since all of you have the same main objective to preserve and prevent fire devastation; along with keeping our district informed and safe.

As the Fire Chief who helps serve and protect your Fire Safe Councils district boundary's, I commend you for reaching out to our County Board of Supervisors and providing positive and well researched request and concerns.

Mark S. MatthewsPioneer Fire Protection District Fire Chief
7061 Mt. Aukum Road/PO Box 128
Somerset, CA 95684
530 620-4444
530 620-4317 Fax

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From: "Tim Hinkle" <timhinkle1970@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 1:22 PM
To: "Clerk of the Board" <edc.cob@edcgov.us>
Cc: "John Hidahl" <bosone@edcgov.us>, "Brian Veerkamp" <bosthree@edcgov.us>, "SueNovasel" <bosfive@edcgov.us>, "bostwo@edcgov.us" <bostwo@edcgov.us>, "LoriParlin" <bosfour@edcgov.us>, "Creighton Avila" <creighton.avila@edcgov.us>, "jhess1776@innercite.com" <jhess1776@innercite.com>, "deloresjumper@yahoo.com" <deloresjumper@yahoo.com>
Subject: Letter of Support - Proposed Vegetation Management Ordinance, AgendaItem # 19-0630 (4/23/19 BOS meeting)

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Thank you.

Tim Hinkle, Chair
Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council

John Hess <jhess1776@innercite.com>
To: Tim Hinkle <timhinkle1970@hotmail.com>, Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>
Cc: deloresjumper@yahoo.com

Mon, Apr 22, 2019 at 2:59 PM

Thanks for leading this Tim.

John

From: Tim Hinkle [mailto:timhinkle1970@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 1:22 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Cc: John Hidahl; Brian Veerkamp; Sue Novasel; bostwo@edcgov.us; Lori Parlin; Creighton Avila; jhess1776@innercite.com; deloresjumper@yahoo.com
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4/22/2019

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Thank you.

Tim Hinkle, Chair

Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council