



Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
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January 12, 2018

California Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
c/o Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: VTP EIR Public Comment

Dear Ms. Hannigan:

We welcome the opportunity to provide comment and support for the draft VTP EIR in direct alignment of our stated mission: "To provide Firewise education and programs to enhance emergency preparedness for catastrophic wildfire to all citizens in Nevada County in order to reduce the loss of life, property and natural resources and to creation Firewise Communities/USA®, to network with other Fire Safe Councils, governmental agencies and foundations for the benefit of the citizens of Nevada County."

With over 1.3 million acres burned and over 10,000 structures destroyed, the impacts from wildfires across the state during this fire season are truly devastating. California now often experiences a year-round fire season, with an increase in the number as well as intensity of large, damaging wildfires over the last decade. We must seek new solutions to get more work done to mitigate the wildfire hazard.

Ground implementation of vegetation and fuel management projects are a major cornerstone of this mission in Nevada County. Having a general "umbrella" environmental compliance document that covers most of the projects we participate in with Federal, State, and local parties will help to streamline the environmental permitting process and ultimately facilitate project implementation in a quicker and much more efficient time frame.

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County support the ideas and basis of the VTP EIR, and believes it will aid in making our mission a reality by simplifying CEQA requirements to be completed prior to ground work. We commend your staff's long-term dedication to this document and your direction to see it to fruition over many years.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend CAL FIRE and their local staff support of our mission and partnership in making Nevada County safer from wildfire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joanne Drummond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joanne Drummond
Executive Director