



## Cold Springs Property Owners Association



Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors  
Honorable David Goldemberg  
Honorable Ryan Campbell  
Honorable Daniel Kirk  
Honorable Kathleen Huff  
Honorable Jaron Brandon

Our esteemed board members,

As property owners in the Pinecrest, Cold Springs and Strawberry communities, we applaud the TC board of supervisors for their leadership in trying to create a safer environment for us.

Your letter to Chief Randy Moore dated January 11, 2022 describes very well all of the concerns to not only Tuolumne County, but also the Western United States.

While fire is an important aspect to the landscape, we are just too far behind the curve to let "Mother Nature" have her way in the area of fuels reduction. The repercussions of allowing fires to burn as they were likely meant to through the ages is just too devastating to the environment now. Mega Fires devastation reaches well beyond their burn perimeters.

We are most fortunate that the USFS has an appreciation for this and is currently implementing projects like SERAL in order to bring back the needed balance in our forest. This action unfortunately will take some time.

We agree that in order to get us through the next several years while we wait for our forests to return to a healthy state, we fully support your request to remove the "let it burn" policy and stamp out all fires while they are in their incipient stages.

We also recognize that working with the Federal Government usually is a lengthy ordeal. We are not optimistic that any request at this time will result in obtaining what your request desires.

In light of that lack of optimism, we might suggest the following:

- Having the proper initial response resources to incidents within our own county has typically been problematic. The vastness of this county alone makes it extremely difficult to provide adequate coverage.
- It would be prudent to bolster our current firefighting force within the county to make sure that we have the needed resources to respond to the needs of the community. These bolstered resources would be for our county alone. Our own normally staffed resources typically get pulled away for other incidents within the state and leave us unprotected, sometimes having to close sections of our county for safety concerns.
- Clearly the fastest initial response vehicle to a fire incident is the helicopter. It would be advisable that an additional firefighting helicopter be placed in Columbia or the Bald Mountain site in order to make a best effort at squelching a fire in its incipient stage.

We are well aware that all of these suggestions come at great expense, but an expense far less than the loss of lives and property to a Mega fire.

We wish you the best in your endeavor to change the policy of the USFS. They are an admirable group who in themselves want to do the right thing.

In the meantime, it would be in the best interest of all the property owners and visitors to the county to provide increased fire protection for primarily their safety, but also in hopes of maintaining the positive economic impact of tourism.

Our best,

Dave Holland  
Friends of Pinecrest

Jason Reed  
Cold Springs Property Owners Association

Don Barton  
Strawberry Property Owners Association