



napa valley vintners

To: Napa County Board of Supervisors  
1195 Third Street  
Napa, CA 94559  
[publiccomment@countyofnapa.org](mailto:publiccomment@countyofnapa.org)

April 21, 2023

Dear Chair Ramos and Napa County Supervisors, copy Interim CEO Morrison,

Over the last several years, the Napa Valley Grapegrowers and Napa Valley Vintners, along with other industry and nonprofit partners, have worked collaboratively on community-based solutions related to wildfire prevention and mitigation. Among these efforts, our organizations have jointly partnered with Napa Firewise and Napa County Fire to host two Annual Fire Resources Fairs, endorsed Measure L in support of funding the CWPP, as well as covered the cost of AI sensors for early fire detection during peak fire season in 2022. In this way, we view ourselves as Napa County's ongoing partner in meeting the community's collective challenges related to wildfire.

We also applaud Napa County for continuing to move in a direction that ensures we are more fire ready and resilient and recognize efforts including engagement in a standards of coverage review and development of a Fire Master Plan, investment in Firewise and expansion of fire safe councils, and improvements that have been made to air and ground support through state funding. We encourage the County to build on this and to prioritize wildfire prevention and mitigation in upcoming budget discussions in the following ways:

1. We appreciate that the County's 5-year budget forecast includes the CWPP as a priority; we encourage the Board to commit the funds necessary to conduct this critical fuel load mitigation work.
2. We encourage the Board to prioritize hiring a staff member to serve as a "fire department head" for Napa County with responsibilities including but not limited to:
  - Prioritizing efforts and advocating for budgeting and grant funding to achieve long-term wildfire prevention and mitigation goals for Napa County
  - Serving as the County point person, including helping to oversee the \$30M CAL FIRE contract
  - Understanding and supporting the needs of local volunteer fire departments
  - Cultivating relationships and community partnerships to expand community-based efforts
3. We recommend that the Board consider ways to expand early detection capabilities in Napa County. While we understand that there is limited funding for this in 2023, we propose the following:

- Work in 2023 to identify and understand new technologies that would enhance current detection capabilities including in areas not covered by PG&E cameras, at night, and with regard to precision of location.
- Prioritize completing an RFP in 2024 to implement additional early detection capabilities and latest technologies moving forward.
- As a short-term solution, engage in a public/private partnership with NVG and NVV in 2023 to cover the cost of monitoring for existing Illuminations Technologies sensors to utilize an existing resource and continue R&D. NVG, NVV, and Visit Napa Valley were able to cover the cost of monitoring during peak fire season in 2022 for \$99,000 and would like the County to contribute to these efforts.

We welcome all opportunities to continue working with the County to prevent and mitigate risk and losses due to future severe wildfires. Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Sincerely,



Mary Maher  
President, Napa Valley Grapegrowers



Andy Erickson  
Board Chair, Napa Valley Vintners