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## East Fork Fire - April 11, 2024

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Zoe Hill

Tue, Apr 16, 2024 at 4:52 AM

Draft To: Zoe Hill

My name is Zoe Ann Hill and I am the co-owner of Colt Lane. I co-own the property with Justin and Shayma Gross.

We recently submitted building plans for a 3 car garage and remodel of the existing garage. Plans were rejected by the fire department with recommendations for a sprinkler system or 24 hour monitoring service or to pay a huge fee to East Fork Fire. This would add between \$10,000 and \$30,000 to the project or approximately 15% of the total project cost!

These costs have forced us to put the project on hold.

I'd like the fire department to know that I moved here from South Lake Tahoe in October 2023 having survived both the 2006 Angora Fire and the 2020 Caldor Fire. My residence in Christmas Valley stood strong through both fires. I am and my neighbors were good stewards of the land. Our properties were clear of fire fuels and we took defensible space to the next level.

Since purchasing our home in Gardnerville we have cleared 1/3 acre of tumbleweeds, removed 10 juniper trees and a manzanita tree. We have trimmed all fruit and ornamental trees. Last week we paid a local tree service \$2,800.00 to prune the giant willow trees. This week we plan to repair outdoor sprinklers.

Our neighbors are also working to clear their properties. A retired fire chief lives directly behind our home. Next door to him a second retired fire chief resides. It is a good neighborhood with conscientious residents.

East Fork Fire fees place financial hardships on residents who are doing everything they can to make their properties fire safe. By the way, if you came by our house today you would find taped to our refig a copy of your webpage with your phone number in case of an emergency. We put it up last October when we moved in.

I do not believe that East Fork Fire should issue a blanket response to a building permit request. Consideration should be given to individual properties and the fire safe improvements residents are making. Sprinklers may slow a fire, they certainly won't put it out. Removal of fire fuels will prevent the fire in the first place.

We would like to meet with a representative of East Fork Fire and discuss how we can get our project back on track and to provide East Fork Fire with reasonable fees to continue their hard work.

Sincerely, Zoe Ann Hill