



East Fork Volunteer Firefighters' Association
P.O Box 1386
Gardnerville, NV 88410

May 15, 2023

East Fork Fire Protection District
Board Of Directors
1694 County Road
Minden, NV 89423

Dear Directors

East Fork Volunteer Firefighters' Association would like to offer our support to the proposed Resolution 2023R-001 to establish regulations adopting the International Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code as amended.

Over the years the East Fork Fire Volunteers have served the community when wildland fire incidents have occurred. Many of these fires have either burned or threatened homes within the district. When this happens, the firefighters make great effort to protect these homes with the limited resources we have, both career and volunteer. Today the number of homes residing within the WUI has increased at a rate faster than our available firefighting resources. We need help defending these structures from the homeowners and homebuilders. These WUI regulations provide the framework for this help needed. They provide defensible space around a structure with construction materials and designs that make structures less likely to ignite and burn during a wildland fire incident.

The East Fork Volunteer Firefighters' Association is an organization dedicated to working with the District Board, the Administration and career staff in serving the fire and life safety needs of our community. We see the importance of having codes and regulations needed to provide fire prevention and fire safety for the public. We also recognize the significance of these codes and regulations that create a safer environment for all our staff as they undertake the dangerous job of mitigating wildland fires. By adopting these regulations, you will be taking an important step in the direction of improving fire and life safety.

Thank you,

Tom Hein
President
East Fork Volunteer Firefighters' Association



East Fork Professional Firefighters

International Association of Firefighters Local-3726

Kevin May
President

Sky Dwinell
Secretary/Treasurer

To the Board of Directors, East Fork Fire Protection District:

Directors,

The East Fork Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 3726 offer the strongest support of the District's proposed adoption of the 2018 WUI Code including Chapter 5. As the first responders to numerous Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fires over the years, we have observed a clear correlation between the survivability of a home in a wildfire event and the degree to which the home's exterior and landscaping had been designed & maintained with wildfire survival in mind.

Events like the Tamarack Fire and others in the District develop rapidly and overwhelm the resources of the District as well as its regional, State, and Federal partners. Though we wish otherwise it simply isn't possible to have a fire engine assigned to defend each home or even on each street threatened in the opening minutes to hours of a major conflagration. The homes that survive these events have two things in common. The first is sufficient defensible space built into the landscaping of the property and its neighbors. The second is a "hardened" exterior built of fire resistive materials, designed to defeat hot ember intrusion to confined spaces, and clear of flammable debris. The WUI Code presented to you for adoption addresses both of these concerns for new construction in the WUI. The long-term result of homes built to these codes will be decreased property loss and loss of life to the public as well as a substantial decrease of risk to our membership as we respond to defend better prepared properties.

The 2018 WUI Code is founded on principals intended to mitigate the hazard from fires through the development of provisions that adequately protect public health, safety, and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase constructions cost; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products, or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction. The Code Development Committee included members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). The WUI code is the standard for building in the region having been adopted by Washoe County, Carson City, North Lake Tahoe FPD, Tahoe Douglas FPD, Storey County, and most recently (July 1, 2021) Central Lyon County FPD.

In closing, the District's adoption of the WUI code will reduce property loss in the District and protect the lives of both our membership and the public we gladly serve each and every day. Please adopt the resolution before you,

Sky Dwinell
Secretary/Treasurer
East Fork Professional Firefighters