



**Coalition
Napa Valley**



July 9, 2021

Board of Supervisors
County of Napa
1195 Third Street, 3rd Floor
Napa, California 94559

Re: Fire Prevention and Mitigation

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for addressing wildfire prevention at your upcoming July 13 Board of Supervisors meeting. While we agree that exploring a dedicated funding source, such as a quarter-cent sales tax in advance of the June 2022 ballot, is prudent, we also urge the Board to consider the feasibility of establishing its own independent, county-run, fire department, strengthening local firefighting capacity, and investigating State and Federal grants. Our organizations, Napa County Farm Bureau, Napa Valley Grapegrowers, Napa Valley Vintners, Coalition Napa Valley, Winegrowers of Napa County and Visit Napa Valley, have come together to emphasize the importance of wildfire prevention and mitigation.

The recent wildfires have greatly impacted the community at large, as well as members of our organizations. Wildfire prevention and mitigation are a top priority and we have collectively been working to address this multi-faceted issue, including loss of wildfire insurance, supporting local community efforts, and ensuring we're as prepared as possible for the next imminent threat. It is apparent that this multi-layered issue requires a multi-pronged solution.

The quarter-cent sales tax could be a significant step towards helping to fund critical wildfire prevention in Napa County but we also need to think holistically and evaluate our current situation. We encourage Napa County to concurrently evaluate the feasibility of having its own county-run fire department with a fire chief that reports exclusively to the Board as a means of better local control. Local control and local match appear to be what helped Sonoma County secure a \$37 million federal grant for wildfire mitigation. Consideration of additional options is required to achieve the type of effective fire protection needed for Napa County.

We thank you for your ongoing efforts and look forward to partnering with you to explore the best methods of fire protection for our community now and in the future.

Sincerely,

RYAN KLOBAS
Napa County Farm Bureau

REX STULTS
Napa Valley Vintners

MOLLY MORAN WILLIAMS
Napa Valley Grapegrowers

JERI HANSEN
Coalition Napa Valley

MICHELLE BENVENUTO
Winegrowers of Napa County

LINSEY GALLAGHER
Visit Napa Valley