

Proclamation

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS | NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Wildfire Awareness Month – May 2023

WHEREAS, over the last five years, California has experienced seven of the deadliest wildfires, twelve of the largest wildfires, and thirteen of the most destructive wildfires in state history. Over 5.5 million acres have burned, more than 37,000 structures have been destroyed, and tragically, more than 160 lives have been lost; and

WHEREAS, eleven million people – approximately a quarter of the state’s population – live in high fire-risk areas, including the Wildland Urban Interface. As a result of increased vegetation from spring rains, as hotter, dryer weather approaches, fire danger is anticipated to be high in 2023. Public education and up-to-date regional emergency planning are key to making communities more resilient to the impacts of wildfire and other extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, wildfires are a natural, periodic occurrence in California. Many native species depend on cyclical fires for survival. To continue to enjoy the economic and recreational benefits of our rural and wilderness lands, we must strive to achieve a balance between California’s fire ecology and the need to protect human life and property; and

WHEREAS, here in Napa County, we have learned firsthand that that firefighting alone cannot protect us completely. Every resident and property owner, especially those of high fire-risk areas, have an important role to play in preventing the loss of life and property in the event of wildfire. This month, we must all do our part to raise public awareness of the fire season that is already upon us, and take the necessary steps to protect lives, homes, families and property in the event of a wildfire; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with **Wildfire Awareness Month**, the Napa County Office of Emergency Services, County Executive Office, Napa County Fire Department, CAL FIRE and Napa Communities Firewise Foundation, have intensified their continuing efforts to educate residents and property owners on the steps they should be taking to prepare for wildfire. This life (and property) saving information can be found at ReadyNapaCounty.org and Fire.Ca.gov/prepare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that this Board of Supervisors, County of Napa, State of California, on this 16th day of **May 2023**, does hereby recognize **May 2023 as Wildfire Awareness Month** in Napa County, and in doing so, we strongly urge all residents and property owners to understand and maintain appropriate property vegetation management and defensible space, harden their homes, have an evacuation plan, put together a go-bag of emergency and personal items and stay vigilant and informed.

Belia Ramos, Chair

Joelle Gallagher, Vice Chair

Ryan Gregory, District 2

Anne Cottrell, District 3

Alfredo Pedroza, District 4

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

