



TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: JUNE 1, 2026
FROM: PAM CARONONGAN, CITY CLERK
SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 25-26-XX, THEREBY MEMORIALIZING
THE
CITY OF SUTTER CREEK'S APPROVAL OF THE AMADOR
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP) AND
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE CWPP ON THE CITY'S
BEHALF

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Receive report from City staff; and
2. Adopt Resolution No. 25-26-xx, thereby memorializing the City's approval of the CWPP; and
3. Authorize Mayor Gunselman and/or designee City staff to sign the CWPP on the City's behalf.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Amador County Fire Safety Council spearheaded a regional effort to develop the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP working group, consisting of staff from Amador municipal, district, and county agencies collaborated for more than seven months to develop the draft CWPP. During these seven months, a series of town hall meetings were also held to gather public input. City Manager DuBois and Will Watson participated in many of the meetings, and the City Manager reviewed the draft.

At its April 28, 2026 regular meeting, the Amador County Board of Supervisors adopted the CWPP.

The next step after the April 28, 2026 adoption of the CWPP is for each municipal and district agency in the County to approve the CWPP.

What is a CWPP?

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a locally developed, collaborative roadmap designed to assess wildfire hazards, prioritize fuels reduction, and improve emergency preparedness. Authorized under the federal Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA), the CWPP is the primary tool/reference used by communities to manage local wildfire risks.

Why the CWPP is Important

- **Saves Lives and Property**: It identifies precise high-risk zones, map-crucial evacuation routes, and establishes actionable strategies to protect local neighborhoods.

- Influences Federal Action: It legally empowers local communities to dictate where and how federal agencies (like the U.S. Forest Service) implement fuel reduction projects on surrounding public lands.
- Coordinates Resources: It brings together residents, Fire Safe Councils, city leaders, and CAL FIRE to act as a unified front.

Why All Cities Must Sign the CWPP

Under the HFRA framework, a CWPP cannot be formally adopted or considered valid unless it is mutually agreed upon and signed by three entity groups: the local governments (individual city councils/county supervisors), the local fire departments, and the state forestry agency (CAL FIRE). If a city in Amador County fails to sign it, the plan does not legally apply to their jurisdiction, leaving a dangerous gap in regional safety planning. This not only puts the non-signing city and its residents in a dangerous position especially in times of crisis, but the region as a whole.

What Cities / District Agencies Gain From Signing the CWPP

- Priority Funding Access: Signed plans grant cities first-tier eligibility for massive federal and state grants, such as the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) and FEMA funding.
- Expedited Environmental Reviews: The federal government uses alternative, fast-tracked environmental compliance pathways to clear out brush and build fuel breaks faster around cities with an active CWPP.
- Customized Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Boundaries: Cities gain the legal right to map out their own unique WUI boundaries, ensuring that building standards and vegetation management reflect local geography rather than generic state templates.

BUDGET IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENT

- 1) Draft **Resolution No. 25-26-xx**
- 2) Amador County Fire Council - CWPP (Adopted)