



May 4, 2022

Honorable Cindy Gustafson
Board of Supervisors, Placer County

Re: Old Firehouse, Tahoe City

Dear Supervisor Gustafson::

Thank you for engaging with the Board of the Climate and Wildfire Institute (CWI or Institute) in informal discussions concerning the possible use of the Old Firehouse in Tahoe City as headquarters for our Institute. By this letter, we are formally requesting that the Placer County Board of Supervisors consider our request that the County donate the property to CWI so that CWI may renovate the building for use both as headquarters/office space and for publicly accessible display and presentation space related to the work and subject matter of the Institute.

In 2021, the Climate and Wildfire Institute (CWI) was established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the State of California. Concurrently, the California Legislature passed, and the Governor approved \$ 7 Million in funds to help launch CWI. The Institute brings together climate and wildfire research and practitioner communities in academia, government, civil society, and the private sector to provide on-the-ground solutions responsive to problem needs. The cornerstone of the long- term strategy is an institute dedicated to bringing existing efforts to fruition, ensuring that those efforts are sustained, and speeding the implementation of new, science- based approaches both in policy and practice.

Pending completion of a nationwide search for an inaugural Executive Director (which we anticipate will be completed this month), CWI is headed by a Board of Directors, including the undersigned Board President, director of Project Climate at the University of California at Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy and the Environment (CLEE). I was a senior advisor to Governor Jerry Brown, chaired the State's Strategic Growth Council and headed the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

The genesis for the new Institute came in part from the Tahoe Fund in a long- term strategy and planning session. United States Senator Diane Feinstein has expressed a strong willingness to lend her name to the new Institute. In over 40 years of public service, CWI would be the first entity for which Senator Feinstein has agreed to formally lend her name, a fact that underscores the importance of this new organization.



CLIMATE & WILDFIRE INSTITUTE

As proposed, the headquarters for the new Institute will be at Lake Tahoe in recognition of the many important contributions made by Tahoe-based organizations and the importance of the Sierra Nevada region to the future of California and the West. (We anticipate that a Southern California office will be established at a later date).

Placer County, through Board Chair Cindy Gustafson's efforts, has graciously identified the old fire station in Tahoe City as a possible location for the Institute's Headquarters. CWI's vision for the iconic fire station, which is located on the shore of Lake Tahoe, includes a public gallery and visual representation of the effects of catastrophic wildfire, as well as executive offices and convening space for small meetings and seminars. Larger gatherings will be conducted in the Tahoe area and throughout the State.

It is worthy of note that former Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, who currently serves as the President of the University of Nevada- Reno, has expressed a strong interest in the new institute and we have begun discussions with UNR to formalize their involvement.

Should the County donate the Old Firehouse, we anticipate that the renovation will be undertaken by an architectural firm that will volunteer their professional time to the effort (apart from associated third- party expenses for services, including structural and civil engineering, environmental review, transportation impact analysis and the like).

We believe that the Old Firehouse is an ideal site for the Institute and will be a gathering place for visiting scientists, scholars, policymakers, and the public once the renovation is completed. And, of course, we believe that the Institute will help promote the health, safety, and welfare of the region through its work and mission.

We greatly appreciate your consideration and would be pleased to provide any further information that would be of value.

Sincerely,

Ken Alex
Board President