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January 10, 2017

Kern County Board of Supervisors
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Re: Proposed resolution re restricting use of or closure of roads in the Frazier
Park and Pine Mountain club areas due to snow

Dear Members of the Board :

Residents in the communities of Frazier Park and Pine Mountain Club have approached District 4 Supervisor, David Couch, about the public safety hazards posed by groups and individuals who utilize county highways in those areas following a significant snow event. They report that vehicles are parked along both sides of county highways so visitors can participate in snow-related recreational activities such as sledding. Often, visitors walk or stand in the traveled portions of the highways, posing a hazard to themselves and the traveling public. Many of the visitors are young children. Many of the road shoulders adjacent to the traveled portions of the county highways in those areas were not designed for parking or stopping except in the case of emergencies. When vehicles stop and park along both sides of the county highways, there is a very real risk that emergency vehicles and road maintenance vehicles will not be able to quickly and safely travel through those portions of the highways. Local residents have also expressed concern that should they need to leave the area to seek emergency assistance, they too will be unable to travel safely and quickly through the areas congested with parked cars.

Given the recent snow fall in the areas around Frazier Park and Pine Mountain Club and the additional snow fall that is anticipated from storms headed to that area, we are

Members, Board of Supervisors

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anticipating an influx of visitors to those communities in search of areas to play in the snow. I recently drove through that area on Christmas Day following a storm that passed through on December 24th and dropped a measurable amount of snow. I noted that traffic entering the Frazier Park off ramp from northbound Interstate 5 was backed up for over a mile.

The California Highway Patrol has primary traffic enforcement responsibility on county highways in the mountainous areas in which Frazier Park and Pine Mountain Club are located. The Highway Patrol has requested that your Board issue the accompanying resolution to make it clear to the public that the Highway Patrol has the authority to restrict or close county highways due to snow in the interest of public safety. The resolution also reaffirms your Board's ability to delegate to the Road Commissioner your Board's authority to restrict the use of or close roads for the protection of the public. Public Works will, as it has in the past, work cooperatively with the Highway Patrol to monitor conditions in that area following a snow event.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark L. Nations". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark L. Nations
Interim County Counsel