

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor



KAY SCHERER
Interim Director

Division of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Resources
Division of Forestry
Division of State Parks
Division of State Lands

JAMES R. LAWRENCE
Deputy Director

State Historic Preservation Office
Nevada Natural Heritage
Conservation Districts Program
Sagebrush Ecosystem Program
Off-Highway Vehicles Program

Office of the Director
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 1003/Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone: 775.684.2700/Fax: 775.684.2715
www.dcnr.nv.gov

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Statements regarding Little Valley Prescription Burn & Fire

October 27, 2016

Official Statement:

The possibility of litigation has been publically stated in print and electronic media. As such, the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and the Nevada Division of Forestry cannot provide interviews or additional statements at this time.

October 26, 2016

Kay Scherer:

This afternoon I received, as Interim Director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the *Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Report* prepared by an independent investigative team looking into the Little Valley Fire that began on Friday, October 14, 2016. The determination document was delivered to me via the State Forester Firewarden and the report's lead investigator, but was unread until I received and reviewed the document.

Upon review of the report, which finds that 'the Little Valley fire was caused by an escape from the Little Valley Prescribed fire' conducted by the Nevada Division of Forestry on October 3-7, 2016, I have, on behalf of the State, immediately requested an *Escaped Prescribed Fire Review*. An Escaped Prescribed Fire Review is an in-depth, formal and independent review performed by persons from across the nation, representing multiple jurisdictions and areas of knowledge. The intent of ordering this formal review, protocol for an escaped prescribed fire, is to gain additional, valuable information regarding the escaped burn.

October 26, 2016

Joe Freeland:

The Nevada Division of Forestry is deeply moved by and concerned with the tragic impacts to the residents of west Washoe Valley. NDF staff has worked closely with many of these residents over the years and has offered conservation crews and natural resource specialists as part of the recovery team.