

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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JAMES S. MITRISIN
Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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August 18, 2015

Laurence Crabtree, Forest Supervisor
Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE FOUR

Dear Forest Supervisor Crabtree,

On behalf of El Dorado County, the Board of Supervisors would like to reiterate its support for alternative four in the Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the King Fire, which would increase treatments in strategic locations to establish and maintain a reduced fuel load for future suppression, change fire behavior, and improve management of natural and prescribed fires.

Alternative four reduces forest fuel loads by creating Wildland Urban Interface Defense Zones, Strategic Fire Management Zones, Conifer Forest Resiliency Areas, and Strategic Roadside Buffer Zones. These strategies will make the forest a safer place for many different stakeholders: forest personnel, firefighters and law enforcement that tend to the forest for routine maintenance and during emergencies; residents that live near it; recreational enthusiasts and the animals that call it home. Without deploying these strategies at the levels in which alternative four recommends the likelihood that these stakeholders will be put back in a life threatening situation due to a super fire will increase significantly.

The Board of Supervisors understands the direct and indirect affects that some might be worried about in alternative four. However, over the last twenty years we have watched our forests become overgrown. This overgrowth has created a huge life threatening liability for El Dorado County residents, public safety and forest personnel, tourists and the animals that live in the forest (e.g. spotted owls and black backed woodpeckers). If we do not take significant action now, the tragedy of the King Fire will only replay itself out again.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Veerkamp
Chairman, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors