

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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July 23, 2019

To: Matt Dias, Executive Officer
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: CalVTP
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: Support Letter for: CalVTP (California Vegetation Treatment Program)

Dear Mr. Dias,

As destructive wildfires continue in our rural environments and beyond, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors provide this letter to support the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and their CalVTP program.

- This program will assist in expanding statewide vegetation treatment activities up to 500,000 acres per year to achieve the goal established in Executive Order B-52-18.
- This program will provide a robust environmental analysis as required by CEQA as well as project-level mitigation measures to help ensure the protection of public trust resources (water, air, wildlife, archaeology, greenhouse gas, etc.)

The CalVTP treatments include:

- Wildland-Urban Interface fuel reduction, including removal of vegetation to prevent or slow the spread of fires between wildlands and structures.
- Fuel breaks that support fire suppression activities by providing emergency responders with strategic staging areas and access to otherwise remote landscapes for fire control.
- Restoration in ecosystems where natural fire regimes have been altered due to fire exclusion, including restoring ecological process, conditions, and resiliency to more closely reflect historic vegetative composition, structure, and habitat values.
- Prescribed burning, mechanical and manual fuels treatment, prescribed herbivory, and limited herbicide use, where appropriate.

The program and its defined treatments are in alignment with our efforts as it relates to the protection of residents and structures through clearing and vegetation removal. These efforts have been reinforced through the recent passage of our El Dorado County Vegetation Management Ordinance. Understanding some of the other elements of the CalVTP program will require environmental study and therefore extended timelines, we would encourage you to push ahead to strengthen the enforcement of California Public Resources Code 4291.

We appreciate the unified message to address this critical issue that affects us all and with this letter the Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County support the passage of the California Vegetation Treatment Program.

Sincerely,

Sue Novasel
Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors