

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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August 29, 2017

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell  
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Y. Ting  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Budget Request for Forest Management to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Dear Senator Mitchell and Assembly Member Ting:

On behalf of El Dorado County and the County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for Senator Hertzberg's request for \$15 million from the extended cap-and-trade program to fund pilot prescribed burns and air quality monitoring. Furthermore, we support continued funding of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Forest Health Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund at the same level as last year.

El Dorado County is a member of SACOG, a region made up of 6 counties and 22 cities that inhabit a diversity of landscapes from the coastal range to the crest of the Sierra Nevada range. Our entire region recognizes the importance of protecting and managing the nearly 1.2 million acres of forests in our region as these lands provide multiple benefits including water supply, habitat, recreation and timber. However, these forests are also creating challenges as fire frequency and severity continue to escalate due to overstocked forests, tree mortality, and management tendency toward fire suppression, rather than prevention. The results of these conditions manifest in many ways including increased days of poor air quality, fouled rivers and reservoirs, loss of habitat, impacts on recreation, displaced residents, and loss of fire insurance. Not only do these results impact the quality of life in our region, they also impact our economy.

One example of a project currently using a grant from the CAL FIRE Healthy Forest Grant Program is the Fire Adapted 50 project in El Dorado County. This partnership between CAL FIRE, Caltrans, U.S. Forest Service, and El Dorado County creates fuel breaks and reduces fuel loads along the Highway 50 corridor, which not only reduces fire risk, but also improves American River watershed function. Future phases of this project would greatly benefit from continued state funding.

For these reasons, El Dorado County sincerely urges your support in approving funding for Senator Hertzberg's proposal and for CAL FIRE's Forest Health Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Shiva Frentzen  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

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