

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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February 09, 2015

Duane Nelson, District Ranger
Eldorado National Forest
Placerville Ranger District
4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709

RE: SUPPORT – PILLIKEN FOREST HEALTH PROJECT

Dear District Ranger Nelson,

On behalf of El Dorado County, the Board of Supervisors would like to express our support for the Pilliken Forest Health Project, which would conduct a combination of thinning, fuels reduction, prescribed burning, and road reconstruction within the Pilliken plantations on the Placerville District of the El Dorado National Forest.

The Board is pleased to support the project due to its focus on improving forest health, reducing insect infestations, and reconstructing and/or maintaining system roads in the South Fork American River Cohesive Strategy Area ("South Fork Cohesive Area"). The South Fork Cohesive Area has large swaths of U.S. Forest Service-designated wildland-urban interface along a heavily traveled and visible state highway corridor with multiple small permanent and seasonal residences and it receives heavy recreational use.

This project is urgent for the South Fork Cohesive Area due to the insect and disease threats that face the area. In fact, the 2014 Farm Bill designated areas within the South Fork Cohesive Area to address insect and disease threats that impact forest health and increase the risk of wildland fire. According to National Insect and Disease risk models, the proposed treatment areas are categorized as high risk for pests that could destroy over 25 percent of basal area due to current forest conditions. In April of 2014, California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. specifically identified a corridor along the South Fork American River for treatment designation due to pest risks, later supported by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in May of 2014.

For these reasons, El Dorado County is supporting the Pilliken Forest Health Project.

Sincerely,

Ron Mikulaco
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Laurence Crabtree, Forest Supervisor, Eldorado National Forest
Members, El Dorado County Board of Supervisor