

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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March 28, 2017

The Honorable Tom Berryhill
State Capitol, Room 306
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT SENATE BILL 265 (Berryhill)

Dear Senator Berryhill,

On behalf of El Dorado County, I am pleased to report that our board has decided to support SB 265, which would provide that the state share for the removal of dead and dying trees in the County of Tuolumne is no more than 90% of total state eligible costs. The California Disaster Assistance Act provides that the state share for disaster project allocations to local agencies is no more than 75% of total state eligible costs, except for specific events for which the state share is up to 100% of state eligible costs.

The California Disaster Assistance Act provides for local governments to receive 75% reimbursement for costs incurred due to a disaster event. The funding is used for the repair, restoration, or replacement of public real property damaged or destroyed by a disaster. The program also provides for the reimbursement of local government costs associated with certain emergency activities undertaken in response to a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor. In the case of the tree mortality crisis, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency on October 30, 2015. Since that time, counties have worked diligently to mitigate and solve the problem with large financial costs.

Currently, Tuolumne County estimates its cost share to clear dead and dying trees from threatening its infrastructure at approximately \$2,133,000. With counties like Tuolumne and El Dorado facing many infrastructure needs (e.g. replacing buildings, replacing roads, and fixing roads), it is financially infeasible to divert funds to another emergency. However, counties, like Tuolumne, continue to show leadership in times of emergencies to assist its citizens to come up with solutions that are both efficient and effective.

For these reasons, El Dorado County is supporting SB 265.

Sincerely,

Shiva Frentzen
Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc:
Members, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Members, Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors
Senator Berryhill
Assembly Member Bigelow
Craig Pedro, Tuolumne County Chief Administrative Officer