

# Exhibit 3



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
Amador- El Dorado Unit  
2840 Mt. Danaher Rd.  
Camino, CA 95709  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



September 4, 2018

El Dorado County  
Board of Supervisors  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: El Dorado Ranch Phase #3 Acquisition

To Whom It May Concern,

The California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE's) Amador El Dorado Unit (AEU) supports the American River Conservancy's (ARC's) request for \$63,250 in oak woodland protection funds (mitigation impact fees) to acquire another 1,018 acres (Phase #3) of the El Dorado Ranch fronting the main stem of the Cosumnes River. The American River Conservancy and CAL FIRE have worked cooperatively to establish Vegetation Management Projects on two properties owned and managed by ARC. Our partnership with ARC has allowed CAL FIRE to conduct live fire training exercises and valuable fuel reduction work in western El Dorado County. In 2011, the ARC and CAL FIRE partnered to develop a Vegetation Management Project on the ARC's Wakimatsu Farm property located in the South Fork of the American River to simultaneously provide AEU with firefighter training opportunities and to achieve mutual resource conservation objectives through annual prescribed burning. AEU's cooperative prescribed burning agreement with the American River Conservancy strived to effectively control noxious weeds over upland grasslands including Yellow star-thistle and Medusahead species with properly-timed burning in order to eliminate the seed bank as well as reduce the amount of thatch thereby encouraging the growth of native perennial species. Burns occurred in 2012, 2013, and 2014. In 2014, CAL FIRE developed a similar project with the ARC on its Ladies Valley property located in the North Fork of the Cosumnes River.

The ARC's proposed acquisition of parcels fronting the North Fork and Mainstem Cosumnes River is a logical geographical fit with the work CAL FIRE has been undertaking in the area. Since 2005, CAL FIRE has worked with the Logtown Fire Safe Council and El Dorado Resource Conservation District to build the Logtown fuelbreak to protect communities along Crystal Blvd from the effects of a potential wildfire coming out of the Mainstem Cosumnes River immediately west of Highway 49.

The ARC has proven to be a valuable cooperater with whom CAL FIRE has achieved mutual benefits over the years. Being as how the subject property is adjacent to CAL FIRE's ongoing Log town Fuel break project, ARC's proposed acquisition is in an excellent geographic location to provide contiguity in regards to fuels management and is consistent with existing CAL FIRE plans for the area.

ARC is requesting an allocation of \$63,250 in oak woodland protection funds (mitigation impact fees) to acquire another 1,018 acres (Phase #3) of the El Dorado Ranch fronting the main stem of the Cosumnes River to protect and preserve water quality, native fisheries, wildlife corridors, oak woodland and to provide trail and wildlife-based recreational opportunities along the Main stem Cosumnes River immediately west of Highway 49. CAL FIRE AEU supports the ARC's efforts to acquire and protect this land. We hope to utilize our existing partnerships with both the American River Conservancy and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to manage for oak woodland fire resiliency and retain open space, providing a significant benefit to local residents, property owners and natural resources in the watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick McDaniel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patrick McDaniel, RPF #2679

Forester I, Vegetation Management Coordinator